Intensive English Language Program – Portland State University
Guided Research Writing_sample syllabus

Textbook Materials:
- Sourcework: Academic Writing from Sources, Nancy E. Dollahite and Julie Haun, (2nd Edition)

Required Materials:
- A binder or folder for course handouts.
- Highlighters for reading

Course Description:
This class introduces the skills you need to write university-level academic papers that require the use of outside sources and citation format to develop and support your ideas.

Student Learning Objectives:
By the end of the term you should be able to do the following with at least 70% accuracy:
1. Develop independence in identifying and evaluating relevant ideas across texts and in using these ideas to formulate a position on the theme through note-taking, written responses, discussion, and paraphrasing
2. Narrow a topic, write thesis statements and outline a research-based essay using appropriate rhetorical patterns in writing as dictated by the research question (cause/effect, argument, compare/contrast, classification)
3. Given a research question, write an arguable thesis statement
4. Demonstrate critical thought in choosing, categorizing, organizing, and outlining ideas that integrate outside evidence with own ideas to support a thesis
5. Write and revise two 3-4 page research papers that include well-developed, supported body paragraphs with details and examples, an introduction, a conclusion, and reference (works cited) list
6. Synthesize information from sources with your own ideas by using connective language and grammatical structures for introducing outside evidence as support
7. Accurately cite sources (in text) using APA format to quote and paraphrase. Format an academically appropriate research paper (including title page and reference list) using APA guidelines
8. Use academic register in writing, such as theme-appropriate vocabulary, academic register with regard to personal pronouns (no first or second person pronouns), and appropriate use of modals to express varying degrees of certainty
9. Use a variety of academic vocabulary and sentence structures that clearly show the complex relationships between ideas and with no significant global errors that interfere with meaning
10. Accurately employ grammar and vocabulary to create cohesion
11. Develop comprehensible writing using appropriate and accurate grammar
12. Contribute ideas for revision and improvement during the drafting process, and participate actively during writing conferences
13. Recognize and self-correct errors which block clear expression of ideas with guidance from your instructor

Assignments:
• You will complete two short guided research papers (3-4 pages) which will require:
  o Close reading and comprehension of assigned source material
  o Paraphrasing and other homework assignments
  o An outlining process
  o Multiple drafts
  o Proper APA citation both in text and reference page
• In addition, there will be a midterm-writing exam (during class) and a final writing exam (during finals week).

Grading:
• First research paper  30%
• Midterm  15%
• Second research paper  30%
• Final examination  25%

Grades will be shared with you via Engrade, a web site that lets teachers keep track of grades and share them with students. Eric will create a free account for you, using your PSU email.

YOU MUST PASS THE FINAL EXAMINATION TO PASS THE CLASS.

No student can pass this course without getting a passing grade, on both organization and grammatical issues appropriate to this level, on an in-class essay (i.e. the final exam).

As a safe and supportive classroom community, students are expected to:
• Arrive in class on time and participate in all classroom activities
• Put cell phones on silent mode during class time and use them in a way that is non-disruptive and respectful towards the teacher and other students
• Inform the instructor in advance if s/he must be absent
• Respect all languages, cultures, and learning styles