

ENG 1302: Written Argument and Research
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring, 2013

Instructor: Prof. J. Davis
Office Location: HL 126
Office Hours: M/W: 10 -11:30 am.
Office Phone: 903-468-8725 during office hours
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks and Materials Required:

Adkins, Tabetha. *Ethnographic Inquires in Writing*. Southlake, Texas: Fountainhead Press, 2010.

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

Bradded folder that will serve as your Research Portfolio (see below)

Thumb 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!)

A valid, working email address that you check everyday

Optional Helps:

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

<http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/firstYearWriting/default.aspx>

http://tabethaadkins.com/ethnography_resources.html

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=3r0PGbfhHio>

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 projects 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 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 library research to help you create a more informative and informed research project. You'll finish the semester by presenting your findings in a public forum called The Celebration of Student Writing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who successfully complete ENG 1302 will:

1. show an ability to report research findings in writing (via a well-researched and articulated essay) and in person (via a poster presentation at the end of the semester—Celebration of Student Writing).
2. use academic databases to find information for research writing.
3. use MLA citation style correctly.
4. complete a research paper relying on multiple kinds of sources to support claims
5. understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.
6. explain the research process in an articulate way

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Instructional / Methods / Activities AssessmentsGrading

Your grade for this course will be determined by a number of factors. You must complete the assignments and submit them on time. **I do not accept late work.** If I make an exception and take the work, I will assess a late penalty of 5 points per calendar day, including weekends. **All assignments must be submitted to pass.** Do a good job with these; make good use of the feedback provided (by your instructor, by your classmates during peer review, by tutors in the writing center) and revise effectively; keep up with the readings, involve yourself in all the in-class discussions. You are allowed and encouraged to revise any of the writing assignments 1, 3, 4 and 5 for a maximum of an additional 10 points each. Revisions are due the class period after the essay is returned.

How Course Grade is Determined

WA1: 10%

WA2: 5%

WA3: 10%

Quizzes, Participation, Informal Writing Assignments: 20%

WA4: 10%

WA5: 10%

Celebration of Student Writing: 10%

Final Ethnography: 15%

Portfolio: 10%

Writing Assignment 1- Interview with citations and Works Cited. (10%): In this essay, you will show your ability to interview. **You will interview** someone about plagiarism. **In addition, you will find a scholarly journal article** on the same topic. You will report the interview, paraphrasing information from the subject and a quote of only a few words from the subject. You will also paraphrase an idea from the article and use a short quote from the article. You will use signal phrases, in-text citations and include a Works Cited page. The thesis statement will be provided. (length: 2 pages.)

Writing Assignment 2- Preparing for final paper (5%) - *Informed Consent and Code of Ethics*: Research ethics are a combination of many ingredients from respect for the subject to correct citing of sources to giving credit for all ideas that are borrowed to using only credible, thoroughly reliable, sources. Writing should be aimed at giving a fair representation of the studied group.

2%: Creation of a permission contract between you and your subjects that your research participants will read and sign. (1 page).

3%: Addressing the Code of Ethics you followed in your own research in your final paper. This assignment will be part of your final paper and I will grade it there. **Use the discussion in class.** (length: 1 page)

Writing Assignment 3- Research Proposal with in-text citations and Works Cited. (10%) (length: 2 ½ pages): In this essay, you will explain which subgroup you will study. Your proposal will also describe specific plans about your research—where your group is located, how often you will visit, which types of people you will interview, what you expect to find in this research.

You will find specific local answers from the observations and visits, but you will also do online library research. In this essay, you will also describe the broad issues that you wish to understand through the research from the journal articles that you will read. These would be wide issues from a broad perspective that might or might not affect your group. The broad issues you research will **not** be issues that are answered by your interviewees in the group you study. They are topics you will learn about through online library research.

Find a scholarly journal article about plans for writing an ethnography or about the approach to writing an ethnography. Use the article by referencing it, citing it in the text and including a Works Cited page.

WA3 has a mandatory thesis statement provided. Student should show tutor in writing center.

