

**WR115: INTRODUCTION TO WRITING**  
ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM (ALP) – Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Bjorn Smars

**CRN:** 26408

**E-Mail:** [smarsb@linnbenton.edu](mailto:smarsb@linnbenton.edu)

**Meetings:** TR 2:30-3:50PM

**Office Location:** IA 231-A

**Classroom:** North Santiam Hall 206

**Office Hours:** Thursdays 12-1PM, 4-5:30PM & by appointment

**Office Phone:** 541-917-4699 ext. 4296

**Cell Phone:** (208) 249-8095

**REQUIRED BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS:** Books are the same as for your WR121. In addition, you will need a dedicated **notebook** or **folder** or **three-ring binder** for your journal, and you will need a pen or pencil in order to respond to in-class prompts for the journal. You will need access to your **LBCC email** and to **Canvas** (an online classroom assistance tool, much like Moodle). Please sign up for a free Canvas student account and enroll in both our WR121 and our WR115/ALP Canvas class pages as early in the term as possible.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Welcome to the **Accelerated Learning Program!** You have chosen to be a member of an exciting project which is taking place not only on our campus but nationwide. It's an honors program of sorts for students like you, people whom we believe can do well by taking both 115 and 121 at the same time. We all believe in your success! With your motivation, desire, and academic skills combined with our focused support and guidance, you will achieve mastery this term. To achieve that mastery, you'll get lots of practice in the skills related to academic reading and writing.

You can look forward to:

- Reading a rich assortment of essays to develop good critical reading skills and enhance your writing.
- Reviewing and using strong study skills, grammar and mechanical skills, and collaborative skills throughout the term.
- Practicing summaries, prepping reading discussions, and working on drafts of WR121 essays intensively in this class.

*Note: The WR115 course is transferable as an elective, but does not satisfy institutional writing requirements for a degree seeking or transfer student.*

**Learning Skills for Success (the skills that you bring to our class):**

- Confidence in your strengths as a student and a writer.
- Commitment to your own academic success.
- Perseverance: “steady persistence in adhering to a course of action, a belief, or a purpose without giving way; steadfastness” (*American Heritage Dictionary*)

- A good work ethic, a willingness to work hard all term, to take risks, to ask for help.
- A good attitude.
- A willingness to care about your own work and to work with and care about each other.

**Attendance: Your attendance is mandatory - we need you here every day.** But I understand that we all have lives. If you must miss a class: send me an email or text *before* the class you can't attend, and then make sure that you communicate with *someone else* (not me! a fellow student!) in the class so that they can help you understand what we covered. **Three** unexcused absences throughout the term will *not* affect your grade; a **fourth** absence will lower your overall course grade by one letter grade—from an A to a B. The same will happen with every absence after that. Please come talk to me if you miss more than five class periods throughout the term.

I understand that much of the college experience is adjusting to a new style of education (one largely self-driven rather than teacher-directed), and I understand that life can get in the way of even our best intentions to succeed. College is hard. Let me say it again for emphasis: *college is hard*. My job as your ALP teacher and mentor is to help you make this transition as smoothly as possible while challenging you to improve. I demand and expect excellence from *all* of my students, and the most important part of succeeding in this regard is **to show up and participate**. If you're struggling with school or with life in general, please let me know so I can help you to the best of my ability. I won't know what's going on in your life if you don't communicate with me.

### **Good time management skills are necessary for success in college**

- Plan to devote at least two hours of work outside of class for each class hour. This class, combined with WR 121, is worth six credits. That means 12 hours of work outside of class, per week.
- Prepare for class! Read any material before coming to class, and make plans to listen, watch, comment, respond, or complete any other homework during a block of time that *is not class* but is *before class*.
- Do your work on time. Our class is organized around extensive workshop and revision; your rough drafts and final papers need to be on time, or you cannot pass.

### **Make use of campus resources**

- Make friends with the **Writing Center** staff, and visit often (we will have a tour of their services).
- Get to know the **Library** staff, the **Library** itself and the resources online.
- If you're one of two people who wins a passport to the **Learning Center College Skills Zone**, be sure to complete that passport!
- Visit with your instructor(s) early and often throughout the term. Please text Bjorn to let him know if you're coming to office hours and/or make an appointment by text or email for an in-person or Gmail chat appointment when you want to discuss anything at all.
- Get to know *each other* right away and consider each other as team members! **Find a "study buddy" to email and/or text and/or chat when one of you is sick or has emergencies that might cause you to miss class.**

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

- **ALP Journal (20%):** An in-class journal based on writing prompts; these will usually be handwritten (keep that notebook or looseleaf paper handy!). Make-up journal assignments will be posted online.
- **Class Presence, Participation, and Openness to Learning (20%):** You are here not only to climb the mountain of WR121 but to be part of a *learning community* doing the same thing. You need to be present, to participate in our learning sessions, and to greet assignments that might annoy or perplex you at first with a willingness to figure out what they'll mean for you in the future. Your attitude toward others in the class and the instructor, combined with your presence during our assigned class times, will count in here as well.
- **Summary and Response Writing (30%):** Throughout the term I will ask you to write short summaries of the assigned readings and then write short responses to the readings. I will provide you with prompts for the responses in class. These will be turned in separately from the ALP Journal, but you may wish to keep them with your ALP Journal.
- **ALP Reflection (20%):** A piece of writing, answering five questions, that *summarizes* and *responds to* what you learned in ALP this term. This will be due at the end of the term.
- **ALP Final (10%):** The Week 9 “practice final” for 121 will serve as your ALP final exam.

### **WRITING 115 COURSE OUTCOMES**

1. Write thoughtful, clear, and focused paragraphs and essays for a variety of purposes.
2. Illustrate critical reading by clearly summarizing, paraphrasing, and directly quoting.
3. Distinguish your ideas from others' ideas.
4. Focus a main point and develop this main point clearly and logically using examples and illustrations in a well-organized essay.
5. Revise writing using standard college editing and proofreading conventions (grammar, syntax, spelling, punctuation).