

## WR 122 – English Composition: Argument

**Instructor: Kathy Austin, Ph.D.**

**Winter Term 2022**

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**CRN: 33041**

**Office: Online**

**Class Location: Virtual**

**Hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00**

**Class Meeting Days/Times:**

**Number of Credits: 4**

**Tu 10:00 – 11:50 am**

**Course Description and Prerequisite:** Focuses on the analysis and construction of argumentative texts. Expands academic research methods begun in WR 121 – English Composition. Requires 3500-4000 words (about 12 pages) of revised, final draft copy each term or an appropriate multimodal analog for this amount of text. Prerequisite: WR 121 English Composition or equivalent with a grade of ‘C’ or better.

### **Course Overview**

The focus of our reading, writing, and thinking will be argument, which we’ll define as a process of inquiry driven by reason, rather than a shouting match driven by emotion. This course is grounded in the premise that argument is everywhere—at school, at home, in the workplace, in our communities, and in the world at large. Argument is used to try to persuade us of all kinds of things, such as voting for someone, buying something, believing something. In this class, we’ll explore how to create effective and ethically written arguments and how to analyze and respond to the arguments of others. This course aims for you to ‘resee’ your existing ideas and beliefs and nudges you to be open to new perspectives. I will ask you to take an active, engaged role in your learning, and I will make sure our classroom will be a space to share diverse ideas respectfully.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students who complete WR 122 will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness of audience, purpose, and genre in reading and writing.
- Analyze and compose a variety of argumentative texts.
- Use appropriate argumentative elements and strategies in written texts, such as persuasive appeals, counterarguments, and Toulmin and Rogerian methods.
- Practice foundational and advanced research methods by finding, evaluating, incorporating, and citing appropriate sources.
- Craft sentences and paragraphs that communicate your ideas clearly and effectively using words, sentence patterns, and writing conventions at a high college level to make your writing clear, credible, and persuasive.

**Course Materials:**

- Barnet, Sylvan, et al. *From Critical Thinking to Argument: A Portable Guide 6<sup>th</sup> ed.* McMillan Learning, 2020.
- Other instructor provided materials

**Assignments:**

Expect to do a fair amount of writing in this class. You will be expected to complete several smaller writing assignments throughout the term and three major papers.

**Class meetings:**

I am convinced that you learn to write by writing, not by having someone tell you how to write. I work at trying to create an environment in which you can work at writing. In order for me to explain concepts and techniques of writing, there will be times when lectures are unavoidable.

My aim is to establish the class as a group of adult writers working together to assist one another in improving each individual's effectiveness. In such an environment, you can't be effective as a passive student. You need to be committed to achieving the objectives of the course and to assisting others in doing the same

***Your attendance and preparation for each class is critical. Otherwise, you will be depriving not only yourself but also the people with whom you will be working of important learning opportunities. Please plan your schedule and prepare well and on time.***

**Grading:**

Written assignments are graded on a 100-point scale. The scoring rubric is included at the end of this document.

The grading criteria breakdown is as follows:

Attendance/Class participation – 10%

Assignments – 25%

Papers – 25%

Final Exam – 40%

- *A = 90-100% Excellent Work*
- *B = 80-89% Good Work*
- *C = 70-79% Average Work*
- *D = 60-69% Poor Work*
- *F = 0-59% Failing Work*

### **Technology Requirements:**

Our class will be delivered fully online this term, but we will be meeting virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 – 12:50. LBCC is encouraging students to be as prepared as possible by encouraging you to obtain the equipment you will need in order to be successful in any modality. Please see the recommended list of equipment below. Students who cannot afford these resources can contact the [Roadrunner Resource Center](#) about funding.

Thus, all students need to have adequate equipment to be successful in any modality. Students need to have a device or devices that allow them to:

- Write a paper
- Interact on Zoom
- Watch a streaming video
- Create videos
- Create voice recordings
- Download/upload a document or browser
- Take a test

### **Standard Equipment Recommendation:**

This equipment will allow students to successfully engage in most classes in either virtual or face-to-face modality. Some departments have additional equipment needs.

- Broadband internet or a Wifi hotspot.
- A computer with 256g SSD, 8G of RAM, i5 6th gen processor (or equivalent functionality)
- Device with a microphone and speaker
- Device with a camera

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our class will be delivered via LBCC's Moodle website. Please note that Moodle does not play well with mobile devices. You will **NOT** be successful in this class if you try to complete your homework assignments on your smartphone or tablet device. You will need either a laptop computer or a desktop computer to work successfully in Moodle.

### **Important Course Policies and Campus Resources:**

#### **● Attendance & Participation:**

Your presence in class is one of the ways in which you craft your ethos as a student. While I will not deduct grades for poor attendance, missing too many classes will affect your grade. In the online classroom, showing up for class means attending the weekly virtual lectures, completing assignments on time, and communicating with me regarding any issues you may be having with respect to completing your assignments.

