



ENG 1302: Written Argument and Research
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2014
01W and 02W

Instructor: Khimen Cooper

Office Location: Online

Online Office Hours: Tuesday 10-2

University Email Address: kcooper7@leomail.tamuc.edu

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 it’s “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.

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

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! Computers crash, electricity blinks, etc. and it will be worth it to have a back up.)

Access to your **University email address** that you check everyday

Access to eCollege

Optional Texts:

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/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=3r0PGbfhHlo>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Grading:

- **Revisions:** Students who turn their writing assignments in **on time** and make below a 70% will be allowed to revise up to a 70% only on Writing Assignments 1 and 2. Writing Assignment 3 and Ethnographies will not be revisable due to time restraints. *Those who do not turn in Writing Assignments, or who fail due to plagiarism will not be allowed to revise.*
- **Late Work:** Late work will only be accepted if you have talked to me/emailed me about the issue at least 24 hours *before* the assignment is due. Repeat requests to turn in late work are unacceptable. Pay attention to due dates. I will NOT accept late work from anyone who has not received an extension.
 - The dropbox will close down to the exact minute and you will not be able to submit once it has closed. Do NOT wait until the last minute to turn in your papers. Do not email your paper to me 1 minute after the paper is due explaining why I should accept it. I do not recommend waiting until 11:55 to turn in a paper that is due at 11:59 due to unforeseen circumstances such as computer lags, ecollege glitches, etc. These things happen, so prepare for that and don't wait until the last minute.

Grading Scale:

90-100	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and below	F

Assignment Grading Scale:

Class Discussion	40%
WA1	10%
WA2	10%
WA3	10%
Extra Assignments	10%
Ethnography	20%

Assignment Descriptions:

Class Discussion (40%): Because this is an online course, class discussions are extremely important. Through the discussions we will be able to talk about the readings, my lectures, your own projects, and many other things. Each week that you do not have a paper due you will be expected to complete the assigned reading (which includes weekly lectures and class texts) and respond to the discussion topic that I will have posted with a 250 word response by 11:59 pm on Thursday of that week. Read through some of your classmates posts and respond to however many I specify (usually only two) with 100 word responses each by Saturday at 11:59 pm of that week. There will be a few weeks where you will have to post to two separate discussion topics. This is how you will turn in the “extra assignments” mentioned below. They will be graded separately from your Discussion grade. I won’t post too much in the discussion boards because I want to see you all generate the discussions on your own without my comments hindering you too much.

Writing Assignment 1- Research Proposal (10%): In this short essay, you should explain the site that you wish to do your research for your project. This essay should include what it is you will be looking for at the site and why you believe the site is an appropriate choice. 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 will explain what you expect to learn about literacy in this site and the kinds of literacies you expect to find there. You will also include a brief Code of Ethics that you intend to follow as you conduct your research along with an Informed Consent Form that your research participants will read and sign. Remember that your research participants are the audience for the Informed Consent, 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. This assignment is basically a proposal. Through answering these questions, you are informing me of why this site is appropriate for your research.

Essay should include at least two quotes from the class reading

Length: 2-3 Pages (Approx. 1200 words) Not including the Code of Ethics, Informed Consent form, and Works Cited

Writing Assignment 2- 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. Have fun with this essay and be as creative and descriptive as you can. Think about sights, sounds, smells, temperature, etc. while writing this.

Essay is not required to include quotes from class reading

Length: 4-6 pages/ Approx. 1500 words

Writing Assignment 3- 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 **six items**. These items will include proper bibliographic information followed by annotations. Four of these sources will be from class texts and two will be sources you find on your own.

Annotations should be 80-100 words in length a piece not including bibliographic information.

Extra Assignments (10%): These assignments are brief and will be turned in on separate discussion boards. They include Initial Proposal idea, Field Notes, Interviews, two separate Annotated Bibliography Assignments, and Interview information. The Discussion boards will include more details for these assignments.

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, WA2, and WA3 will all contribute to this final ethnographic essay in some way. This essay will include quotes from all six of your sources from your annotated bibliography.

Length 14-15 pages/ Approx. 3600-4000 words

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!) I recommend keeping a folder in your email for all of your work and emailing everything to yourself just in case. USB’s can easily be lost or broken. Again, no late work will be accepted so keeping backups of everything is highly encouraged.
- A University email address that you check often (everyday)
- Regular internet access (additional readings available online)
- Access to a computer with a word processing program

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course exists exclusively online, so you must have Internet access to participate, and also to read and/or view many of the supplementary texts.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact your instructor with any questions you may have. Your instructor's communication preference is e-mail, and her address is: kcooper7@leomail.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:

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. Tabetha Adkins. Her e-mail address is Tabetha.Adkins@tamuc.edu.

