

ENG 102: The Research Paper

Spring 2014, Section 903

CRN: 14343

ROOM: ONLINE

INSTRUCTOR: David Renshaw

EMAIL: drenshaw@ccp.edu

You can e-mail me or message me in Canvas and I will reply within 24 hours 99% of the time.

REQUIRED BOOK

- *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien (any edition)

RECOMMENDED BOOK

- *Writing Research Papers: A Complete Guide (14th Edition)*, by Jim D. Lester and James D. Lester (ISBN 9780205059331)

Any additional reading assignments will be provided by me.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (From the College Catalog)

English 102 is the second half of the two-course sequence in English composition. Students continue to improve their academic reading and writing skills and critically examine issues raised by course texts. Course materials and the topics of study may vary in subject matter from one instructor to another. Course activities facilitate independent library and Web-based research. Students' work culminates in a final research paper.

COURSE GOALS

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to

- Identify an information need and formulate a research question or thesis statement
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of how information is organized in order to locate, select, and access resources, using search tools such as databases, search engines, inter-library loan, etc.
- Evaluate resources based on the purpose of the information and its accuracy, credibility, authority, objectivity, and timeliness/currency
- Demonstrate effective use of information and accomplishment of specific objectives as assigned (i.e. research project, assignment, etc.)
- Use resources ethically and demonstrate understanding of the legal and policy issues associated with the use of information
- Initiate, develop and support a longer research paper or a series of shorter papers of increasing complexity on a significant topic that contains a coherent argument in support of a thesis statement
- Demonstrate academic reading and writing skills through completion of research paper assignments and analyses of written texts

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is most common in English 102 because of the nature of the work; however, there are two kinds of plagiarism that you should be aware of.

Intentional Plagiarism: Intentional plagiarism occurs when you use specific information or ideas from sources, and you 1. don't give credit to those sources (thereby taking credit for something that is not yours), 2. change a few words and call it a paraphrase, and/or 3. create fake sources, quotes,

paraphrases, or citations. Intentional plagiarism is rarely the result of malice or plan; more often it happens when a student falls behind in his or her work or when a student doesn't understand something but, for whatever reason, doesn't ask for help. Intentional plagiarism is the worst crime a student can commit in academics. If intentional plagiarism is found in any version of any paper, and it's the student's first offense, the paper will be scored in the failing range. If a student plagiarizes for a second time, the student will earn a failing grade (F) for the course.

Unintentional Plagiarism: Another word for this is "mistake." You are here to learn a new process, and mistakes are going to be made. Don't be afraid that if you blow a citation or a summary because you didn't quite get the concept, you'll fail the paper or the course. I've been teaching long enough to know the difference between an honest mistake and intentional plagiarism. In this case, the version in which the mistake was made will be marked down, and if the problem continues, I will ask you to meet with me so we can discuss the problem you're having with the concept. However, if the mistake is not corrected as time goes by, your score will drop considerably, since by late November, you should know how to properly write from and document sources.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will be asked to write five formal essays and multiple in class writing assignments of varying length. These pieces will focus on argument, analysis, research, and summarizing sources. Each assignment will come with a detailed assignment sheet and a rubric listing the exact grading guidelines.

DEADLINES

Paper Submission Policy (Turning in papers)

You should submit papers electronically (through Canvas).

- Submissions can only be uploaded as Microsoft Word attachments, if you don't have Word, I can show you how to obtain a "work around" free version such as google docs or open office.
 - You must upload submissions **by midnight on the day it is due**.

Late Penalties

Points are deducted when an acceptable version of Essays 1-3 or a Writing Exercise are turned in after the official due date. **Please note that Essays 4 and 5 can not be turned in late.**

- **Essays 1-3**: The "late" deadline for Essays 1-3 is **one week** on the Class Schedule. I will deduct a one-time penalty of a half a letter grade for late Essays. I reserve the right to not accept any essays turned in more than one week late.
- **Writing Exercises**: The "late" deadline for all Writing Exercises is **one week** on the Class Schedule. I will deduct a one-time penalty of 5 points for late Writing Exercises. Again, I reserve the right to not accept any writing exercises turned in more than one week late.
- **Quizzes**: Quizzes cannot be made up. If you know you are going to be gone on the day I administer a quiz, then you must make arrangements with me to take the quiz early, either in the previous class or during my office hours.

FORMATTING

All formal written work must be neatly typed or word processed in the appropriate format. Margins and fonts should be reasonable (1" sides, 1.25" top and bottom; 11 or 12 point body type). Standard form, grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. are expected.

