



ENG 1302.15/1302.23
Written Argument and Research
Course Syllabus: Spring 2015

Instructor: Laura Cathrine
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*Other hours available by appointment
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Class Meeting Times and Locations

ENG 1301.15: TR 2-3:15
ENG 1301.23: TR 12:30-1:45
Location: HL305

PLEASE NOTE: This is a common syllabus used by all graduate students teaching sections 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 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. You’ll finish the semester by presenting your findings in a public forum called The Celebration of Student Writing. The Celebration will be held TBA.

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

- ◆ A standard-sized, one subject Composition Notebook

Three-ring binder 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 Texts:

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/firstYearWriting/informationForStudents.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=3r0PGbfhHIo>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Grading:

- ◆ Important due dates and all major Writing Assignments are listed on the course syllabus at the beginning of the semester. There is no late work accepted in this class so please prepare ahead and allow yourself plenty of time to complete each assignment. You should assume that any assignment not turned in by the deadline will receive a zero.
- ◆ IF YOU ARE ABSENT THE DAY AN ASSIGNMENT IS DUE:
- ◆ You are still responsible for turning in the assignment BY THE DEADLINE (which is traditionally five minutes after the official start of class). Every assignment that you complete outside of class can be typed and submitted via email. If you know you are going to miss class, it is your responsibility to turn in any assignment due during your absence. That being said, life happens and unforeseen issues occur. In the event of extenuating circumstances, please contact me as soon as you are aware you will miss class to arrange an alternative method of submitting whatever is due. "Extenuating circumstances" will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please note: Running out of ink in your printer or sleeping through your alarm do not count as "extenuating circumstances".

- ◆ You will have an opportunity to revise all of your major writing assignments. You will get more information on how revisions affect grading as well as due dates, submission process, etc. in class.

How Course Grade is Determined:

- ◆ **Please note: You will receive detailed prompts for each Writing Assignment in class as each one is assigned. Below are brief sketches about the assignments for this course. We will discuss Writing Assignments in more detail during the first week of class. You will also receive handouts regarding the other major assignments including the Celebration of Student Writing and your Course Journal.**

Writing Assignment 1- Recognizing and Applying Literacy:

This essay will apply to your research and to your final project in which you will discuss how literacy is used in your chosen field site. Keep your field site in mind as you think and write about the definition, understanding, and usage of literacy. (10%)

Writing Assignment 2- Field Site and Community Proposal: This essay will act as a "sketch" for the research you will conduct while observing your chosen community. (10%)

Writing Assignment 3- Informed Consent and Code of Ethics: For this assignment, you will create a Code of Ethics and an Informed Consent which will both apply to your specific field site and community. (10%)

Writing Assignment 4- Ethnographic Setting Essay: For this creative/descriptive writing assignment, you will create a detailed description of your field site and the people in it. (10%)

Quizzes, In-Class Writing, Attendance, and Participation: Your quizzes, in-class writing, attendance, and participation count as 10% of your overall grade. (10%)

Celebration of Student Writing: Participation in the Celebration of Student Writing is required for all students in ENG 1302. During this event, you will display your final project for other students, faculty and staff of TAMUC, and members of the community who attend the event. (10%)

Final Ethnographic Project: For this assignment, you will create an inclusive project detailing the results of the research you will do throughout the semester. You will discuss literacy and its application at your field site. The work you do in all of your assignments during the semester will be applicable to and included with this final project. (20%)

Annotated Bibliography: You will learn how to create an Annotated Bibliography in this course. Your bibliography will include all of the sources you use on your major writing assignments throughout the semester. It will be part of and submitted with your Final Project.

Course Journal: You will keep a journal throughout the semester which will be a major part of your final grade. You will receive details about the contents and due dates for your journal during the first week of the semester. (20%)

Grading Scale

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

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 a computer with a word processing program and a printer (assignments must be typed and printed)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Some supplementary texts for this course exist exclusively online, so you must have Internet access to read and/or view these texts.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact you instructor with any questions you may have. Your instructor's communication preference is e-mail, and her address is: lc.tamuc@gmail.com 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. Tabettha Adkins. Her e-mail address is Tabetha.Adkins@tamuc.edu.

See grievance procedures here:

<http://www.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: (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://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/writingCenter/default.aspx>

Attendance Policy

For classes that meet twice per week, students may miss up to four times without penalty.

Once a student receives a fifth absence, the student's final grade will drop by one letter.

If a student is absent seven or more times during the semester, the student cannot pass the course.

There is no such thing as a “partial attendance”—students are either present for the entire class meeting or they are absent.

Excessive tardiness can be penalized as an absence.

Class times are clearly posted. Coming in late/leaving early disrupts the entire classroom. Please be respectful of your classmates and your instructor by being on time and ready to begin when class starts.

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.

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.

On University-Sanctioned Activities

Late-Work Policy

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Due dates for assignments are posted in the syllabus for this class. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. You should assume that any assignment not turned in at the beginning of class the day it is due will receive a zero.
- ◆ Extenuating circumstances that warrant an extension on any assignment are something I do not wish on anyone. However, we all encounter things beyond our control at times. So, please come see me if you have an issue that prevents you from turning in an assignment the day it is due. Please Note: If you know you will miss class ahead of time, it is expected that any assignment due the day you will be out will be turned in before the class meets. Contact me to arrange submitting any assignment before the due date.
- ◆ I cannot stress to you enough the importance of preparing ahead in case you encounter any unforeseen issues.

University Specific Procedures:

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 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.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

- ◆ **Please Note: The nature of this course is such that changes in the syllabus are almost guaranteed. The schedule below is tentative and will change. You will receive an updated course syllabus in class during Week Two. Please be flexible as the schedule is updated to suit the learning needs of students.**

Ethnographic Inquires in Writing = EIIW

FieldWorking = FW

Week 1

Tuesday

Course and Instructor Introductions

Icebreaker Exercise

Introduction to Ethnography

Homework:

Read Syllabus and Navigate Course Website

Get Standard-sized Composition Notebook

Thursday

Syllabus Quiz

Literacy, Subcultures, and Groups to Which You Belong

Course Journal Introduction

Homework:

Review week one content

Familiarize yourself with course website

Week 2

Literacy and Subcultures

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 3

Required Student Conferences - No Class Meetings

Week 4

WA 1 Due (Thur)

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 5

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 6

WA2 Due (Tue)

Notes/Outline/Images for Final Project Due (Thur)

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 7

WA3 Due (Tue)

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 8

WA4 Draft Due (Tue)

WA4 FINAL Draft Due (Thur)

Reading Assignments TBA

~ SPRING BREAK ~

Week 9

Bibliography Sources Due (Tue)

Audio/Video Sample for Final Project Due (Thur)

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 10

NO CLASS MEETING THURSDAY

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 11

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 12

Required Student Conferences - No Class Meetings

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 13

Annotated Bibliography Due (Tue)

Final Project Draft Due (Thur)

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 14

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 15

Final Project Due (Tue)

Journal and Portfolio Due (Thur)

Celebration of Student Writing (Friday, May 8)

Reading Assignments TBA

Week 16

Finals Week - No Class Meetings