See grievance procedures here: <http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/firstYearWriting/informationForStudents.aspx>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

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: First make an appointment, then (1) Get started on 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.tamuc-commerce.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>

Academic Honesty

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.**

There will be absolutely no opportunities for revision if a paper has been plagiarized. The student will fail the assignment. If the student plagiarizes a second time they will fail the course. No exceptions.

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

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 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuco.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

Schedule Subject to Change (probably WILL change)

Ethnographic Inquires in Writing = EIIW

FieldWorking = FW

Due dates are set at 11:59pm- That means that the drop-box closes at 11:59 pm so don't wait until 11:59 to submit.

	Lecture & Reading	Discussion (250 Word) Thursday 11:59pm	Homework Due Friday 11:59pm	2 Discussion Responses (100 Words each) Saturday 11:59pm
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Week 1 Jan 13-18 <i>INTRO</i>	Week 1 Lecture A (Intro to Course) Read: *Syllabus *Class Schedule	Post in Discussion		
Week 2 Jan 20-25 <i>LITERACY</i>	Week2 Lecture (Discourse Communities and Szwed) Read: *EIIW: Pages (19-20) *EIIW: Ch1, Szwed (1-18) Reading supplied by instructor	Post in Discussion		Respond to 2 Discussion Posts
Week 3 Jan 27- Feb 1 <i>PRACTICES & EVENTS FIELD WORK</i>	Week3 Lecture (Literacy Events/Practices and Fieldwork) Read: *FW Ch1 (1-10) *Read EIIW: Ch2 Barton and Hamilton (21-32) Reading Supplied by instructor	Post in Discussion		Respond to 2 Discussion Posts
Week 4 Feb 3-8 <i>ETHNOGRAPHY</i>	Week4 Lecture (WA1, Fieldwork, and Permissions) Read:	Post in Discussion		Respond to 2 Discussion Posts

	* FW Ch1 Iowa80 (25-43)			
Week 5 Feb 10-15 ETHICS	Week 5 Lecture (Informed Consent and Ethics) Read: * EIIW Ch3 Ethical Research (117-122) * Review Belmont Report (EIIW 122-139 or PDF on Ecollege)	Post in Discussion 1 Post Brief (150-200 word) Proposal in Discussion 2		Respond to 1 Discussion Post in Discussion 1 Respond to 1 Discussion Post in Discussion 2
Week 6 Feb 17-22 WA1	Week6 Lecture (Review 1-5, WA1 requirements, availability, Due dates, Late policy)		WA1 DUE 2/21	
Week 7 Feb 24- Mar 1 VOICE & THE FIELD	Week7 Lecture (Voice and Researching the Field) Read: * FW Ch2 Considering Voice (76-83) * EIIW: Adkins (158-167)	Post in Discussion		Respond to 2 Discussion Posts
Week 8 Mar 3-8 Midterm Week EXAMPLES & ARTIFACTS	Week8 Lecture (Artifacts and Field Notes) Read: * EIIW Student Ethno (235-249) * FW Ch3 Reading an Object: Artifacts (143-148)	Post in Discussion 1 Post at least 500 words of field notes in Discussion 2		Respond to 2 posts in Discussion 1
Week 9 Mar 10-15 Spring Break				
Week 10 Mar 17-22 WA2	Week9 Lecture (Review 7-8, WA2 requirements, availability, Due dates, Late policy)		WA2 DUE 3/21	
Week 11 Mar 24-29 ANN BIB & RESEARCH	Week10 Lecture (Works Cited and Ann Bibs) Read: * FW Ch 7 Annotated Bibliographies (414-415) * Library Research Advice (URL supplied by	Post in Discussion 1 Post in Discussion 2		Respond to 1 post in Discussion 2

	Instructor)			
Week 12 Mar 31- Apr 5 ELECTRONIC COMMUNITIES & DETAILING	Week11 Lecture (Electronic Communities) Read: * FW CH5 Details to Verbal Portraiture (302-306) *FW Ch3 Reading Electronic Communities (159-166)	Post in Discussion 1 Post in Discussion 2		Respond to 1 post in Discussion 2
Week 13 Apr 7-12 ANNOTATED BIB	Week12 Lecture (Review10-11, WA3 requirements, availability, Due dates, Late policy)		WA3 DUE 4/11	
Week 14 Apr 14-19 INTERVIEWS	Week13 Lecture (Interviews and Ethnography) Read: *FW Ch5 Researching People (237-247)	Post in Discussion 1		Respond to 2 Discussion Posts
Week 15 Apr 21-26	Week15 Lecture (Ethnography requirements, due date, wrap up semester)		Ethnography DUE 4/25	
Week 16 Apr 28-May 3				
Finals Week May 5-10	FINAL'S WEEK	FINAL'S WEEK	FINAL'S WEEK	FINAL'S WEEK