



ENG 1302: Written Argument and Research COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Frank Alexander

Office Location: HL 215

Office Hours: MWF 8 - 9 am, 3:00 - 4: 00 pm

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PLEASE NOTE: This is a common syllabus used in the teaching of this course

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

This course is all about conducting research. In the writing program at Texas A&M University Commerce, we believe that students learn to do research best by conducting research products of their own design but with some focus and help of their instructors. Therefore, in this class you will conduct ethnographic research projects in which you will "go out into the field" in efforts to learn something about reading and writing in contexts or in its "natural habitat." You will then become more informed about these findings by comparing what you've learned with scholarship conducted by professional researchers and conducting further "library research" to help you create a more informative research report. You'll finish the semester by presenting your findings in a public forum called The Celebration of Student Writing. The Celebration will be held Friday, May 6 from 10AM-1PM in the Student Center conference rooms A, B, and C. MWF classes will present from 10-11:30, and TR classes will present from 11:30-1PM.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to identify features of ethical research practices.
Students will be able to evaluate subject position and how it can affect research findings.

Students will be able to identify conventions of research and citation in academic texts.

Students will be able to articulate features of academic research writing.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks and Materials Required:

Adkins, Tabetha. *Ethnographic Inquires in Writing*. Southlake, Texas: Fountainhead Press, 2010. 978-59871-435-7

Sunstein, Bonnie Stone and Elizabeth Chiseri-Strater. *FieldWorking: Reading and Writing Research*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006. 978-0-312-43841-8

Required Classroom and Technology Supplies:

- Pens and two notebooks (one notebook for daily writing and one for English notes and activities)
- 100 note cards
- Flash drive or other means (dropbox.com account, for example) of storing digital versions of the essays and other written material you generate (always, always keep a backup of everything you turn in!)
- Access to a computer with a word processing program and a printer (assignments must be typed and printed)

Optional Texts:

Resources for Ethnographic Research (asking good interview questions, professional associations' codes of ethics, etc.)

<http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/firstYearWriting/interviewQuestions.aspx>

The Celebration of Student Writing at Eastern Michigan University

<http://www.emich.edu/english/fycomp/celebration/index.htm>

Some of our past Celebrations:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMWkdAzGYvw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rOPGbfhHIo>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

General grading policies:

Major Writing Assignments (WAs) and Reading Responses: As a general rule, all good writing is due to a robust revision process. Thus, your final grade for any major writing assignment is based on your final work. Assignments have a one week revision window.

Participation grade: Learning takes place when we are actively involved in the learning process. Given this learning principle, every day you will receive at least one participation grade. Your participation includes participating constructively in class discussions and in group work, quizzes over the assigned homework readings, participating in discussions and group work in a way that furthers group knowledge, and work done in class (such as journaling or freewriting) or small homework assignments that will you will turn in during class time. **Special note:** If you miss a class for any reason, whether you have a good excuse or not, you will receive a participation grade. If you are absent, this grade will be 0. Quizzes and assignments done at the beginning or end of class, if missed, cannot be made up. However, your six lowest daily *participation* grades (lower than B) will be dropped when your course grade is averaged at the end of the semester. In other words, you could receive up to six 0s for absences and have all six of the 0s dropped.

Late work is not accepted except under dire circumstances and with prior written approval from me. To receive consideration for approval, the circumstances that caused the work to be submitted late must be detailed in writing.

Extra credit opportunities are given during the course of the semester but not in lieu of course assignments.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All WAs, the Annotated Bibliography, Final Ethnographic Essay, and Final Portfolio must be turned in by midnight of the assigned due date to dropbox. These written works should be typed with 1 inch margins all around; the font should be in 12 point Times New Roman, and should follow all other MLA formatting conventions. I strongly advise NOT waiting until the last minute before beginning your work. I do not accept late papers unless under dire circumstances and I have been contacted in writing before the paper is due.

