

**Course Syllabus**  
**WR122 English Composition: Argumentation**  
Spring 2017

**Instructor: Timothy Black**

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**Course Description:**

*English Composition: Logic and Style*, the second-term college-level English Composition course, helps students to learn to write logical and effective argumentative prose as well as helping them develop awareness of stylistic elements and their critical reading skills.

**Required Books:**

Title: *Everything's an Argument*  
Author: [Andrea A. Lunsford](#) (Author), [John J. Ruszkiewicz](#) (Author), [Keith Walters](#) (Author)  
Edition: 7th  
Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's; 7 edition (July 7, 2016)  
ISBN#: 978-1319085759

**Recommended Books:**

*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition.*  
*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th Edition*, by Joseph Gibaldi.

**Software Requirements:**

I use Microsoft Word, so if you use any version of that program, there should be no problems, as I can open .doc and .docx files. If you are using *another* word processing program, that's fine, but **you will need to save your files with a .RTF extension so that I can open them if needed.**

**Basic Overview of the Course:**

Our course of study includes weekly discussions, textbook readings, homework assignments, one quiz, two papers, and a final exam. See the course schedule below for an overview of our week-to-week schedule. Please note that the course schedule is an *overview*. Detailed assignment directions are provided separately.

### Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

Display the skills expressed in the WR 121 competency-based outcome statements.

Compose a variety of written arguments.

Identify and evaluate elements of argument (e.g., claim, support, warrants, logic, rebuttals, credibility, and appeal).

Distinguish between observations and inferences and between facts and opinions.

Employ elements of argument (e.g., claim, support, warrants, logic, rebuttals, credibility, and psychological appeal).

Identify, analyze, and evaluate elements of audience consideration in others' written arguments.

Employ audience considerations (e.g. reader's knowledge, assumptions, beliefs / values, attitudes, needs) in the selection of evidence and the presentation of the writer's arguments.

Identify, analyze, and evaluate tools of persuasive language, such as connotation, tone-slanted language, and irony.

Employ tools of persuasive language, such as connotation, tone-slanted language, and irony.

Identify and analyze logical fallacies in others' arguments.

Identify and eliminate logical fallacies in your own written arguments.

Locate, evaluate, and select relevant material from other sources to construct your own written arguments.

Employ relevant material from other sources to construct your own written arguments.

Document sources appropriately with in-text citations and a works cited page in accordance with MLA style.

Write an effective argument for a non-class context with practical implications and outcomes.

### Academic Honesty Policy at LBCC

Academic honesty is an indispensable value as students acquire knowledge and develop skills in college. Students at Linn-Benton Community College are expected to practice academic honesty by not cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting their coursework in any way. Students are ultimately responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty whether such incidences are intentional or unintentional. Violations may result in failure of an assignment or failure of the course.

Plagiarism, collusion, and other forms of misrepresentation hurt the student and run counter to the goals of education. The English faculty at Linn-Benton is committed to educating students regarding academic honesty. **If at any time you are not sure about the legitimacy of your writing in this course, ask your instructor for clarification.**

## Plagiarism Basics

We'll discuss plagiarism and how to avoid it in more detail during our studies this term. However, here are some basic guidelines to help you avoid plagiarism:

It's the *student's* responsibility to avoid plagiarism.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated in papers, in written exams, in discussion postings, or in any other assignment.

If you conducted research to find the information, cite the source.

Do not "copy and paste" without adding quotation marks to the passage you paste into your notes. A good practice if you copy and paste while conducting research is to paste what you find in a different font color, such as red. Then, you'll be able to see which words are yours and which aren't.

If you're worried about whether something might or might not be considered plagiarism, ask! There are no negative consequences for asking a question, but you *will* face negative consequences if you plagiarize.

## Class Policies and Grading

The following section provides an overview of our class policies.

### How to Submit Assignments

All written assignments should be submitted in person. Students should **NOT** submit assignments by email. Most assignments will be due on Monday. **ALL written assignments must be saved in .doc, .docx, or .rtf format.**

### Attendance and Discussion Postings

#### Late Policy

In fairness to students who submit work on time, there will be late penalties deducted from late assignments. If you have an emergency, please contact me as far in advance of the assignment due date as possible. In cases of a true emergency, the late policy *may* be waived. Otherwise, the late policy is **10% per day**, with **no late assignments accepted after five days.**

**Please note: Essay #1 and Essay #2 Final Drafts and the Final Exam MUST be completed in order to pass the course, regardless of the points earned on other assignments.**

#### Grading

Most of the work in our class is graded on a point system. The chart below shows the points breakdown by letter grade.

Letter Grade	Point Values
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	599 and below

## Assignment Point Values

The table below includes all gradable items in our class and their point values.

Assignment	Points	Weight
Discussions (Total of 18 regular discussions, located in Weeks 1-10)	270 (15 pts. each)	27%
Peer Review Discussions (Two Peer Review Discussions, located in Weeks 3 and 8)	60 (30 pts. each)	6%
MLA Quiz	50	5%
Essay #1 Prospectus	50	5%
Essay #1 First Draft	30	3%
Essay #1 Final Draft	150	15%
Editorial Selection Assignment	25	2.5%
Essay #2 Prospectus	50	5%
Essay #2 Annotated Bibliography	35	3.5%
Essay #2 First Draft	30	3%
Essay #2 Final Draft	150	15%
Final Exam	100	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Proposed Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

The chart below gives an overview of our weekly schedule. Please note: This chart is not a substitution for assignment directions. Specific assignment directions will be provided throughout the course.

Week	Weekly Topic	Reading Assignments	Discussion Topics	Assignments & Quizzes
1	What is Argument?	Chapters 1, 2 and 3 <i>Seagull</i> (as a Reference)	Argument MLA	Homework MLA Quiz
2	What is Argument 2	Chapters 4, 5, 6 and 12	Claims & Support Planning & Researching	Essay #1 Prospectus
3	Writing Arguments	Chapters 7, 8 and 9	Supporting Arguments Persuading the Audience	Essay #1 First Draft
4	Revising Essays	Chapters 10 and 13	Revising Essays Peer Review	Essay #1 Final Draft
5	Supporting Arguments	Chapters 17 & 19	Defining Terms Evaluating Evidence & Appeals	Editorial Selection Assignment
6	Warrants	Chapter 20	“Lucky 7” Analyzing Claims, Supports, Warrants	Essay #2 Prospectus
7	Fallacies & Research	Chapter 22	Fallacies Finding & Evaluating Sources	Essay #2 Annotated Bibliography
8	Using Researched Sources	Arguments	Paraphrasing & Summarizing MLA Review	Essay #2 First Draft
9	Controlling Language	Arguments	Controlling Language Peer Review	Essay #2 Final Draft
10	Review	No New Readings –Review	Review of Course	Prepare for Final Exam

		as Needed	Outcomes Review of Your Writing	
<b>Finals</b>				Final Exam