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

Instructor: Prof. Marcos Pechio
Email: MH.Pechio@gmail.com
Course: English 3232 - Expository Writing II

office hours (by previous appointment only) T - TH from 1:00pm to 2:00pm
English Dept. Computer Lab or by video conference

*Due to the current pandemic, this course is conducted fully online and will meet synchronically 3h a week through the Google Meet platform. Expect invites to be delivered daily, until further notice

Course Description:

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

Students will read and evaluate critically various types of essays and other media in order to produce a variety of writing assignments. as well as improve their essay building skills, such as paragraph coherence, common sentence problems, and pre-writing strategies.

Objectives:

1. Develop the skills to cluster, gather sources, and write critical and analytical essays in English.
2. Develop different pre-writing skills, such as clustering techniques and other strategies, in order to build an effective cognitive map.
3. Improve familiarity with online research materials, as well as adequately utilize them as source cited or evidence to their claims.
4. Improve writing techniques, such as paragraph agreement and the use of transitional devises.
5. Implement different strategies in order to write effective introductions and conclusions,

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 along with their respective clusters and gathered sources. [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   10%
- Clusters and online research   40%
- Essays (4 total)   40%
- Oral presentation of your final research   10%

Regarding students with special needs, the University of Puerto Rico's policies (Ley 51) apply as follows: "Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el (la) profesor(a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el (la) profesor(a)."

"The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of

Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint."

"Ethics and plagiarism policy"
The UPR and its faculty are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and academic honesty. The student is responsible for complying with the provisions of the General Student Regulations of the UPR on this matter. When presenting your work you should avoid conduct that results in plagiarism or academic dishonesty.

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.

Week 4 - 8

Establishing a coherent thesis statement, topic sentences, and adding sources into a cluster. Strategies on writing an effective introduction and conclusion. Engaging in an evidence / claims dynamic.

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

Week 9 - 13

Use of transitional strategies, words and phrases / paragraph agreement.

Writing: responding to fiction. Identifying themes, symbols, and allusions as well as exploring new "angles" through secondary sources and critical thinking.

Week 14 - 16

Writing an analytical essay (free topic). Revising, editing and MLA style conventions.

Final writings and oral presentations.

Bibliography:

Jefferey , Robin. *About Writing: a Guide*. Open Oregon Educational Resources, 2016.

McLean, Scott. *Writing for Success.* University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, 2015.

Krause, Steven. *The Process of Research Writing*. Eastern Michigan University, 2007

Poulter, Stephen. *Frameworks for Academic Writing*. Lulu Press, 2013
2020, Perdue University. "MLA Overview and Workshop // Purdue Writing Lab." *Purdue Writing Lab*, Perdue University, owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_overview_and_workshop.html.

Carr, Nicholas. "Is Google Making Us Stupid." *The Atlantic*, July 2008.

Runner, Nausicaa. "How Social Media Shapes Our Identity." *The New Yorker*, August 2019.

Zittrain, Jonathan. "The Hidden Cost Of Automated Thinking." *The New Yorker,* July 2019.

Shilab , Ahmed, and Shane Smith. *Palestine Now and Viva Cuba Libre*. HBO, 2017, www.hbo.com/vice/season-04/7-palestine-now-and-viva-cuba-librepalestine-now-and-viva-c.

Diamond, Neil, director. *Reel Injun*. National Film Board of Canada, 2009.