How Course Grade is Determined:

Writing Assignment 1- Research Framework and Methodology (10%): Using Chapter One from *EIIW*, explain your theory of the concept of "literacy." What is literacy? How do you know a "literacy event" when you see it? How will you go about looking for literacy in its "natural habitat" or in context? Think of this essay as the framework you are creating for your study (3-5

pages, including Works Cited)

Writing Assignment 2- Research Proposal (5%): In this short essay, you should explain to your instructor where you're going to do your research, what you will be looking for and at in that research site, and why this site is appropriate for your research. In interest of conducting ethical research, explain your connection to this site (i.e. you eat lunch there often, you know someone who works there, etc.). You should also explain what you anticipate you will learn about literacy in this site. (2-3 pages, including Works Cited)

Writing Assignment 3- Informed Consent and Code of Ethics (10%): Using The Belmont Report as a frame work and the Codes of Ethics developed by professional organizations like [The Modern Language Association](#), [The American Anthropological Association](#), [The Association of Internet Researchers](#), or [The American Folklore Society](#), create a Code of Ethics you will follow in your own research. You may also find information in *EIIW* and *FW* to assist you with this project. Once you have created your Code of Ethics, you will also need to create an Informed Consent form that your research participants will read and sign. Remember that your research participants are the audience for this text, so you'll want to create an informed consent sheet that makes sense to them but also follows the guidelines and expectations of your instructor (5-7 pages, including Works Cited, and informed consent).

Writing Assignment 4- Ethnographic Setting Essay (10%): In this essay, you will show off your ability to use descriptive language to "paint a picture with words." Your goal is to describe your research site so thoroughly and completely that readers feel they have been there themselves. This essay will eventually become part of your final ethnographic essay (4-6 pages, including Works Cited).

Annotated Bibliography (10%): Since good ethnographic research involves both fieldwork and traditional library research, you will need to gather sources that inform what you learn in your fieldwork. These sources should be books, peer reviewed journal articles, and other relevant sources approved by your instructor. Since the research you're doing is scholarly, you will only use scholarly sources to support your claims. (That means no *Wikipedia* or Dictionary entries, for example.) You must annotate **ten items**.

Informal Writing Assignments and Participation (10%): This category includes in-class writing assignments, informal writing assignments, homework writing assignments, etc.

Celebration of Student Writing (10%): Friday, May 6 from 10AM-1PM in the Student Center, Conference Rooms A, B, and C. The Celebration of Student

Writing is an event held every semester where students enrolled in ENG 1302 demonstrate and show-off what they learned in their research projects. You should create some kind of display with artifacts, visual elements, and information about what you learned in your research. The “celebration” will look like a science fair with rows of tables and projects displayed. Your participation in this event is mandatory. Plan to arrive approximately 20 minutes early to set up. MWF classes will present from 10-11:30, and TR classes will present from 11:30-1PM.

Final Ethnographic Essay (20%): A final essay detailing the results of your study, what your findings mean in relation to the field of literacy studies, etc. Look to chapters four and five in *EIIW* for what this project should *look like*. Keep in mind that other essays you’ve composed this semester including WA1, WA3, WA4, and the annotated bibliography will all be part of this essay. (15-18 pages, including Works Cited, consent forms, and other relevant documents)

Research Portfolio (15%): In your research portfolio you’ll include your drafts from the semester, informed consent forms, informal writing assignments, double sided observation notes, reflexive writing, research artifacts, and anything else that help create an accurate portrayal of the research you conducted this semester.

GRADING

90%-100%= A, 80-89%= B, 70-79%= C, 60-69%= D, 59% & below= F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- A valid, working email address that you check often (everyday)
- Regular internet access (additional readings available online)
- Access to a computer with a word processing program and a printer (assignments must be typed and printed)

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Please contact your instructor with any questions you may have. Your instructor’s communication preference is e-mail, and his/her address is: Frank.Alexander@tamuc.edu. Also, each instructor in the department of literature and languages is required to keep at least three office hours per course per week.

Grievance Procedure:

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Director of First-Year Writing, Dr. Tabetha Adkins, by completing a student grievance form available on the program website:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/firstYearWriting/informationForStudents.aspx>).

Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

Departmental Chain of Command for ENG 100/1301/1302 courses:
Instructor -> Dr. Tabetha Adkins, Director of First-Year Writing -> Dr. Susan Stewart, Assistant Department Head or Dr. Hunter Hayes, Department Head

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Attendance Policy

The university has no policy for "excused absences" except for university-sanctioned events, so please save your absences for illness, court appearances, child care arrangements, and other situations when you must miss class.

Students who are serious about their learning know that attendance in class is necessary to academic success. In this class, even if your absence is excused, you miss out on important learning since all of our classes build knowledge toward writing assignments. Additionally, since you will receive a daily participation grade, any absence will affect your final grade.

- **Important notes: major writing assignments are due at the designated time whether a student is absent or not, or whether the absence is excused or not.**
- **You are responsible for obtaining the information you missed when you are absent. Refer to the calendar, syllabus, or ask a peer from class in order to know what you missed.**
- **I cannot fill in all knowledge gaps caused by your absence during class time or via email. The appropriate time for me to**

help you is during a face-to-face meeting during my office hours.

