

University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
Faculty of Humanities
English Department

Instructor: Prof. Marcos Pechio

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Course: English 3231 - Expository Writing I: Writing a Research Paper

Saturdays from 9:00AM - 11:50AM

English Dept. Computer Lab

Course Description:

This course has been designed to teach students how to write and develop a well researched paper. Students will learn how to use the library for advanced research, do scholarly internet searches, evaluate sources, incorporate sources into their writing, properly document their sources and write a research-based argumentative paper.

Students read and evaluate various types of essays in order to produce a variety of writing assignments, as well as review various grammatical rules and common sentence problems in order to help edit their papers and improve their writing style.

Objectives: At the end of the class students must be able to:

1. Develop the skills to write critical and analytical essays in English and support all arguments or interpretations by using secondary sources.
2. Improve critical reading and writing skills.

Course Requirements:

In order to complete the course with a satisfactory grade, students are expected to:

1. Attend regularly and have an active participation in class discussions. (Three [3] absences without a written and valid reason will result in a lowering of a final grade by one full grade).
2. Come fully prepared to class. (All assigned readings and questions from readings should be answered before class).

3. Participate in all class discussions and give both group and individual presentations. (More information about the presentation will be available in the following days).
4. Write research papers
5. All research sources will be placed in an online folder and shared with the professor.
6. ****Papers should be written following MLA style specifications. They should be typewritten, double spaced and size 12 Times New Roman font. PLEASE DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. MLA citations are accepted.

Grades:

The work for this course will be weighted as follows:

- Attendance, punctuality and active participation 20%
- Tests, homework, and online research database 20%
- Essays 20%
- Oral presentation of your final research 10%
- Final research paper 30%

Week 1-3 Introduction to course, the writing process (clustering and brainstorming, developing a thesis statement), and analysis of some texts. In class essay is due.

Week 4-5 Begin work on the research paper: Pick a Topic for your final paper. Introductory paragraphs, body paragraphs and conclusions. Online research tutorial. Find at least 15 articles dealing with your research. Place them on an online Dropbox folder and share it with the professor's email address

Week 8-10 Readings of analytical essays and film documentaries provided by the professor.

Writing narrative and informative essays. Sentence variety: compound, complex and compound-complex / Writing the research paper continues.

From the 15 articles found, choose the 5 articles that best work as evidence to support your research. Summarize and comment on each article; why you choose

the article for your research? One page each. Make sure you submit a copy of the article with your highlighted sections and written comments on each.

Week 11 - 13 Writing: cause-and-effect essay / Sentence structure problems: subject-verb agreement, missing subject, run-on sentences, sentence fragment problems and parallel structure problems

Readings- argumentation and persuasion. Essays will be provided by the professor through email.

Writing: argumentative and persuasive essay/ Transition words Revising, editing and MLA style conventions.

Week 14 Presentations

Week 15 Presentations

Week 16 Complete presentations. **Final research paper due**