

# Writing 121: Composition

Winter Term 2018

Linn Benton Community College

Room: NSH 207

CRN: 32903

T/R 1:00-2:20

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Office Hours: T/R 12-1:00

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## **Course Description:**

Covers processes and fundamentals of writing expository essays, including rhetorical structure, organization and development, diction and style, revision and editing, mechanics and standards usage required for college-level writing. Emphasizes developing critical thinking skills.

## **Required Texts and Materials:**

*The Little Seagull Handbook*, 3rd Edition

Bullock, Brody, and Weinberg

*They Say I Say*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition W/O Readings

Graff and Birkenstein

2 Green Exam Books

## **Course Outcomes:**

The main objective of WR121 is to strengthen student proficiency in expository writing. Students will write three or more essays over the term. At least one essay must include outside research in MLA, APA, or CMS documentation. At the completion of WR121, successful students should be able to write thoughtful expository prose, demonstrating competence in organization, mechanics, and the writing process.

In terms of content, students will be able to:

1. Write an expository essay using a variety of writing strategies (narration, definition, comparison and contrast, classification, description, examples, process analysis, cause and effect, and persuasion).
2. Clearly focus and develop the main idea, using specific details.
3. Adjust the writing to audience, purpose, and situation.
4. Develop a clear and appropriate writing style.
5. Present ideas logically.
6. Read and analyze critically the writing of others.
7. Summarize, paraphrase, and quote secondary source information.
8. Integrate source material into essays.
9. Document sources correctly, using lead-ins and in-text citations.

In terms of organization, students will be able to:

1. Use organizational and transitional strategies to give the essay shape and form.

2. Present material logically with an introduction which defines the subject and previews the content of the essay, a discussion section which is fully developed, and a conclusion which summarizes and interprets the thesis.
3. Write in a variety of formats (essays, journals, reports, letters, portfolios, peer reviews) which meet the needs of the intended audience and purpose.

In terms of mechanics, students will be able to:

1. Use standard grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.
2. Recognize their individual strengths and weaknesses as writers.
3. Employ editing strategies to eliminate their most frequent errors.
4. Cite sources using Modern Language Association (MLA) conventions, including a “works cited” page.

In terms of the writing process, students will be able to:

1. Transform freewriting, journaling, brainstorming, and other prewriting material into a finished piece of writing.
2. Employ writing strategies that work best for the particular writing situation.
3. Collaborate with other writers in prewriting, drafting, and revising.
4. Revise and edit their writing effectively, working independently or with peers.
5. Build confidence in their writing ability.
6. Locate research material to support their expository writing.
7. Plan, write, and revise well under pressure.

**Assignments:**

**Participation:** Participation not only includes attendance, which is a large part of you being able to participate at all, but also includes *how* you participate. If you show up every day but never say a word, you can expect only partial credit. If you are involved and turn in assignments regularly, you will be in much better shape come the end of term.

**In-Class Assignments:** There will be informal in-class writing, course discussion, and minimal assignments which will support the development of your thought and learning toward the completion of your individual papers.

Individual papers will all have a separate assignment sheet with expectations outlined as the project approaches. As a general rule, all papers should be double spaced, 12 pt. font and formatted using MLA guidelines.

**Paper 1:** Response Essay (3-4 pages)

**Paper 2:** Expository Essay (3-4 pages)

**Paper 3:** Research Essay (5-7 pages)

**Revision:** You will have an opportunity to revise one of your essays toward the end of term, and a revised copy including peer review will be factored into your grade. This is not a replacement for an essay you have already been graded on, but rather an opportunity to give a piece of your writing a second look and practice in-depth revision.

**Turning in Assignments:**

There will be many in-class assignments which will require you to be present to receive full credit, and those will be turned in during the class period.

Papers will be turned in via Turnitin.com. During the first two weeks, you should sign up for turnitin.com (free, safe website to turn in work) and register for this class. **The registration number is: 16857879 and the password for the course is: Pratchett**

**Grading:**

Participation (includes attendance, in-class writing, and discussion)	10%
In-Class Assignments	20%
Paper 1	10%
Paper 2	10%
Paper 3	15%
Revision	5%
Final	30%

**Final:**

The final for Writing 121 is worth 30% of your final grade for the course and is the same final that every student in Writing 121 will take. During finals week, students will participate in two fifty-minute in-class writing sessions where you will be expected to write an essay based on a prompt and a reading which you will receive one week prior to the test in order to prepare; we will discuss more details the week prior to finals.

**Resources:** (use them!)

THE LIBRARY

Linn Benton Learning Center

Linn Benton Writing Center

Linn Benton Online Writing Lab (OWL)

Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab): <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

**Late Work Policy:**

Things happen, emergencies come up; as long as it does not become a clear pattern, if you ask me within 24 hours notice, I will most likely provide you with an extension plan for your work. If you do not request an extension within the 24 hour period before the assignment is due, you will automatically lose 5% of your grade for the assignment each DAY it is late thereafter (including weekends). Just don't do it.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance is considered part of your participation for this course. I will allow you three missed classes, no questions asked. Each absence after will result in the lowering of your participation grade for this course which factors into your final grade for Writing 121. If you have an emergency which may affect your ability to complete this course, please contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

**Class Cancellation Information:**

In the event that we cannot meet on campus (weather, for instance), please be sure to check your LBCC e-mail. You should receive an e-mail from me, as we will still have out-of-class work.

### **Electronics in the Classroom:**

DO NOT use electronics in class including cell phones, laptops, or tablets. If you require the use of one of these devices in order to support your success in this class, please discuss with me. Otherwise, they are distracting to you, your classmates, as well as myself. Please turn off cell phones while in class, and if you need to take a call (or text message) please remove yourself from class to do so. There may come a time where electronics are useful to the current conversation within class, and the times to use electronics in class will be apparent.

### **Academic Honesty:**

The MOST important thing to remember when writing and studying for your own academic success, is to only claim your own thoughts and ideas. If you incorporate the work of others, you must utilize citations to provide them with the credit. Not using proper citations when using someone else's work may result in you failing the assignment and even this course. For more information about plagiarism and what plagiarism includes, please visit: <http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm>.



### **Nondiscrimination Policy:**

LBCC maintains a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity in employment and admissions, without regard to race, color, sex, marital and/or parental status, religion, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, Vietnam era, or veteran status. (See Administrative Rule No. E029 and Board Policy Series No. 6090, found at <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>).

### **Accessibility**

You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if:

- You have a documented disability and need accommodations,
- Your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or
- You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.

If you believe you may need accommodation services please contact Center for Accessibility Resources, 917-4789. If you have documented your disability, remember that you must make your request for accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources Online Services web page every term in order to receive accommodations.

### **Contact:**

If you need to contact me, e-mail is the best resource. I frankly do not typically utilize phone communication, but check e-mail regularly. And of course, come to my office hours; they're designed for you to utilize!

### **Course Calendar:**

For the course calendar please access the google doc via the link which will be provided the first week of term. Please note that this google doc will change regularly (but all assignment dates will stay the same unless mentioned in class).