

# Introduction to Academic Writing

ENGL 111X F04 CRN 74871 MWF 1-2 PM Gruening 304	Lisa E. Balvanz 8 <sup>th</sup> floor, Gruening Office: 907-474-5398 Cell: 515-460-1752 <a href="mailto:lebalvanz@alaska.edu">lebalvanz@alaska.edu</a>
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## Course Description

This course seeks to strengthen your written communication skills in academic writing. Written texts are a world of discussion in which you will be taking part throughout your academic career. During this course, you will be engaging with and analyzing texts as a way of interacting with the written discussion. You will also be learning to write critically and clearly as you write your own essays and bring your own viewpoint and ideas to the discussion.

“Writing is not only a skill, but a way of being and acting in the world in a particular time and place in relation to others.”

- Anis Bawarshi

## Materials

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford, 2009. Print.

Hitchens, Christopher, ed. *The Best American Essays 2010*. Boston: Mariner, 2010. Print.

Various assigned journal articles found through the library's databases.

## Blackboard

This is your place to go if you've lost your syllabus, missed class and did not receive an assignment, etc. You can find these significant handouts, as well as links to most of the reading we will be doing and links to other helpful supplementary material, on our Blackboard page.

## Office Hours

Please feel free to visit me in my office with any questions you have. I am available on Tuesday 4-5 pm, Wednesday 2-4 pm, and by appointment.

## Conferences

At two different times during the semester we will meet for conferences. The first will be an individual conference largely concerning your research paper. The second will be a group conference during our persuasive unit. These conferences count as part of your participation grade.

## Assignments

Final assignments should be typed and double-spaced. Use twelve-point, Times New Roman font and one inch margins. Number your pages. Put your name, my name, the course name, and the date the paper is due in the top left corner.

### Three (3) Main Essays

- These essays, along with the research essay, will be your main assignments in the course.
- Write **at least** three (3) full pages.
- Bring one (1) printed copy of your 1<sup>st</sup> draft to class on the date due.
- Bring printed copies of your 2<sup>nd</sup> draft to class on the date due.
- Bring one (1) printed copy of your revised essay, along with all of your previous drafts, to class on the date due (150 points).

### Reading Responses

- These assignments are designed to give you a chance to engage with and show analysis of the texts we are reading for class.
- Use good grammar and mechanics. Cite the readings using MLA format.
- Write **at least** one (1) full page.
- Bring one (1) printed copy to class on the date due.

I expect you to have assignments printed, ready to hand in at the beginning of the class they are due. If you are late for class the day an assignment is due, I will consider your paper to be late. Your grade on a late assignment will be deducted by 10% for each calendar day that it is late, up to three days. Assignments turned in later than this will be given a zero.

I do not accept e-mailed assignments.

**You cannot pass the class without turning in all three (3) main essays and the research essay.**

### Research Essay

- The research essay will use several sources to further explore an approved topic.
- Write **at least** six (6) full pages.
- Components of the research essay will be due during writing, including your research question, works cited, working thesis statement, and outline. These steps will be part of your research essay grade (15 points each).
- Bring one (1) printed copy of your 1<sup>st</sup> draft to class on the date due.
- Bring two (2) printed copies of your 2<sup>nd</sup> draft to class on the date due.
- Bring one (1) printed copy of your final draft to class on the date due. This draft will be graded (80 points).
- Bring one (1) printed copy of your revised essay, along with all of your previous drafts to class on the date due. This draft is also graded (160 points).

## Participation

This class is highly interactive and discussion based. A successful class discussion involves everyone's thoughts and ideas. This means you must be actively engaged throughout class, joining in with large and small group discussions and activities. I expect you to listen and respond to other students' ideas and opinions with honesty and respect. You should come to class fully prepared, having read or written any work that was assigned. Other distractions (such as cell phones, iPods, etc.) should be turned off.

“There's something about writing, when we regard ourselves as writers, that affects how we think and, inevitably, how we express ourselves.”

– Arthur Krystal

## Attendance and Tardiness

If you do not come to class, you will not do well in this class. I expect you to be responsible in coming to class regularly and on time. If you come into class late, sit down quietly, so as not to disturb others, and join in. If there is a reason you need to miss class (ex: sickness, sports related, death in the family) or if you may be habitually late (ex: a class across campus prior to this class) please let me know ahead of time. Attendance and tardiness will be considered when grading your participation.

## Grading

Course Component	Percentage of Grade
Reading Responses	15%
Main Essays	45%
Research Essay	30%
Participation	10%

The grading scale is as follows: 100-90 is an A, 89-80 is a B, 79-70 is a C, and anything below a 70 is failing.

### Extra Credit Opportunities

- Visiting Writers Series: up to 20 extra credit points for attending and writing a response to a reading.
- Other lecturers: up to 20 points extra credit for attending and writing a response to a lecture.

If you are interested in extra credit, please check with me for approval before you hand in your response.

## **Plagiarism**

I expect that you will do honest work and that you will work with me on improving writing that is your own.

The Two Basic Forms of Plagiarism are as follows:

- 1) Using someone else's work as your own without citing the source. This includes direct copying, rephrasing, and summarizing.
- 2) Not indicating directly quoted passages or ideas even while citing the work as a general source.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism or how to cite sources correctly, please speak to me. Intentional plagiarism carries serious consequences.

## **Other Resources**

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center is located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Gruening Building. The purpose of the writing center is to assist you with any and all writing assignments at any stage from topic forming to revision. Tutors are available for half-hour sessions by appointment, or you can just walk in.

### **Disability Services**

If you have a disability that you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the semester so we can discuss possible accommodations. The Disability Services Program offers services free of charge for students with documented disabilities. Feel free to contact this office at 907-474-7043 or [fydso@uaf.edu](mailto:fydso@uaf.edu) if you think this might be helpful for you.

### **Rural Student Services**

RSS is available to all students in the Brooks Building. They specialize in providing advising and tutoring to rural and Native students in a multitude of forms, helping students transition from rural areas of Alaska into college life. For more information, call 907-474-6619 or visit them between 8 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday.

*Note: This syllabus is subject to change to accommodate the needs of the class.*