

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

Instructor: Prof. Marcos Pechio

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Course: English 3232 - Expository Writing II

MJ from 8:00AM - 9:50AM

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 and other media 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 [4 total]
5. All research sources will be placed in an online folder (Google Drive) 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%
- Responses and online research database 20%
- Research essays 30%
- Oral presentation of your final research 10%
- Analytical essays 20%

## Class Schedule

Week 1 - 3 Introduction to course, the writing and research process (clustering and brainstorming, developing a thesis statement, online academic database research) through the analysis of essays provided by the professor through email.

Week 4 - 8 Identifying sentence structure problems: subject-verb agreement, missing subject, run-on sentences, sentence fragment problems and parallel structure problems.

Writing: cause-and-effect essay / Engaging with non-fiction: Argumentation and persuasion through critical thinking and research (“continuing the conversation”).

Week 9 - 13 Sentence variety: compound, complex and compound-complex. Use of transitional words and phrases / paragraph agreement.

Writing: responding to fiction. Identifying themes, as well as exploring new “angles” through secondary sources and critical thinking (deep reading).

Week 14 - 15 Writing: argumentative and persuasive essay (free topic). Revising, editing and MLA style conventions.

Week 16 Final writings and portfolio presentations.