

WR 122 – English Composition: Argument

Instructor: Kathy Austin, Ph.D.

Fall Term 2023

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CRN: 28405; 28409

Office: SSH 212

Class Location: NSH 206

**Hours: Mondays 1:00 – 3:00 pm via Zoom
or by Appointment.**

Class Meeting Days/Times:

Number of Credits: 4

Tuesdays – 1:00 – 2:50 (28405)

3:00 – 4:50 (28409)

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, or 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 7th ed.* McMillan Learning, 2023.
- Other instructor provided materials

Technology Requirements:

Our class syllabus and assignments will be posted in Moodle. LBCC is encouraging students to be as prepared as possible by asking you to obtain the equipment you will need 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:

Email and Communication:

The best way to communicate with me is via LBCC email. I will also send out general announcements to the entire class as well. Please, pay attention to any announcement or email you receive from me as they contain vital information pertaining to the course.

I do my best to respond to student emails within 24 to 48 hours. Due to the nature of an online class, I am not always at my desk and online during the day. Consequently, student expectations that I will respond to emails immediately are unrealistic. Also be aware that if you choose to send me a message directly through Moodle, I may not see it for a couple of days, and consequently, my response will be outside the 24-48 range. Again, if you wish to contact me and receive a prompt reply, please do so via email.

Students are required to have a valid, functional, LBCC email address. Please make sure that you have activated your email account as this is the primary mode of communication at LBCC.

Office Hours:

I have regularly scheduled office hours on Monday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. in SSH 212. If that day and time are prohibitive for you, please let me know, and I will be happy to schedule a time to meet with you that better fits your schedule. I'm also happy to meet with you via Zoom if you would prefer.

Assignments:

All of the class assignments are listed each week in Moodle, and due dates are always on Sunday evenings at 11:59 p.m. You will see a weekly overview and be given a task list of all the assignments you need to complete for each week.

You will be expected to complete several smaller writing assignments throughout the term and one longer paper. You will also have exams during Weeks 3 & 6, and a final exam at the end of the term.

All assignments must be turned in on for before the date on which they are assigned. If there is an unforeseeable emergency that prevents you from completing an assignment on time, you must notify me PROIR to the class meeting to determine whether or not the assignment will be accepted. In some cases, assignments may be submitted up to one week late to receive credit.

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 one major paper.

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.

Class meetings:

Our class will meet face-to-face this term.

Your attendance and preparation for each class are 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:

I do my best to grade assignments on Monday following the Sunday due date. This isn't always possible because of the inherent nature of teaching, student assignments, institutional obligations, and Moodle crashes.

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%

Exams – 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*

MLA Style:

I require students to submit their assignments/exams in MLA style. I provide resources and an instructional video for you in Week 1 RESOURCES. Please, be sure that you are fully versed in how to format your documents in MLA style. This is a requirement for this class. I will give

you one week to familiarize yourselves with MLA style, but if papers are not submitted properly formatted after Week 1, **it will result in an automatic 40% off your score.**

Attendance & Participation:

Your presence in class is one of the ways in which you craft your ethos as a student. Missing class means missing valuable instruction time, which means that you give yourself the best chance to do well by attending every class on time and in its entirety. There is no distinction between an excused absence and an unexcused one. You must be able to set a classwork schedule for yourself and stick to it for the entirety of the term.

Illness Policy:

While it is in your best interests to attend class each week, please do not come to class if you are ill. Please, stay home and take care of yourself, and please be mindful that if you come to class when you're sick, you may be exposing someone who is immunocompromised to whatever illness you might have. If you do need time off due to illness, please, keep in touch with me so that I can direct you to how you might best complete the weekly assignment.

No-Show Policy:

Unless prior arrangements have been made with me, registered students **NOT** attending the first week of online classes **WILL BE WITHDRAWN AND NOT ALLOWED BACK INTO THE CLASS**. This means that you must attend the first week of classes and complete **ALL** of the Week One assignments in order to remain in the class. My experience is that students who do not attend the first class meeting tend to not do well in the class and end up either withdrawing later in the term or failing.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones must be kept "silent" and put away while you are in class. If I see a cell phone out on a desk during class, I will ask the student to leave the room and the student will receive a failing grade on the Week's assignment. If you have a compelling reason as to why you need to be able to answer phone calls/text messages during class, please come and speak to me privately.

Absences:

Absence is not an excuse for ignorance. If you are absent (that means not attending the lecture or logging 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, you please contact me as soon as possible.

Late Work Policy:

Because of the stresses inherent in taking college classes, 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 **PRIOR** to the assignment deadline to discuss the **Possibility** of being allowed extra time to submit an assignment.

If you have been granted an extension for one of your assignments, it **will not** be graded if it is submitted **later than one week beyond the original due date**.

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.

Ghostwriting:

Not only does plagiarism go against the code of conduct for this class, but submitting the work generated by machine (any generative AI such as ChatGPT, for example) as your own (ghostwriting) is also unacceptable. If the work you submit at any point is incongruous with other work you have submitted, you may be asked for your source documents or notes. Failure to provide such documentation or evidence of your independent and original draft work will result in an award of "0" points on the assignment.

Incidents of plagiarism or ghostwriting may require intervention by LBCC's Manager of Student Conduct and Retention.

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 in, please contact the Student Help Desk; they can be reached at 541-917-4630 or 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 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>

Accessibility Resources:

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through Accessibility Resources 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 Accessibility Resources, 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. That includes your professor as well as fellow students. 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.