

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

Instructor: Prof. Marcos H. Pechio

Email: mhpechio@gmail.com

Course: English 3231 - Expository Writing I

T-TH 2:30pm - 3:50pm

English Dept. Computer Lab

\*Due to the current pandemic this course is to be conducted fully online.

### Course Description:

This course has been designed to help students develop their essay writing, pre-writing, and research skills in order to write a well research-based expository paper. Students will familiarize themselves with the campus library, online UPR databases for advanced research and other scholarly internet searches, evaluate sources as to how to incorporate them into their writing, as well as essay composition skills and strategies.

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

1. Develop the skills in order to write expository essays in English and support all mayor claims with well-researched sources.
2. Improve critical thinking and pre-writing (clustering/outline) skills, as well as body essay composition strategies such as paragraph agreement, transitions, developing topic sentences, and effective introductions and conclusions.

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, having read assigned essays or submitting writing exercises. Video essays will be shown in class.
3. Participate in all class discussions and give final group or individual presentations.

4. Keep an online folder with all writing exercises and researched sources, as well as a **one 10 page final essay** with its own separate **sources folder**. All folders and documents must be inside a main folder (titled with your full name and course number), which you **will share only once** with my email address.

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.

· 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 de algún tip de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a.

· Integridad académica: La Universidad de Puerto Rico promueve los más altos estándares de integridad académica y científica. El Artículo 6.2 del Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR (Certificación Núm. 13, 2009-2010, de la Junta de Síndicos) establece que “la deshonestidad académica incluye, pero no se limita a: acciones fraudulentas, la obtención de notas o grados académicos valiéndose de falsas o fraudulentas simulaciones, copiar total o parcialmente la labor académica de otra persona, plagiar total o parcialmente el trabajo de otra persona, copiar total o parcialmente las respuestas de otra persona a las preguntas de un examen, haciendo o consiguiendo que otro tome en su nombre cualquier prueba o examen oral o escrito, así como la ayuda o facilitación para que otra persona incurra en la referida conducta”. Cualquiera de estas acciones estará sujeta a sanciones disciplinarias en conformidad con el procedimiento disciplinario establecido en el Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR vigente.

Sexual harassment policy: “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.

Grades:

The work for this course will be weighted as follows:

- Attendance, punctuality and active participation 20%
- Writing and pre-writing exercises | sources folder 30%
- Oral presentation of your final research 10%
- Final research paper 40%

Weeks 1-4

- Introduction to course, the writing process (clustering and brainstorming, developing a thesis statement). Readings of essays and film documentaries provided by the professor: response papers due. Online database research exercises: identify and develop keywords and phrases.

Weeks 5-6

- Begin working on research paper: Picking a Topic for your final paper. Developing a cognitive map and other pre-writing processes. Gathering primary and secondary sources.

Weeks 7-11

- Developing topic sentences, paragraph agreement and introduction / conclusion strategies. Paraphrasing and incorporating sources to the body essay. Writing research paper continues.

Weeks 12-14

- **First draft due.** Review of sentence structure problems: subject-verb agreement, missing subject, run-on sentences, sentence fragment problems and parallel structure problems. Transition words and phrases, revising, editing and MLA style conventions.

Weeks 15-16

- Final revisions, building a bibliography. Oral presentations.

**Final research paper due**