



WRITING 121: ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Class Times: M/W 11:00 am-12:50 pm

Class Location: Zoom

Number of Credits: 4

Class CRN: 33562

Instructor Name: Lee Keeler

Email: KeelerL@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours: I will be holding virtual office hours; email me with any issues at any time. I'd also be happy to set up a Zoom meeting that works for a time for both of us. You can also talk to me after class.

Statement on the Syllabus's Importance:

Get to know this syllabus! It is vital that you have an understanding of all of the assignment dates that are coming this quarter. This document is your lifeline to passing this course.

Course Description:

WR 121 covers processes and fundamentals of writing expository essays, including structure, organization and development, diction and style, revision and editing, mechanics and standard usage required for college-level writing.

Course Overview:

We are here to unlock your potential as an academic, and occasionally creative, writer. We will explore and discover more about our abilities to present a point of view and to deliver that point of view from an academic standpoint. There can be distinct approaches and styles that we will examine together, but they are meant to be tools, not rules.

We, as the bearers of opinion, feeling and fact, have the gift of expanding upon how we tell others how we see the world. By gaining a better understanding of your own composition process, you will be empowered with the ability to craft well-informed essays, but more importantly, will learn more about your own system of logic.

Let us be perfectly clear: all opinions, within academic reason, are welcome to flow from your mind here in the form of essays, workshops, and in-class participation. We will address each other with respect and dignity, giving classmates ample time to express themselves and gradually perfecting the art of critical listening.

As we get to know each other in the class, be sure to focus on *communication* - especially with your instructor. If you have any special needs or are having a tough time, just let me know.

***Online Updates:** Since this class will be entirely online, your participation is vital to your ability to succeed in this course. There will be basic checklists for every weekly unit of this class - but in the end, *the work will be your responsibility*.

This can be tough when faced with the distractions of home, so I strongly recommend that you find a special time/place in which to do your work; try to place yourself wherever you can be physically and mentally productive.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who complete WR 121 will be able to:

1. Write thoughtful, clear, and effective expository paragraphs and essays for a variety of purposes.
2. Identify the writer's situation: writer's role, audience, and purpose.
3. Read critically; paraphrase, summarize, and directly quote from readings.
4. Write clear, focused, and well-organized summary and response paragraphs using in-text citations.
5. Focus a thesis and develop this thesis clearly and logically using examples and illustrations in a well-organized essay.
6. Revise writing using standard college editing and proofreading conventions (grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation).

Cornerstone Class Statement:

This class is part of the LBCC Cornerstone Project class sequence. It will give you an opportunity to broaden your understanding of the world and yourself while strengthening your skills to read closely, write clearly, speak with confidence, and contend with differing viewpoints and perspectives. These skills will prepare you for careers and university coursework.

An important part of our work will be reading and discussing a transformative text—a text that has transformed both individuals and the world. We will read Letter from Birmingham Jail, by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and relate it to issues in our lives today. Be ready to experience uncertainty and ambiguity, and to grapple with questions that don't always have obvious or unanimous answers.

The Cornerstone Project includes select LB classes in Communication, Writing, Humanities, Art and Music. Students that take three Cornerstone Project classes will receive the Cornerstone Liberal Arts Award which is great to add to your resume.

Course Materials:

- **88 Open Essays (OER, Free Online):**

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1heN5uW4AKp71J_3PTAhklv892Qvk3mRBIXTS6A2p1Hc/edit?usp=drive_open&oid=108391704784444987577

- **Letter from a Birmingham Jail (OER, Free Online)**

<https://www.csuchico.edu/iege/assets/documents/susi-letter-from-birmingham-jail.pdf>

Class Work:

****You are required to have access to your LBCC Moodle, LBCC Gmail and a Zoom Account in order to participate in and pass this course.***

Lectures - ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION CREDIT. Check your list on the weekly unit rundown for a listing of basic lectures.

Reading - You are expected to keep track of assigned readings as we read them in this class and to take active, thorough notes in your study time. We'll be going over terminology and concepts that will require your involvement and comprehension of the material.

Weekly Exercises - These will often reflect and extend upon the concepts in the reading, with 88 *Open Essays* and other texts. Exercises will include in-class writing, workshop notes and potential quizzes.

Exams - There will be one Practice Final and then one Final Exam, both of which must be completed via Moodle.

Major Papers - There will be three major papers: a **Memoir Journal, an Argumentative Essay and a Rhetorical Analysis Paper. There will also be a shorter Rhetorical Breakdown that you'll turn in.** Remember to follow MLA guidelines, and if you're stuck on an editing issue, please reach out to myself or the Writing Center. Please take a look at the class schedule on this syllabus and make a note of the due dates for these assignments. Your ability to get these in on time and within the assigned criteria will greatly determine the outcome for your final grade.

