

Writing 121: English Composition
CRN 41796 & 48825 | T/R 10-11:20 a.m. | IA-219

Instructor: Jenn Kepka

Office: NSH-215

Office Hours: 1-2 Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment before class

Office Phone: 541-917-4565

I listen to voice mails during office hours only.

Cell phone: (541) 357-9403

You may call or text this number if you need to get in touch with me. I will try to reply as soon as I can!

E-mail: kepkej@linnbenton.edu

I check e-mail at least once every weekday between 8 and 5 and will do my best to respond within 24 hours. I do not check my e-mail on weekends or holidays.

This is an introductory course meant to both expand your knowledge of good essay form and your confidence in your ability to create concise, clear, and cohesive college essays. We'll look at several different forms of essays and destroy many great pieces of writing in order to learn how the heck we can do that stuff ourselves.

Please expect to do **up to 6 hours of work** outside of class each week.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: At the completion of WR121, successful students should be able to:

As a result of taking WR 121, students will be able to:

1. *Analyze the rhetorical needs* (the needs of their audience in relationship to the assignment) for academically-oriented writing assignments.
2. *Apply appropriate levels of critical thinking strategies* (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation) in their written assignments, with a focus on factual, analytical, and evaluative writing.
3. *Implement appropriate rhetorical elements and organization* (introduction, thesis, development and support, definition, narration, comparison, conclusion, etc.) in their written assignments.
4. *Locate, evaluate, and integrate high-quality information and opinion* appropriate for college-level informational, analytical and evaluative assignments.
5. *Craft sentences and paragraphs* that communicate their ideas clearly and effectively using words, sentence patterns, and writing conventions at a college level to make their writing clear, credible, and precise.

PREREQUISITE: Placement in WR121 is determined by pre-enrollment testing or by passing WR115 with a grade of 'C' or better. Students may challenge their mandatory placement, with an advisor's approval, by signing a self-placement form through a

counselor. Before entering WR121, students are assumed to have basic competence in grammar, mechanics, sentence structure and in developing related ideas in a unified, coherent paragraph and/or short essay. These skills may be reviewed in WR121, if needed.

MATERIALS: Our **required textbooks** are available for purchase (new or used) or rental in the LBCC bookstore at both centers and in Albany. The book is also available for short-term loan on reserve at the LBCC library and is available in the main campus Writing Center; they may also be available in the writing center at the satellite campuses.

- Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russell Durst. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing (with Readings)*. Second Edition. Norton: New York, 2012.
 - This should be the pink-covered textbook.
- Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *Rules for Writers*. Seventh Edition. Bedford St. Martin's: New York, 2011.

Other Materials:

Paper and pen/pencil

Stapler and staples

E-mail account.

Regular (at least two times a week) access to a computer with a writing program and Internet access. *NOTE: A Smartphone does not qualify as a computer!*

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: All work submitted must be your own and must be original to this class. If you copy OR paraphrase from an outside source without citation, copy from or collaborate with a classmate on an explicitly individual assignment, ask anyone else to complete your written work for you, or recycle old work of your own to complete a new assignment, this is a violation of academic honesty. Violations of this nature and plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment and possible failure of the entire course. I will pursue every case of plagiarism to the fullest extent.

I will use software called TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. All of your essays will be submitted using this online tool, and both you and I will be immediately alerted to any passages that are taken directly from other sources. The process for using TurnItIn will be discussed in class during Week 1.

Most plagiarism and cheating occurs because a student is pushed against a deadline and turns to a quick, dishonest solution instead of being honest about his or her problem with the instructor. Please talk to me if you find yourself in such stress that cheating seems like a solution.

COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR: Contact me immediately if you are having difficulties in class. I check and respond to my LBCC e-mail at least once a day, every weekday, and will reply to your message as soon as I am able. I check my LBCC voice mail only during office hours, but I will also reply to messages left there as soon as I can. Any

changes in assignments, due dates, class meeting schedule, etc., will be announced via e-mail, in addition to being announced in class (when possible). Please make sure that you either regularly check or have forwarded your @mail.linnbenton.edu e-mail address to an address you use.