TWO KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS

#1: Motivation: Much of the work you are doing in the class will be "out of class" – reading, researching, thinking, writing, organizing. You will have to find ways to keep yourself going. On a related note, you are going to encounter individual research problems, and when that happens, you

need to message me in Canvas. I will do my best to help you through any challenge you may face, but **you must make the effort to send me a message in Canvas.**

#2: Time management: Juggling classes, employment, and family obligations, the modern student has little free time, and the demands of this class may cause stress. Set up a research schedule *early* in the semester and treat it like another class. Get out of the house if you can't work there and get into a library or somewhere quiet, where you won't be distracted or disturbed. If you are feeling the pressure and need to vent it at me by saying "I don't have time to do this [insert your own word here]," I understand, I sympathize, and I'll try to help. What I won't do is lessen the workload. The course is what it is. Prepare for it, please.

WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE

Of course, I hope none of you withdraw from the course, and I ask you to please see me if you are thinking about withdrawing. If there is anything I can do to help, I will. However, I also understand that sometimes life throws us curveballs over which we have no control. **Please be aware that the deadline for withdrawal from the course without incurring an F grade is Monday April 7th, 2014.**

GRADING

The following table shows how your grade will be calculated this semester and how each assignment relates to our course goals. Further explanation comes after the table.

ENGLISH 102 GRADE BREAKDOWN		
Area of Assessment	Percentage of Final Grade	How it relates to our course goals
Essay 1 – Informative Synthesis (4-5 pages)	10%	1. Identify an information need and formulate a research question or thesis statement 2. Demonstrate basic knowledge of how information is organized in order to locate, select, and access resources, using search tools such as databases, search engines, inter-library loan, etc. 7. (see below for full description)
Essay 2 –Evaluation (2 pages)	15%	3. Evaluate resources based on the purpose of the information and its accuracy, credibility, authority, objectivity, and timeliness/currency 7. Demonstrate academic reading and writing skills

		through completion of research paper assignments and analyses of written texts
Essay 3 – Analysis Paper (2 pages)	15%	<p>3. Evaluate resources based on the purpose of the information and its accuracy, credibility, authority, objectivity, and timeliness/currency</p> <p>7. Demonstrate academic reading and writing skills through completion of research paper assignments and analyses of written texts</p>
Essay 4 – Position Paper (4-5 pages)	15%	3. (see above for full description)
Essay 5 - Final Research Paper (12-16 pages) (note: Essay 4 is <i>not</i> a new paper, it's a compilation of Essays 1-3)	25%	<p>4. Demonstrate effective use of information and accomplishment of specific objectives as assigned (i.e. research project, assignment, etc.)</p> <p>5. Use resources ethically and demonstrate understanding of the legal and policy issues associated with the use of information</p> <p>6. Initiate, develop and support a longer research paper or a series of shorter papers of increasing complexity on a significant topic that contains a coherent argument in support of a thesis statement</p>
Individual Classwork	10%	Practice summarizing, researching, developing research questions, drafting essays, reading and evaluating research (goals 1-7)
Group Work	10%	Group work, comprehension quizzes, practice summarizing, researching, developing research questions, drafting essays reading and evaluating research (goals 1-7)

--	--	--

Using the percentages above, your grade for each course will be determined with the standard grading scale of: 90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F.

CLASS POLICIES

PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

An online class often demands more time management from students than a face to face class. You need to make sure you make the time to do the assignments and submit your work each week. If you don't, it's very easy to fall behind and make it so you can't pass the course. Please make sure to read CCP's online learning website (linked in module 1) to gain a full understanding of the requirements of an online class.

If you do not participate in, or submit material for, two weeks' worth of classes, you should withdraw from the course. If this occurs after the withdrawal period (April 7th), you will receive an F for the semester. Just to be clear, **the deadline for withdrawal from the course without incurring an F grade is April 7th, 2014.**

BEHAVIOR CODES

I will always treat you with respect, and I ask that you give the same consideration to your fellow classmates and me. If you feel at any time that you are being disrespected by another classmate or me, please message me immediately so we can handle the situation appropriately. **DO NOT TRY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM IN THE FORUMS AS THIS IS DISRUPTIVE AND GENERALLY UNPRODUCTIVE.**

COMPUTER ACCOUNTS

The class takes place in Canvas and utilizes non-Canvas technology such as blogs and youtube. Please make sure you have access to a computer that can access these sites.

Contact me if you are having issues that prevent you from completing your work. If you lose access to a computer make use of the Student Academic Computing Center (B2-33 or C3-17). Be sure to backup all your work on a flash drive.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students who have special needs that require testing and/or classroom accommodations should contact the Center on Disability (at 215-751-8050 or Room BG-39) to speak with a counselor. To receive accommodations, students must be registered with the Center and provide the instructor with the accommodation form prepared by the counselor.

GENERAL

If you have any questions about assignments, readings, or evaluations, please see me, or send a message in Canvas. I'm more than happy to answer questions, provide clarification, and offer short individual coaching sessions upon request.

Syllabus may be changed during the term to reflect the needs of the class.

For a detailed class schedule see the modules section in Canvas and visit the blog @ eng102isfun.blogspot.com