

COURSE SYLLABUS
University of Puerto Rico
Rio Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English

EXPOSITORY WRITING I

INGL 3231

Three credit hours. Three hours of lecture per week.

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Vanessa Vicente

Fall 2018

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00am-11:30am or by appointment

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Pre-requisites

One of the following: English 3103-3104 or level 5 on the English Department Placement Test, or advanced placement in English. Students should have adequate knowledge of English syntax and vocabulary.

Course Description

Introduction to basic rhetorical patterns of expository prose such as narrative, definition, comparison and contrast, argument and persuasion, with an emphasis on the organization, clarity, coherence and logic of the written product. In this course you will have the opportunity to experiment with different genres and styles of writing and also learn the rules of academic research writing.

The craft of writing is a step-by-step process that improves with practice. Since every good writer suggests the presence of a good reader, the course will focus on reading selections from a variety of fields of academic study. Certainly, the frequent writing exercises will demand a plurality of reading material that are meant to induce the students into both critical and aesthetic responses.

However, opposite to fiction or creative writing, our emphasis will be on showing and explaining rather than on telling.

Grammar will be introduced, discussed and contextualized according to the students' needs.

Physically impaired students must notify the professor at the beginning of the semester in order to institute proper academic and classroom conditions for the benefit of the former (description of Law 51 is at the end of the syllabus).

Description of Course:

Practice in the various forms of expository writing. Detailed class criticism of diction, phrasing, and sentence structure. A research paper is required

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Write at least five different genres such as: remembered event, narrative, evaluation, critique, editorial, position paper argument, research paper, proposal, Power Point presentation, and others.
- To develop skills in using the conventions of standard and written English
- To become proficient in using either MLA or APA style to document your in-text and end-of -text sources,
- Competently research, cite, and reference sources and use quotes, summaries, and paraphrases in writing;
- Competently utilize the reading and critiquing experience of model works to effectively and constructively critique peer writing;
- Discover and develop a greater scope of possibilities in writing through invention and by experimenting with genre conventions;
- Identify and develop a personal writing process by experimenting with different techniques such as prompts, journaling, brainstorming, automatic or free writing, and outlining;
- Discuss your writing process and work as well as present your work in a public format, such as formal classroom presentation, author's chair or publication party.
- Effectively edit your own work with attention to grammar and syntax.
- Use the Internet to research information and to publish your work either on a website or blog that you will create with your peers;
- To formulate and support critical positions on works of literature.

Teaching and learning strategies

Focusing on a learner-centered approach, students will be lead into critical discussions of poems and plays. Students will be empowered with the necessary tools to respond critically and aesthetically, written and orally, to their literary formation. The following strategies will be implemented:

- Lecture/Socratic discussion;
- Analyzing and problem-solving through reading and writing;
- Cooperative learning in pairs and small groups;
- Tasks development through panels and task groups;
- Development of writing skills through written reports;
- Development of communication skills through oral reports and panels;
- Individual self-directed Research and Discovery.

Textbooks

Mainly, reading selections will be emailed to you.

Methods of evaluation (Assessment strategies)

My hope is that you will de-emphasize the grade in this course and prioritize your learning process instead. The grading process is negotiated taking into consideration your learning in the course. Try improving your work to your own satisfaction and to the goals you set for yourself,

not just mine. Writing is an art form, but it is a discipline that requires practice. Feel free to communicate with me during the semester about your grade, but if you never ask me during the semester, do not complain about your grade after it has been given.

In concordance with Law 51, if you are a physically impaired student, you will be evaluated within the scope of your capacities.

Grading System

The course requires you do several writing assignments plus two term papers. The grade system for this course is cumulative and quantifiable.

TASKS	POINTS	VALUE	DUE DATE	LENGTH
Remembered Event Essay	100	10%	September 27	600-700 words
Argumentative Essay	100	10%	October 25	600-700 words
Writing Assignments in Notebook/Journal	100	20%	All Semester	Details will be given later
Attendance and class participation	100	10%	All semester	See attendance policy below
Buddy/group work	200	15%	All Semester	Details will be given later
Group Project/Presentation	200	20%	November 29	Details will be given later
Final Essay	100	15%	December	800 words
TOTAL	100			

90-100 A 80=89 B 70-79 C 65-69 D 64-0 F

Formal Classroom Policies

- Students must come to class prepared and have the required materials.
- Make every effort to arrive promptly and stay until the end of the class period.
- Late work will not be accepted.
- No make-ups for missed quizzes, assignments, and/or in-class work.
- Cellphones should be off or on airplane mode for the duration of the class. Phones should not be used in class unless there is an emergency or the professor asks you to perform a task with it.

Attendance

- Attendance to class is compulsory at the University of Puerto Rico. Therefore, it is inferred that your duty is to comply with the course's demands in order to obtain a satisfactory result. Arriving late for class three times will count as one absence. You have a period of grace of up to ten minutes which is more than reasonable before you are marked absent or late. If you arrive late to class it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to tell me at the end of the class so that I can "mark you" as tardy.

- Should you be absent due to medical, legal or any other reason and/or emergency, you must present factual written evidence.
- If you fail to justify two absences, your grade will lower 11%. Four absences will lower your grade 21%. Five absences will lower your grade 31%.
- There will be no make-up work for unjustified or unaccounted absences, in particular if you miss any papers and/or exams. Again, medical certification will have to be provided in case you are ill.

Law 51 (June 7, 1996)

“Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitacion Vocacional deben comunicarse con el (la) profesor (a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme con las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con impedimentos (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. Tambien, aquellos estudiantes especiales que requieren algun tipo de asistencia o acomodo, deben comunicarse con el (la) profesor (a).

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is NOT acceptable. Plagiarism is the act of taking, using the thoughts, writings, or ideas of another person as one's own. Copying the exact or similar words of a text and making them your own is plagiarism. You can avoid plagiarism by using documentation information on the sources used. Plagiarism is dishonest and should be avoided. Plagiarized work is unacceptable. Plagiarism and cheating are serious infractions and subject to University policy on punishing academic dishonesty.

Circular 9 (2002-03)

Unauthorized reproduction of Copyrighted Work (s)

The intentional or unintentional practice of appropriation of ideas, language or work of another without sufficient acknowledgement that the material is not one's own, is punishable by law. Purchasing a pre-written paper, copying from a published source, or even paying someone to write a paper for you are some examples of violations to the copyright law. Plagiarism is unacceptable in this class and it could cost you your college career.

Bibliography

A complete bibliography will be made available during the semester.