



HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

COURSE TITLE: English Composition
COURSE NUMBER: WR 121
COURSE CREDITS: 4
COURSE PREREQUISITE: Students are placed into WR 121 based on writing and reading placement test scores; or a grade of "C" or higher in WR 65 or WR 95.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This transfer course emphasizes text-based academic writing and develops skills in expository and persuasive writing incorporating analytical reading, critical thinking, and credible sources. Students compose several essays using a variety of strategies to support a thesis.

GENERAL COURSE OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course, the successful student will be able to	These outcomes will be verified by one or more of the following assessments
1. write for different audiences and various purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students' work demonstrates an understanding of situational contexts in which writing takes place: the needs, values, and expectations of different audiences; and the writer's purpose to primarily inform or persuade.
2. write clear, focused, coherent essays using the conventions of English grammar and style.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students construct and use a thesis to shape well-developed essays that demonstrate proficiency, including effective tone, persona, diction, usage, idiom, and syntax.
3. search for and synthesize outside source material into written work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students' work demonstrates proficiency in finding, critically reading, summarizing, analyzing, and evaluating sources in order to responsibly incorporate facts, opinions, judgments, and data from research in their writing.
4. demonstrate the ability to avoid plagiarism and use an appropriate documentation style.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In their essays, students effectively use summary, paraphrase, and direct quotation with the appropriate documentation to cite sources correctly and avoid plagiarism.
5. demonstrate an understanding of writing as a multi-stage recursive process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are able to articulate the process-based approach they use to write essays that include steps such as invention, drafting, thesis formation, organization, revising, and editing.
6. demonstrate a familiarity with the basic rhetorical strategies in argumentative discourse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are able to identify, explain and evaluate basic structural components of written arguments such as claims, support and evidence, and refutation. Students also know and can deploy such basic

	rhetorical strategies as appeals to ethos, logos, and pathos and can effectively distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate modes of argument and persuasion.
7. evaluate their own and their peers' writing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students complete at least one (formal or informal) written review of their own writing strengths and weaknesses, including effective self-prescriptions for improvement; and complete appropriate written reviews of peers' drafts, including suggestions for revision and editing.

COURSE OUTLINE BY MAJOR TOPICS:

- Developing expository essays and effective rhetorical strategies
- Situational analysis
- Essay conventions
- Finding and incorporating sources
- Documenting correctly
- Writing essays as a process
- Becoming self-aware writers

PRIMARY ASSIGNMENTS

- 2-4 written summaries
- 3 essays, 4-6 pages in length, and one of which incorporates 3-6 sources
- At least one argument analysis “grid” or outline

Information Literacy Proficiencies, 1, 3, 8

These proficiencies are mandated by the state to be embedded in writing courses. They were developed at the 2007 Oregon Information Literacy Summit II. Additional background about their creation can be found at this site:
<http://blogs.library.oregonstate.edu/ilsummit/2007-summit/proposed-proficiencies>

- 1: “Identify gaps in their knowledge and recognize when they need information.” (Embedded in Outcome 3 above)
- 3: “Evaluate and select information using appropriate criteria.” (Embedded in Outcome 3 above)
- 8: “Create, produce, and communicate understanding of a subject through synthesis of relevant information.” (Embedded in Outcome 3 above)