

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

Instructor: Prof. Marcos Pechio

Email: [MH.Pechio@gmail.com](mailto:MH.Pechio@gmail.com)

Room: P-105

Course: English 3231 - Expository Writing I

Office hours ( by previous appointment only) T - TH from 1:00pm to 2:00pm

English Dept. Computer Lab or by video conference

In person modality.

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 devices.
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. Online Drive Folder: all work is to be uploaded onto a single online Main Folder using your institutional email on Google Drive (eg. YourName ENGL3226). This Main Folder is shared ONLY ONCE with my email address at the beginning of the semester. Please keep all your work organized in other folders within your Main Folder (eg. "Essay Folder"> "Cluster" + "Essay doc.", "Sources Folder", "Journal Folder", etc.).
7. \*\*\*\*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% |

#### 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.

#### Reasonable Accommodation

Students receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services must inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that reasonable accommodation and any necessary equipment can be provided, in keeping with the recommendations of the Coordinating Office for People with Disabilities (Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos -- OAPI) under the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Students with special needs must also inform the instructor of any accommodation-related needs.

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#### Academic Integrity

The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR General Student Bylaws (Certification No. 13, 2009-2010, of the UPR Board of Trustees ) establishes that “academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: fraudulent actions, obtaining grades or academic degrees using false or fraudulent pretexts, entirely or partially copying academic work from another person, entirely or partially plagiarizing the work of another person, entirely or partially copying responses from another person to examination questions, having another person take any test, oral or written examination on the student’s behalf, as well as assisting or facilitating any person to incur in the aforementioned conduct.” Fraudulent conduct refers to “behavior with the intent to defraud, including, but not limited to, malicious alteration or falsification of grades, records, identification cards or other official documents of the University of Puerto Rico or any other institution.” Any of these actions shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions in accordance with the respective disciplinary procedure, as stated in the current UPR Student Bylaws.

#### Discrimination / Sexual Harassment

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination in education, employment and in the provision of services based on race, color, sex, age, nationality, ethnicity, origin or social status, ancestry, marital status, religious or political ideas or beliefs, veteran status, other-abledness (disability), sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms. The university also prohibits sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification No. 130, 2014-

2015 of the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment should contact 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 further orientation and/or to file a formal complaint.

#### Contingency Plan in Case of Emergency

En caso de surgir una emergencia o interrupción de clases, el profesor continuará ofreciendo el curso utilizando la modalidad a distancia o en línea, según establecidas en este prontuario oficial. De acuerdo a la información oficial y las directrices institucionales, el profesor realizará esfuerzos para comunicarse con los estudiantes vía correo electrónico institucional u otros medios alternos disponibles para coordinar la continuidad del ofrecimiento.

*If an emergency or an interruption of courses occurs, course offerings will take place with the support of distance learning modalities, as established in the official syllabus. In compliance with official communications and institutional guidelines, the professor will make efforts to communicate with students via institutional email or other available communication outlets to coordinate the continuity of course work.*

#### Bibliography:

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

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

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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](http://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.