

WR 121 ENGLISH COMPOSITION
FALL 2016

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Havenick

OFFICE: North Santiam Hall 214

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 – 2:30 and Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00

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CRN: 20486 and ALP/WR121 23097 / Monday and Friday NSH107 / Wednesday MKH207

Final Exam: Monday, December 5 @ 12:00 – 12:50 and Tuesday, December 6 @ 11:30 – 12:20

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to our writing class. This course is designed as a workshop and discussion class in essay writing. We'll study critical reading strategies; the *process* and *fundamentals* of essay writing, including invention strategies; rhetorical structures/strategies; techniques for organizing, developing and revising; and the elements of style.

Good writing is hard work and incredibly satisfying. Good writing involves prewriting, writing, and rewriting. Our aim in WR121 is to develop and master our own process of writing, of critical reading, and of critical thinking.

I'm looking forward to working with you this term. I will always try to be enthusiastic, honest, fair, and inspiring. I will expect you to be interested, consistently present and prepared, engaged, and a contributor to class workshops and discussions. With our teamwork, by the end of the term, you can expect to be a better writer. I hope that you will also learn to enjoy and value your own writing.

WR 121 LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. *Analyze the rhetorical needs* (audiences, purpose, and subject) of a variety of academic and practical writing assignments.
2. *Apply critical thinking strategies* (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation) in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.
3. *Implement appropriate rhetorical elements and organization* (introduction, thesis, development and support, rebuttal, visuals, narration, conclusion, etc.) in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.
4. *Locate, evaluate, and integrate high-quality information and opinion* in response to the rhetorical needs of an assignment.
5. *Craft sentences and paragraphs* that communicate ideas clearly and effectively using words, sentence patterns, and writing conventions to make writing clear, credible, and persuasive.

WR121 OBJECTIVES

- Write with confidence.
- Discover, develop, and use your own best reading and writing processes.
- Work on writing projects with confidence both collaboratively and independently.
- Organize and write a well-structured and effectively persuasive essay.
- Analyze a subject, research a topic, present an argument, and write an essay presenting your views.
- Write under pressure.
- Write for specific audiences and specific purposes using accepted conventions.
- Clearly and effectively express your ideas.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

ESSAYS

- ❑ Essay #1: *Joining the Conversation: Narrative* (150 points)
- ❑ Essay #2: *Joining the Conversation: Analysis* (200 points)
- ❑ Essay #3: *Persuasive / Research* (300 points)
- ❑ Essay #4: *In Class Essay: WR121 Final Exam Practice* (100 points)

WRITING EXERCISES (150 points: 15 @ 10 points each)

Writing exercises focused on skills related to the essay project must be completed when assigned. These writings are given full credit if they complete the exercise in a focused, thorough, and thoughtful way and are turned in on time. No late exercises will be accepted for credit.

Peer Review Workshops (50 points)

- ❑ Essay #1 workshop, Essay #2 workshop, Essay #3 workshop

Postscripts (50 points)

- ❑ Essay #1, Essay #2, Essay #3

SKILLS

- Work in teams through reading groups and peer editing workshops
- Demonstrate each of the steps in your writing process
- Provide critical response to peers' work
- Develop your responses to readings
- Focus, develop, and organize your thoughts in writing
- Evaluate your own work using commonly accepted standards for thoughtful writing
- Follow standard grammatical conventions for academic writing
- Integrate outside sources using MLA or APA standards

Textbooks & Materials:

- *They Say I Say 3rd edition*, by Graff, Birkenstein, and Durst
- *Little Seagull Handbook*, 2nd edition
- Access to the internet for linked essays and assignments on Moodle
- A pocket folder, and a binder for your class work
- Four examination Books for the WR121 Final and Practice Final

College Resources

Library and Writing Center and ONLINE WRITING LAB (OWL)

Office Hours: Please come by my office throughout the term. If you can't make my scheduled office hours, you can e-mail me or see me after class to set up an appointment for another time. I am happy to discuss your works in progress

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is essential. In this class, you are expected to be a team player, to help others with their writing as well as to revise your own. In addition, class reading and writing activities can not be duplicated. Please plan to attend class regularly and to arrive on time. More than three absences will negatively affect your grade. Exchange phone numbers with class members and discuss class assignments with them – they're working on the same projects. **If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting missed material and the assignment on our Moodle site.**

Classroom Etiquette: Please arrive on time, and turn cell phones off and put them away during class. During class time, please be fully focused and engaged in what our class is doing.

Tips for Success

- Come to class prepared and read/write assignments before class. Do your work on time.
- Always have your books, your notebook and the draft of the essay project with you in class.
- Do your own work. Plagiarism will result in your failing the assignment and possibly failing the class.
- **Write about what matters to you.**

"I don't see writing as communication of something already discovered, as 'truths' already known. Rather, I see writing as a job of experiment. It's like any discovery; you don't know what's going to happen until you try it."

William Stafford, Oregon's former Poet Laureate