When writing an e-mail to any instructor, please include your name and the time/days of your class. Messages sent without a signature and with text such as “wht up in class this wk” most likely won’t receive a response; in addition, messages without text that are sent with attachments will most likely end up in my spam filter.

Please remember when you’re writing your message that you’re dealing with a Class 9 Grammar Nerd. Punctuation, even when used incorrectly, is greatly appreciated; capitalization is not optional.

TECHNOLOGY and MOODLE: This class will make extensive use of computer writing programs and Internet research. In addition, I will communicate with the class via e-mail and Moodle, and I may require response or submission via these media. Familiarity with and access to a reliable e-mail address and the Internet is required to succeed in this class.

Knowledge of a computer writing program is required for success in this class.

Microsoft Word is the supported word processing program at LBCC, and you may use it at any of the library or lab computers. If using a word processor may be a challenge, consider taking one of LBCC’s five-week Business Technology courses before/during Writing 121.

You must use your linnbenton.edu e-mail address for this course; you can either check it regularly or you can forward it to an address that you do use.

GRADING: Grades are as follows: A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 0-59
Your overall grade will be based *mostly upon your writing and writing process*. It will follow this approximate breakdown:

Class Work: 70% of final grade

Final Exam: 30% of final grade

Class Work is further divided as:

Writing: 60%	Draft Workshops: 15%	Essay Postscripts: 15%	Writing Exercises & Homework: 10%
Essay 1 = 15%	Essay 1 = 5%	Essay 1 = 5%	Approx. 10 each @ 1% per assignment
Essay 2 = 15%	Essay 2 = 5%	Essay 2 = 5%	
Essay 3 = 25%	Essay 3 = 5%	Essay 3 = 5%	
Final Practice = 5%			

THE FINAL EXAM will be explained in class. It will require you to complete an assigned reading and respond in writing during the first two days of Finals Week (Monday, 12-12:50 and Tuesday, 11:30-12:20). You will be required to cite provided sources within your paper. We will discuss the time and location in class.

FORMATTING: All assignments must be typed and submitted using MLA format. An example of this appears in the *Rules for Writers* textbook in the MLA section.

Rough drafts are unacceptable for classroom submission. The paper should be at its best before you present it to your peers or your instructor. I will discuss papers and assignments before their due date, in class.

LATE WORK: Late papers and assignments receive an automatic one-letter grade deduction. No assignments will be accepted after one week. **Computer failure is never an excuse for a late paper.** Plan ahead and save often. If you are in many classes with written assignments, please consider investing in an off-site backup program (like Dropbox.com, which allows 1GB of free space online, or Mozy.com, which allows electronic back-ups under 2GB for free) that will protect your work against crashes, viruses, fire, and theft. I have sympathy for many things; computer trouble (and by extension, printer trouble) is not one of them.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Your attendance and participation in our class is vital not only to your own learning but to that of your classmates, who will benefit from your input. In-class work, including quizzes and peer editing, that you miss while absent **cannot be made up.** Those students who do not bring a complete draft to peer editing days may be asked to make better use of their time by completing their paper elsewhere during our class time.

Assuming you have not been eaten by a bear, you should be in class. If the bear takes the form of the H3N2 virus, please don't come to class, but do bring a doctor's note to regain credit for missed work. I will require written documentation of illness or injury.

When you have missed class, it is up to you to obtain the notes and assignments handed out that day. Work due must be submitted at the beginning of class to be counted "on time."

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: If you require assistance due to a disability, please see me as soon as possible to arrange for necessary or helpful accommodations.

WRITING CENTER: From initial ideas to final drafts, the LBCC Writing Center can help you take your writing to the next level. Please feel free to drop in during regular hours to work one-on-one with one of the supportive Writing Assistants. In addition to your draft, please bring your assignment and any questions you have. You may also submit your work online. Links are available at our class Moodle site.

LBCC COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws. (For further information <http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>) Board Policy P1015