



ENGLISH 102
WRITING ACADEMIC DISCOURSE
SPRING 2009

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Course Description

English 102 focuses on the composition of research papers as well as critical textual analysis and synthesis in academic discourse. Students will receive instruction and practice in conceiving, drafting, revising and completing papers based upon sources that challenge them to seek new information and to reflect upon its relevance to their own observations and experience. This course provides students with a variety of research and writing skills. Activities include writing assignments, readings on composition techniques, readings of literature and criticism, online discussions, and lessons on relevant grammar issues and formatting sound arguments. English 101 is a prerequisite.

The focal text for English 102 is the Norton Critical Edition of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. All major writing assignments regard this novel, which students will research and write about in different ways. Minor assignments involve general writing and research techniques.

The goal of this course is to help students develop a concrete understanding of research skills while critically engaging with primary and secondary texts.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is an online course with clear deadlines for all assignments; as long as you are attentive to these deadlines, you may work at your own pace. I am available by email and during office hours for personal consultation. I am also happy to schedule appointments at other times. Needless to say, accessing and using computer technology on a regular basis is a crucial requirement for the course. If you do not own a computer at home, make use of the computer labs on campus.

Textbooks

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. Norton Critical Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1997.

Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide*. 11th ed. New York: HarperCollins, 1996.

Course Evaluation

Course grades are based on the following percentages:

Annotated Bibliography	20%
Review of Literature	20%
Argumentative Essay	30%
Assignments & Discussions	30%

Essays

There are three major writing assignments for this class, all of which will receive letter grades. In order of appearance, they are:

[1] Annotated Bibliography – Using the secondary source materials following the main text of *Dracula*, compose an annotated bibliography of 8 sources that includes ONE essay from **Contexts**, TWO essays from **Reviews & Reactions**, TWO essays from **Dramatic and Film Variations**, and THREE essays from **Criticism**. Pattern your bibliographies after the sample on pgs. 117-19 of *Writing Research Papers*. Each annotation should be 100-150 words. 3-4 pages.

[2] Review of Literature – *Dracula* emerged within a social and cultural climate distinguished by technological innovation and anxiety. Write a review of the literature that addresses the origins of and influences on Stoker's novel, using the online WSU libraries website (www.libraries.wright.edu) to perform your research. Particularly helpful will be the **MLA International Bibliography** database as well as the **Academic Search Complete**. Pattern your reviews after the sample on pgs. 119-126 of *Writing Research Papers*. Bear in mind, you do not have to identify a problem with the literature; simply explain how each source describes the novel's origins and influences. Minimum 8 sources. 3-4 pages.

[3] Argumentative Essay – Choose one of the three writing prompts below and write an essay on *Dracula* in which you make a clear argument and then defend that argument with support from at least 8 secondary sources in addition to your own commentary and interpretation. 4-5 pages. Here are the prompts:

[1] *Dracula* falls into the category of gothic fiction, a genre that combines elements of horror and romance. Identify and explain the ways in which Stoker's novel exhibits gothic characteristics.

[2] Analyze the historical factors that surrounded the composition of *Dracula* at the turn of the twentieth century. What sort of society did Stoker live in? How does the novel represent modernist consciousness?

[3] Analyze the narrative structure of *Dracula*. What different methods and styles does Stoker use to tell the story? What technologies do the characters use to communicate with each other? What are the effects of the narrative's structural and perspectival fragmentation?

FINAL NOTE: The Literature Review and Argumentative Essay must be written in a formal, expository style and possess a clear, engaging thesis that is sustained (and kept in focus) from start to finish. They should be substantive in thought and content, reflecting a considered view of the topic and the primary source. They should also exhibit ample research, be accompanied by a bibliography, and be formatted according to standard MLA guidelines. Finally, Wikipedia, Spark Notes and dictionaries are not viable secondary sources.

Grading Scale:

A	3.50-4.00
B	2.70-3.49
C	1.70-2.69
D	1.00-1.69
F	0.00-0.99

Assignments

Throughout the semester, you will be given a number of minor assignments that range from discussion forum postings to writing exercises. Minor assignments will receive one of three marks: **CR** (CREDIT), **PC** (PARTIAL CREDIT), or **NC** (NO CREDIT). **CR** denotes work that is complete and follows directions. **PC** denotes work that is only partially complete and/or diverges from the directions. **NC** denotes work that is illegible or, in most cases, simply not completed or turned in. Minor assignments not submitted on their due dates will receive **NC**.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: (1) copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; (2) paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; (3) turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, you are required to submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism of any material is a serious offense and, if established with sufficient evidence, can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

Class Calendar

Week	Schedule
1	Introduction to the Course Chp. 1 – Writing from Research Chp. 14 – Citing Sources Activities: 14A & 14B <i>Dracula</i> – Main Text
2	Chp. 2 – Finding a Topic Chp. 7 – Finding & Evaluating Sources Activities: 1.3 & 2.9 <i>Dracula</i> – Supplementary Readings
3	Due: Annotated Bibliography Chp. 3 – Electronic Resources Worksheets: 2D & 3A
4	Chp. 6 – Plagiarism Worksheets: 3B, 3C & 6A
5	Due: Review of Literature Chp. 8 – Organizing Ideas Chp. 11 – Blending Reference Material into Your Writing Activities: 11.1 Worksheet: 11A, 11B & 11D
6	Due: Intro Paragraph & Thesis for Argumentative Essay Chp. 10 – Drafting Academic Papers Activities: 10.1 Worksheets: 10B & 10C
7	Due: Argumentative Essay Due: Final Meditation