- **No-Show Policy:**

Unless prior arrangements have been made with me, registered students **not** attending the first week of online classes **will be withdrawn**. This means that you **MUST** attend the first lecture of Week 1 and complete the Week 1 assignments on time.

- **Absences:**

Absence is not an excuse for ignorance. If you are absent (that means not attending the virtual lecture or being able to log into Moodle to complete coursework for any given week), it is your responsibility to contact one of your classmates and/or check Moodle for any learning materials posted (lecture slides, assignment prompts, rubrics, etc.) to get the information you missed. If you are truly unable to find an answer to your questions through your peers or through your own investigations, then I'll be happy to answer emails about specific questions. I ask that, if you know you will not be able to complete assignments in a timely manner, that you please contact me as soon as possible.

- **Late Work Policy:**

Because of the stresses inherent in forced distance learning, in some circumstances, I will allow students to submit assignments up to one week late to receive full credit. This is **NOT** a general rule that all students may turn in assignments a week late. This is a buffer for those students who find themselves in situations, not of their own making, who may need extra time to complete an assignment. This is a privilege that may be revoked at any time during the course of the term should it be abused. Students **MUST** contact me via email to discuss the **Possibility** of being allowed extra time to submit an assignment.

- **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:**

Presenting someone else's ideas in writing as if they are your own is plagiarism, and it is a serious academic offense. Any plagiarized elements in your writing will result in, at minimum, a zero for the assignment and, at maximum, automatic course failure. If you ever borrow information from an outside source to put in an essay, you must cite it properly. If you're not sure how to do this, please ask me for help **before** submitting your paper. Once you submit a paper, the policy mentioned above will be enforced.

### **LBCC Student Email:**

Please make sure that you check your student email regularly throughout the term. Should I need to contact you, I will be emailing your student account. You can find information about accessing your LBCC email here: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail>

- **Moodle:**

Important course materials—such as assignment instructions, class agendas, and your grades—will be posted on our course site on Moodle. If you've never logged-in to Moodle before, you

will first have to claim your account at <https://identity.linnbenton.edu/>. If you have any problems logging, please contact the Student Help Desk; they can be reached at 541-917-4630 or [student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu](mailto:student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu).

- **Withdrawing from the Course:**

Typically, the Friday that concludes Week 7 is the last day for students to withdraw from a course; check the academic calendar for this term to confirm that date. If you are still enrolled after this point, you must receive a grade. Be aware that withdrawing from a course can impact your financial aid, so be sure to consult with the Financial Aid Office if you have questions before withdrawing.

- **The LBCC Writing Center:**

The LBCC Writing Center (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students. Get more info about the WC here: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center>

- **The LBCC Library:**

The LBCC library is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall. Get more information here: <http://library.linnbenton.edu/home>

- **Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR):**

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations, but are not yet registered with CFAR, please go to <http://linnbenton.edu/cfar> for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917- 4789.

- **Non-Discrimination Policy:**

Everyone in the LBCC community has the right to think, learn, and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill, and we will honor that right in our classroom.

- **Public Safety/Campus Security:**

In an emergency, call 911. Also, call LBCC Campus Security/Public Safety at 541-926-6855 and 541-917-4440.

- **Student Printing:**

LBCC uses a pay-to-print system called GoPrint that charges .10 cents per printed page. If you do not have a GoPrint account, you can sign up for one in any college computer lab. You can find more information at <http://www.linnbenton.edu/computer-resources-and-labs>.

- **Our Classroom's "Golden Rule":**

Everyone has a right to learn in our classroom. Remember to treat one another with dignity and respect at all times. In other words, be good humans.

## Scoring Rubric

Total percentage points possible:

Percentage Points	100 – 90	89-80	79-70	Below 70 % is a failing grade
Topic/Content	Topic explored is clearly defined. Thesis clearly defended.	Topic explored satisfactorily defined. Thesis needs minor points of clarification.	Topic explored is adequately defined. Thesis statement needs several points of clarification.	Topics, is not clearly defined. Thesis statement not clearly defended.
Presentation	The paper is typed, double-spaced and the required minimum length.	The paper is typed and the required minimum length.	The paper is typed and the required minimum length.	The paper is typed and the required minimum length.
Organization	The paper addresses the content in a clear, organized manner.	The paper may have issues with clarity of content and organization, but they are minimal.	The paper has significant issues with clarity and organization of content.	The paper does not address the content in a clear, organized manner.
Conventions	Paper has few or no errors in conventions.	Paper has few errors in conventions.	Paper has errors in conventions.	Paper has distracting errors in conventions.
Style	Paper uses appropriate /MLA style.	Paper uses MLA style with few errors.	Paper uses MLA style with some errors.	Paper ignores MLA style.
Other	Paper was delivered on time.	Paper was delivered on time.	Paper was delivered on time.	Paper was delivered on time.