Writing Assignments 4 & 5: Annotated Bibliography: Good ethnographic research involves both fieldwork and traditional library research. Since the research you are doing is scholarly, you will only use scholarly sources to support your claims. You will find articles in scholarly journals **only** that inform what you learn in your fieldwork. These sources will be peer-reviewed, journal articles from the online library at TAMU-Commerce. *The New York Times* (also found in the online library) is the only other acceptable source approved by your instructor.

(That means no *Wikipedia* or Dictionary entries, for example. Never Google.)

By the finish of writing assignments 5 and 6, you must annotate **ten articles**. See more information on annotating in class. See *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Seventh Edition or examples in *Writing at Texas A&M University-Commerce* from English 1301 or http://www.tabethaadkins.com/annotated_bibs.html

In each annotated bibliography, writers will show the journal article citation information and two additional paragraphs. Paragraph 1 will summarize the main points of the article. Paragraph 2 should describe the way it will help the final paper.

Writing Assignment 4: Annotated Bibliography (10%): 3 journal articles required with the required paragraphs annotating their contents and help.

Writing Assignment 5: Annotated Bibliography (10%): 10 required

Assignment 6: Class Involvement: Quizzes, Informal Writing Assignments and Participation (20%): This category includes online and in-class quizzes, in-class writing assignments, informal writing assignments, homework writing assignments, online database practice assignments, participation in discussion, attention in class discussion. Quizzes will be based upon lecture and reading assignments, so notes, attendance and reading assigned works are important for success.

Quizzes cannot be made up.

Assignment 7: Celebration of Student Writing (10%): December 7 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 NOON in the Sam Rayburn Student Center in Conference Rooms A, B, and C. The Celebration of Student Writing is an event held every semester in which students enrolled in ENG 1302 demonstrate what they learned in their research projects. This meeting's demonstrations resemble a science fair with rows of tables and projects displayed. You should create a display that causes excitement using artifacts, visual elements, and any information from your research. Your participation in this event is mandatory.

Assignment 8: Final Ethnographic Essay (15%): 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, Code of Ethics, WA3 and the annotated bibliography will all be part of this essay. (length: 10 pages + works cited pages)

Assignment 9: Research Portfolio (10%): In your research portfolio you will include all writing assignments **with teacher comments marked** from the semester, all daily class assignments, informal writing assignments, ethnographic, double-sided observation notes, informer consent forms, class notes, first two pages of each journal article and anything else that helps create an accurate portrayal of the research conducted this semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- 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!)

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

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me with any questions you may have via email. My email address and office address are at the beginning of this syllabus.

Grievance Procedure:

If you have concerns about the class or about me as an instructor, please speak to me about those concerns. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of our conversation, the next person in the chain of command is the Director of the Writing Program, Dr. Tabettha Adkins. The three of us will meet about your complaint. To request a meeting for discussion, Dr. Adkins' e-mail address is Tabetha_Adkins@tamu-commerce.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, we work from the premise that all writers, no matter their ability level, benefit from the feedback of knowledgeable readers. The Writing Center staff is trained to provide writers with just this service. In short, we are here to help you help yourself. In order to ensure the most effective session possible, we offer visitors the following suggestions: (1) **Start** your writing project early, and visit the Writing Center at least one day before your final draft is due. You will need time to work with the ideas and suggestions generated in your tutorial sessions. (2) Bring a written copy of your assignment, any relevant readings, and one or two specific questions or concerns you would like to discuss with us.

The Writing Center is located in the Hall of Languages, Room 103 (903-886-5280) and online at <http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/artsSciences/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/>

Attendance Policy

Come to class every class meeting. I take attendance every class. If you must miss class, email me before you return to class so you will be caught up. If you miss more than **four** class meetings, your final grade for the course will be lowered by one letter grade. If you miss more than **six** class meetings, you will receive a failing grade. **If you come in late, it is your responsibility to stop after class to be sure that I have changed you from absent to tardy.** Scheduled conferences which might replace a class count as class meeting when counting attendance. Three tardies count as an absence.

Other policies

Excessive tardiness can be penalized as an absence.

