Independent Research Writing_sample syllabus

Required Class Materials

- **Course Packet** (Available at Rede Copy, 1915 SW 6th Avenue Portland, OR 97201)

Course Description:

This course is the second in a sequence on research writing. Students are expected to already have experience in building written arguments using information from outside sources. Writing will be done in and outside of class, and will practice both accuracy and fluency.

In this course, you will write an 8-10 page research paper, focusing on the writing process. You will choose and narrow an appropriate academic topic for analysis. Then, you will locate and evaluate reliable sources for the topic, use information from those sources to support a claim. Using accepted citation rules to integrate quotes and paraphrases, you will integrate outside sources into your writing. The writing process ends with revising drafts of your work.

Goals for Independent Research Writing:
For successful completion of this course, you must be able to:

1. Independently develop a writing topic suitable for university level work:
   - Write a research proposal for the research topic
   - Use a variety of search strategies to locate 10 or more sources for your paper.
   - Evaluate sources of information for both reliability and appropriateness for your topic.
   - Establish a note-taking system for managing information from sources.

2. Demonstrate your ability to provide a thoughtful analysis of ideas in written essays, including:
   - Synthesis of information from a variety of sources
   - Well-developed explanations of your ideas
   - Accurate comprehension of information from sources.

3. Demonstrate your ability to organize written work according to American academic standards:
   - Use of a thesis statement and clearly introduced supporting points.
   - Effective use of cohesive devices in the essay.

4. Demonstrate your ability to effectively use outside sources of information in your writing:
   - Use source information to support a point.
   - Effectively integrate source information into a paragraph using either quotations or paraphrases.

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• Correctly document source information using APA format.

5. Demonstrate your ability to use grammar and vocabulary within your writing that is appropriate for university level work.
   • Correct use of verb tense and word forms
   • Accurate use of transition words
   • Correct sentence structure
   • Appropriate vocabulary

Assignments and grading:

I. Graded work:

1. *Individual Research Paper (70%):*

   Students will select their own writing topic, find appropriate sources, develop a research question and write an **8-10 page paper** that answers the research question and integrates information from **8-10 sources.** Throughout the writing process, students will have opportunities to present and discuss their work with each other. Much of the work, however, will be done independently. A grading rubric used for this paper can be found near the beginning of the course packet.

   Writing a research paper is time-consuming, and involves a number of steps. You must give yourself enough time to complete each step. Your success in this class is based on a timely completion of all of the assignments. You are responsible for following the schedule for turning in assignments. If you are absent, you should check the schedule and/or the class wiki to ensure that you meet all the due dates.

   **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you miss too many of the steps, you will not pass the class, even if you turn in a final paper.

2. *Homework, quizzes, and vocabulary work (30%)*

   • There will be graded homework assignments throughout the term
   • There will be two required writing conferences in the term. You are expected to attend and be prepared for both conferences. They will count as graded assignments.