

Academic Writing

Ms. Kukay

Required Course Texts and Materials

The St. Martin's Guide to Writing, 9th ed., Axelrod & Cooper
A Pocket Style Manual, 6th ed., Hacker
3-Ring Binder
3 Subject Notebook
Writing Utensils including Highlighters
USB Drive

Course Focus

This semester long course is designed to help prepare students for the rigors of university writing and reading by developing analytical writing skills and critical reading skills. During the course of the semester students will develop clear, effective writing skills that emphasize writing as a process. Through the writing process students will learn how to refine topics; develop and support ideas; investigate, evaluate, and incorporate appropriate resources; edit for effective style and usage; and determine appropriate approaches for a variety of contexts, audiences, and purposes. Writing activities will include exposition and argumentation with at least one researched essay.

Grading

In order to pass this course you must complete all assignments and earn a passing grade on your research paper regardless of the grades you earn on other assignments.

**See additional hand-out for grading standards.

“Academic Writing” is graded on a points system. Below are the total points possible for the semester.

Grading Record

Essay One	(Reflective Exposition)	25 points
Essay Two	(Narrative)	50 points
Essay Three	(Comparison Response)	25 points
Essay Four	(Other Media Analysis)	50 points
Essay Five	(Persuasive Research)	100 points
Essay Six	(Reflective Evaluation)	25 points
Participation		100 points
Total		375 points
Final	(Persuasive Speech)	20%

**All assignments and due dates are tentative and subject to change. Essays may be added or removed at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance and Participation

You must be present to fully participate in this course. You will be graded for participation during each class. You must come to class prepared and participate in class discussions to receive credit for participation during each class. Any in-class or take home assignments/exercises will be included in participation points.

**Do not use computer during class instruction/discussion unless otherwise instructed.

**Do not play games on the computer or shop online. If you are caught doing either you will be removed from the computer and lose credit in class.

Assignments

All reading and writing assignments are due on the day they appear on the syllabus. Three points will be deducted for each day a paper is late. Anything more than one week late will not be counted.

Not all assigned reading will be discussed in class, but you must keep up with the reading assignments in order to fully comprehend the course and assignments. Refer to your syllabus often so you do not fall behind in the course. You are responsible for making sure you know when to complete the assigned reading and when the major assignments are due.

Essay One: Reflective Exposition Essay

For this essay you must choose a photograph that is meaningful to you, and then do two things. First, describe the picture. Show the audience through your words what is going on in the picture. Help your audience to “see” the picture through your description. Second, explain the significance of the photograph. Why did you choose this particular photograph? Why is it important to you? If there is a story to the picture, share it with your audience.

This essay is 300-500 words. You will use MLA format for this essay.

Due: Sept. 14th

Essay Two: Narrative Essay

This essay offers writers a chance to think and write about themselves, as you will be “writing from within” for this assignment. You will need to explain how a certain experience or person influenced you or lead to an important realization or conclusion about your life or the world in general. Each of us has memories of times/people that have been meaningful, of times/people who have taught us lessons about ourselves or others. This essay focuses on personal experiences, describing people or events through an autobiographical narrative.

This essay is to be 600-800 words. You will use MLA format for this essay.

Due: Oct. 7th

Essay Three: Comparison Response Essay

For this essay you will actively view a film in class and you must choose a theme from the film in order to draw comparisons to your own life and write a cohesive expository essay. You must cite examples from the film in order to support the theme you chose to compare.

This essay is to be 300-500 words. You will use MLA format and style citation for this essay

Due: Oct. 24th

Essay Four: Other Media Analysis

For this essay you will focus on one resource upon which you will write a critical response/analysis of the "other media" selected for the class. You will write an informed response from the resource. You will not simply agree or disagree, or state that you like or dislike the resource. You must think about the content of that resource and form a thesis from your evaluation of the resource and support your thesis through analysis and evaluation of the resource throughout your essay. You may not use any outside sources to support your essay.

This essay is to be 600-800 words. You will use MLA format and style citation for this essay.

Due: Nov. 16th

Essay Five: Persuasive Research Essay (Final)

For this essay you will conduct research on a debatable or scholarly issue. A debatable issue is one in which intelligent, well meaning people might disagree; it does not necessarily need to be a highly controversial topic. After choosing an issue and weighing the evidence, form a tentative thesis that sums up your position on the issue. (Remember, you are free to revise your thesis as your paper begins to take shape.) Then, write a research paper that supports your thesis with valid and well documented evidence.

**Choose a topic that interests you. I cannot choose a topic for you. Remember, you are supporting one side of the topic you choose and attempting to persuade your audience to agree with you.

This essay is to be 4-6 pages. You will use MLA format and style citation for this essay.

Due: Dec. 21st

Essay Six: Reflective Evaluation

For this essay you will reflect upon what you have learned over the course of the semester. You will focus on your weaknesses and strengths in the writing process and how you have grown as a writer, critical thinker, researcher, etc.

This essay is to be 300-500 words. You will use MLA format for this essay.

Due: Jan. 6th

Final Exam: Persuasive Speech

You will deliver a 4 minute minimum formal speech to the class during final exam week. More Information will be distributed in class.

**Persuasive speech topic will be your persuasive research essay topic.

Due: Week of exams