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

Appropriate Classroom Behavior

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature and respectful manner toward the instructor as well as other students. An orderly and cooperative classroom environment is essential for optimum learning to take place. In order to maintain an environment in which learning can take place the following behaviors are expected to be observed:

- Do not talk during the lesson.
- **Cell phones and beepers must be turned off and put away. No texting** during class. If you are texting or playing electronic games, you will be asked to leave and counted absent.
- Limit leaving class. I will open the door upon your return.
- Use class time wisely.
- Stay awake during class.
- If arriving late to class, enter the classroom quietly. **It is up to you to check with me after class to make sure that I changed absent to tardy in the gradebook..**
- Please, do the right thing to contribute to a learning atmosphere.

Academic Honesty

The official departmental policy: “Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonestly. 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.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities:

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

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Student Disability Resources & Services

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Ethnographic Inquires in Writing = EIIW

FieldWorking = FW

Week 1:

M: Attend; **For next class**, bring syllabus.

W: General discussion: syllabus; ethnography.

Week 2:

M: **Labor Day – No class.**

W: Academic writing. Discuss reading.

F: MLA conventions (thesis statement, organization, tone, etc.)

Week 3:

M: Discuss: Reliability in research, paraphrase, quotation, signal phrases.

W: Discuss Online database search.

F: **1)Bring** first 2 pages of content of an article with its citation correct according to MLA standards, **2)Bring** first 2 pages of content of an additional article. Discuss quote and paraphrase examples.

Week 4:

M: Bring Quote/Paraphrase examples using your article with 1) in-text citations and 2) a Works Cited page.

W: Bring FW book. Discuss WA2 (permission) due next class.

F: **WA 2 due!** Discuss WA1.

Week 5:

M: Return/discuss WA2. Discuss WA1.

F: **WA1 due!** Declare ethnography group. Mechanics and MLA convention helps. Discuss WA3.

Week 6:

M: Return WA1. For next class, read *FW* 182-191. Note 2 places that are particularly good descriptions. Bring one example from any book of good description to class. Group share. Discuss WA3. **WA4 due in 2 weeks.**

W: **WA3 due. WA1 revisions due.** Discuss quotes and paraphrases.

Week 7: Conferences; bring WA1 and WA2 to conference. This conference is required and is in lieu of class this week. WA3 returned at conference.

Week 8:

M: WA3 revisions due. Class discussion about TAMU online database and annotated bibliography versus Works Cited pages. **For next class, read *EIIV*, pages 170 – mid 180.**

W: Discuss WA4.

F: See examples of annotated bibliographies.

Week 9:

M: **Discuss reading.**

W: **WA4 due!**

Week 10:

M: **WA4 returned.**

W: Online research discussed.

F: Writing workshop

Week 11:

M: **WA5 due. WA4 corrections must be shown on WA5. Turn in original WA4 with my comments along with the complete WA5.**

F: Discuss ethnography.

Week 12:

M: WA4 and 5 returned.

W: Discuss ethnography.

F: Discuss ethnography

Week 13:

M: Discussion of final paper.

W: **TBA**

F: **Workday**

Week 14:

M: Discuss Celebration of Student Writing.

W: Discussion about Academic writing and ethnography. Questions about final paper.

F: Thanksgiving holiday!

Week 15:

M: Final copy of Ethnographic Essay Due – Monday, December 2

Portfolio due – Monday, December 2

R: No class.

Friday: Celebration of Student Writing: TBA

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of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce**

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Office Gee Library

Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

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StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Tutoring sessions available:

1. Hall of Languages, First floor - Writing Center **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**
 2. Library, Second floor – Two nights per week **WALK IN ALLOWED**
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To be placed in the syllabus strategically.

For next class: read *EIIV*: “Research Ethics and Amish Values” pg. 158-165.

For next Monday, read *FW* 4th Edition: Gray box on 23 – 38; 3rd Edition: 25-44.

“An Ethnographic Study: “Friday Night at Iowa 80” **AND** “Friday Night at Iowa 80: The Truck Stop as Community and Culture” by Rick Zollo. **Be sure to read the 8 paragraphs that follow the second reading.** Pick which of the seven factors is most important and write 3 reasons why, so that you can defend your position in class.

Discuss interview process, citation of interview