Other Course Policies

1. Turn your cell phone ringer off and put it away during class. If you're experiencing some kind of emergency in your personal life that requires access to a cell phone during class, let me know before class begins.
2. You must turn in all major writing assignments in order to pass the course.
3. Please be courteous to me and to your classmates; come to class on time. Three tardies constitute one absence. Students who are more than 10 minutes late will not receive participation credit for that day. If you believe you had a legitimate excuse for being tardy, you may submit in writing a detailed excuse.

Academic Honesty/ Plagiarism

The official departmental policy: "Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3]) If you ever have any questions about a particular use of a source, always ask your instructor. They want you to avoid plagiarism, too, so they will help you do so whenever and wherever they can. Do what you can to take advantage of this support—to look innocent in addition to being innocent when it comes to charges of plagiarism.

Students guilty of academic dishonesty of plagiarism can expect to fail the assignment in question or the entire course depending on the nature of the incident.

On University-Sanctioned Activities

To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, the First-Year Composition Program offers sections of this course at various times of the day and week. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved--athletics, etc.--please see your instructor after class on the first day.

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Gee Library, Room 132 (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 phone (903) 468-8148 fax Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu 1.11

Nondiscrimination notice: A&M – Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Weekly Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule throughout the semester to accommodate for class needs, unexpected weather, etc. The calendar below is likely to change in order to accommodate learning needs. Major changes in the syllabus will be announced in class and/or via email. *It is your responsibility to keep up with and appropriately respond to modifications to the schedule:*

<h2>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</h2>

Ethnographic Inquires in Writing = EIIW
FieldWorking = FW

Week 1, Jan 20-22: *EIIW* chapter one

Week 2, Jan. 25-29: "Literacy Practices" by Barton & Hamilton
FW 1-24 "Literacy in Three Metaphors" by Sylvia Scribner in *EIIW*

Week 3, Feb. 1-5: "Literacy, Opportunity, and Economic Change" by
Deborah Brandt in *EIIW*:
WA1 due

Week 4, Feb. 8-12: **Beginning of semester conferences;** *Friday observation day*

Week 5, Feb. 15-19 FW 25-64

Introduction to Chapter three in *EIIW*; Friday observation day

WA 2 due

Week 6, Feb. 22-26 FW Chapter 68-109

"The Belmont Report" in *EIIW*; Friday observation day

Week 7, Feb. 29 - March 4: "Seduction and Betrayal" by Thomas Newkirk
in *EIIW*

"Ethnographic Research Ethics and Amish Values" by Tabettha Adkins in *EIIW*
Friday observation day

WA 3 due

Week 8, March 7-11: Midterm Conferences Friday observation day

SPRING BREAK March 14-18

Week 9, March 21-15: "Introduction to Chapter four of *EIIW*

"Reading Rites and Sports" by Jabari Mahiri in *EIIW* Friday observation day
FW 176-217 Friday observation day

WA4 due

Week 10, March 28-April 1:

"Blinded By the Letter" by Wysocki & Johnson-Eiola in *EIIW* "Introduction" by
Bronwyn T. Williams; Friday observation day

Week 11, Ap. 4-8: FW 127-154

3 annotations for bibliography due: Friday observation day

Week 12, Ap. 11-15: FW Chapter 8

Complete Annotated Bibliography due; Wednesday observation day

**Week 13, Ap. 18-22: One-on-one conferences Week 13: rough draft
of final Ethnographic Essay due;**

Read over students examples, Chapter 5 in *EIIW*

Week 14, Ap. 25-29: "Becoming Literate" by Andrea R. Fishman in *EIIW*;
Peer review final papers

Submit Final Ethnographic Essay to Dropbox, April 29, 2016

Week 15, May 2-6: Prepare Research Portfolio for submission (Celebration
of Student Writing); Submit final portfolio to Dropbox, May 3, 2016

**The Celebration will be held Friday, May 6 from 10AM-1PM in the
Student Center conference rooms A, B, and C. MWF classes will**

present from 10-11:30, and TR classes will present from 11:30-1PM.

Final class day: May 6.

Final copy of Ethnographic Essay Due April 29, 2016

Portfolio due May 3, 2016

Important Dates:

First day of semester: Tuesday, January 19

Spring Break: March 14-18

Wednesday, April 13- Net Olé in our building. Office hours cancelled.

May 6- last class day.

Celebration of Student Writing: May 6 from 10AM until 1PM in SRSC Conference Rooms A, B, and C. MWF classes present from 10 until 11:30; TR classes present from 11:30 until 1.