*Revisions: with each major paper, you will have the option to turn in one revision draft as a chance to improve your grade, which you will turn in at a date that we both agree upon. You must let me know in advance if you're planning on doing a revision of a major paper.

Grading:

Overall Breakdown:

Class Participation and In-Class Practicum - 30%

Final - 30%

Major Papers and their Subsequent Revisions - 40%

Letter Grades by Percentage:

- *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*

***Note: Grading for papers is often completed within 2-3 weeks of submission*

****Note: Grading on Moodle will not reflect your full class grade. If you need a grade estimate at any point during the term, email me and I will get it over to you ASAP.*

Important Course Policies and Campus Resources:

- **No-Show Policy:** Unless prior arrangements have been made with me, registered students not attending the first two class sessions will be withdrawn.
- **Attendance Policy:** 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. The grading breakdown above indicates how many absences are permitted for final grades of A, B, and C. There is no distinction between an excused absence and an unexcused one. If you do miss a class, you should contact me or a trusted classmate to find out what you missed. Likewise, if you miss a class when an

assignment is due, you will need to contact me to make arrangements for getting me the work. If you are absent for an in-class activity that is collected for grading, it cannot be made up.

- **Punctuality Policy:** Plan to arrive to class on time and stay for the entire period. If you arrive more than 5 minutes late, you will be marked late. More than 3 lates will equal one absence.
- **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.
- **Phones in the Classroom:** Please silence your phone and put it in your pocket or bag. Think of it as a test. Can you go 80 minutes without touching it or looking at it? If there is a legitimate need to have your phone out, please talk to me before doing so.
- **Laptops/Tablets in the Classroom:** I prefer that students do not use these devices in the classroom unless we're in the computer lab, but if you'd like to, please talk to me before doing so.
- **Policy on Late Work:** Policies for late work will be included with assignment instructions.
- **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.
- **Moodle:** Important course materials—such as assignment instructions, class agendas, and your midterm and final grades—will be posted on our course site on Moodle. An easy way to get to Moodle is to start at the [LBCC homepage](#), and then click on the yellow Moodle logo at the top right. Alternatively, you can go directly to [the sign-in screen](#). 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.

- **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>
- **The LBCC Writing Center:** The LBCC Writing Center (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students. As explained above, you will be required to visit the WC to earn a grade of A or B in this class. Get more info about the WC here: <https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/learning-center/writing-support/index.php>
- **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":** Let's maximize learning by minimizing distractions from it. Focus!

Weekly course calendar (*subject to change with advanced notice):

Week	Classwork	Homework
Wk. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Get to know the Syllabus -Diagnostic Writing <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Prewriting Strategies -Exercise: Getting Started -Memoir Journals Criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Accept Class Google Doc <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mark Calendars: Major Dates
Wk. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLK JR. Day - No Class <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Declare Memoir Journal Topic -Cover Rick Bragg Short Story -Reflective Writing -Exercise: Signal Phrases Pt. 1 	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reading: Rick Bragg “All Over But the Shoutin”
Wk. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Memoirs Pt.2 -Cornerstone Reading Pt. 1 <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Guest Speaker: B. Miyagishima -Argumentative Essay Paper Criteria 	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Research Arg. Essay
Wk. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: The Spin-Out -Exercise: The Spin-Out -Declare Arg. Essay Topic <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reflective Writing -Exercise: Summarization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Research/Start Arg. Essay <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work on Arg. Essay
Wk. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cornerstone Reading Pt. 2 <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Visual Rhet. Breakdown -Exercise: Visual Rhet. Breakdown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work on Arg. Essay <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work on Arg. Essay
Wk. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rhetorical Analysis Essay Criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Peer Review Draft of Arg. Essay

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Exercise: Signal Phrases Pt. 2 -Peer Review: Arg. Essay <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cornerstone Reading Pt. 3 -Arg. Essay Paper Due 	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Arg. Essay Paper Due
Wk. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Analyzing Texts -Exercise: Analyzing Texts -Reflective Writing <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Practice Exam Reading -Lecture: Multimodal Perspectives -Exam Prep Refresher -Reflective Writing 	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Check out the Practice Exam Reading
Wk. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Practice Exam <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Research & Evidence -Reflective Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Take the Practice Exam <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work on Rhet. Analysis
Wk. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Rhetorical Breakdown -Exercise: Rhet. Breakdown <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Edits & Revisions -Exercise: Edits & Revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reading: Excerpt from "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" -Work on Rhet. Analysis <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Work on Rhet. Analysis
Wk. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Catch-Up w/ Class Work -Peer Review: Rhet. Analysis Paper <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rhetorical Analysis Paper Due -Lecture: Memoirs Wrap-Up -Exercise: Memoir Summary -Final Exam Prep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Peer Review Draft of Rhet. Analysis Due <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rhetorical Analysis Due
Wk. 11	FINALS WEEK	Take Final Exam