

McDaniel College Budapest

Syllabus for Introduction to College Writing 1101 2018/Spring

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Course objectives:

The aim of this course is to give students *help in their academic work* by developing their reading and writing skills in a way that makes them *better prepared to cope with the requirements of their chosen disciplines*. This means that writing will be treated as part of a more integral work; *reading, analyzing, interpreting and discussing* texts of sufficient sophistication; *analyzing* issues; *forming and communicating* opinions and ideas. The texts will vary in subject, genre and style, to serve as a model or a starting point for the students' own writing. Special attention will be paid to *individual needs/ interests in the selection of both the reading and writing assignments*, with special regard to the *final paper*, which will be related to some aspect of the students' chosen major.

The course lays an emphasis on the *following elements of academic writing*: formulating an effective thesis statement; originality of thought; clear structure; referencing and integrating sources; building arguments; academic style and tone. **Writing assignments** will be given on a **regular basis**, to be submitted in an electronic form. Other assignments include pre-reading and response ideas for class as well as preparing with short *presentations*.

Learning outcomes:

- Students demonstrate an ability to construct well-supported arguments using various rhetorical devices/ways of organizing (synthesis, analysis, comparison/contrast, description, narration, argument, example, analogy)
- Students can identify the (re)sources and processes they need to use in order to write well
- Students gain practice in critical reading
- Students can effectively follow specific essay instructions (define, compare, evaluate ...)
- Students can broaden (and share) their knowledge about their own field of interest

Requirements and grading:

- Attendance: maximum 3 absences (including certified absences) 5%
- Class work 15%
- **Hand-in** writing assignments 25%
- Mid-term 20%
- Final essay 30%

Resources:

The Reader, plus various online material provided during the course.

Websites you will find useful:

<http://writingspaces.org/sites/default/files/irvin--what-is-academic-writing.pdf>
<http://writingcenter.fas.harvard.edu/pages/strategies-essay-writing>
<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/rwc/handouts/the-writing-process-1>
<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/>
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/02/>

Managing sources for your essay

<https://web.ccis.edu/offices/academicresources/writingcenter/essaywritingassistance/suggestedwaystointroducequotations.aspx>
<http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page350378>

Planned program

I.

Week 1. Jan.29 Feb.2

Introduction. About academic writing.

Week 2. Feb.5-9

How to deal with texts? Writing an outline.

II.

Week 3. Feb.12-16

The paragraph –

Week 4-5-6-7

Feb.19-23

Methods of development (Process analysis, Cause and Effect, Comparison)

Feb.26-March2.

March 5-9

March 12-16

Analyzing issues

Week 8. March 19-23

MIDTERM WEEK

III.

Week 9. April 3-6

Description, literature

Week 10. April 9-13

Paraphrasing, summarizing, synthesizing, contextualizing

IV.

Week 11-12. April 16-20

Making an argument. The argument essay

April 23-27

Selection of research paper topic.

V.

Week 13. April 30-May 4. *Finding and managing your sources.*

Week 14. May 7-11.

Research paper – formulating your thesis

Week 15. FINAL

First draft/ Presentation and submission of research paper.