

Writing 121: English Composition
CRN 32547 & 32546 | T/R 10-11:20 a.m. | IA-224

Instructor: Jenn Kepka

Office: NSH-215

Office Hours: 1-2 Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment before class

Office Phone: 541-917-4565

I listen to voice mails during office hours only.

Cell phone: (541) 357-9403

You may call or text this number if you need to get in touch with me. I will try to reply as soon as I can!

E-mail: kepkaj@linnbenton.edu

I check e-mail at least once every weekday between 8 and 5 and will do my best to respond within 24 hours. I do not check my e-mail on weekends or holidays. You must either use or forward your linnbenton.edu e-mail account – this is the account I will use to contact you!

This is an introductory course meant to both expand your knowledge of good essay form and your confidence in your ability to create concise, clear, and cohesive college essays. We'll look at several different forms of essays and destroy many great pieces of writing in order to learn how the heck we can do that stuff ourselves.

Please expect to do **up to 6 hours of work** outside of class each week.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of WR121, successful students should be able to write thoughtful expository prose, demonstrating competence in organization, mechanics, and the writing process (as detailed in the objectives available on the English Department Web site: linnbenton.edu/department/English).

PREREQUISITE: Placement in WR121 is determined by pre-enrollment testing or by passing WR115 with a grade of 'C' or better. Students may challenge their mandatory placement, with an advisor's approval, by signing a self-placement form through a counselor. Before entering WR121, students are assumed to have basic competence in grammar, mechanics, sentence structure and in developing related ideas in a unified, coherent paragraph and/or short essay. These skills may be reviewed in WR121, if needed.

MATERIALS: Our **required textbooks** are available for purchase (new or used) or rental in the LBCC bookstore at both centers and in Albany. The book is also available for short-term loan on reserve at the LBCC library and is available in the main campus Writing Center; they may also be available for brief use in the writing center at the satellite campuses.

- Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russell Durst. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing (with Readings)*. Second Edition. Norton: New York, 2012.
 - This should be the pink-covered textbook.
- Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *Rules for Writers*. Seventh Edition. Bedford St. Martin's: New York, 2011.

Other Materials:

Paper and pen/pencil

Stapler and staples

E-mail account.

Regular (at least two times a week) access to a computer with a writing program and Internet access.

NOTE: A Smartphone does not qualify as a computer!

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: All work submitted must be your own and must be original to this class. If you copy OR paraphrase from an outside source without citation, copy from or collaborate with a classmate on an explicitly individual assignment, ask anyone else to complete your written work for you, or recycle old work of your own to complete a new assignment, this is a violation of academic honesty. Violations of this nature and plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment and possible failure of the entire course. I will pursue every case of plagiarism to the fullest extent.

I will use software called TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. All of your essays will be submitted using this online tool, and both you and I will be immediately alerted to any passages that are taken directly from other sources. The process for using TurnItIn will be discussed in class during Week 1.

Most plagiarism and cheating occurs because a student is pushed against a deadline and turns to a quick, dishonest solution instead of being honest about his or her problem with the instructor. Please talk to me if you find yourself in such stress that cheating seems like a solution.

COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR: Contact me immediately if you are having difficulties in class. I check and respond to my LBCC e-mail at least once a day, every weekday, and will reply to your message as soon as I am able. I check my LBCC voice mail only during office hours, but I will also reply to messages left there as soon as I can. Any changes in assignments, due dates, class meeting schedule, etc., will be announced via e-mail, in addition to being announced in class (when possible). Please make sure that you either regularly check or have forwarded your @mail.linnbenton.edu e-mail address to an address you use.

When writing an e-mail to any instructor, please include your name and the time/days of your class. Messages sent without a signature and with text such as “wht up in class this wk” most likely won’t receive a response; in addition, messages without text that are sent with attachments will most likely end up in my spam filter.

consider investing in an off-site backup program (like Dropbox.com, which allows 1GB of free space online, or Mozy.com, which allows electronic back-ups under 2GB for free) that will protect your work against crashes, viruses, fire, and theft. I have sympathy for many things; computer trouble (and by extension, printer trouble) is not one of them.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Your attendance and participation in our class is vital not only to your own learning but to that of your classmates, who will benefit from your input. In-class work, including quizzes and peer editing, that you miss while absent **cannot be made up.** Those students who do not bring a complete draft to peer editing days may be asked to make better use of their time by completing their paper elsewhere during our class time.

You will lose at least half of a day's attendance/participation if you use an electronic device in class. Of course there are exceptions, but all of them require speaking to me in advance.

Assuming you have not been eaten by a bear, you should be in class. If the bear takes the form of the H3N2 virus, please don't come to class, but do bring a doctor's note to regain credit for missed work. I will require written documentation of illness or injury.

When you have missed class, it is up to you to obtain the notes and assignments handed out that day. Work due must be submitted at the beginning of class to be counted "on time."

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you require assistance due to a disability, please see me as soon as possible to arrange for necessary or helpful accommodations.

WRITING CENTER: From initial ideas to final drafts, the LBCC Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. Please feel free to drop in during regular hours to work one-on-one with one of the supportive Writing Assistants. In addition to your draft, please bring your assignment and any questions you have. You may also submit your work online. Links are available at our class Moodle site.

LBCC COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. (For further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>) Board Policy P1015