



DIVISION OF ADULT LEARNING

SYLLABUS

ENGL-110: Rhetoric and Research

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University Mission Statement:

Lee University is a Christian institution which offers liberal arts and professional education on both the baccalaureate and graduate levels through residential and distance programs. It seeks to provide education that integrates biblical truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures with truth discovered through the study of arts and sciences and in the practice of various professions. A personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior is the controlling perspective from which the educational enterprise is carried out. The foundational purpose of all educational programs is to develop within the students knowledge, appreciation, understanding, ability and skills which will prepare them for responsible Christian living in a complex world.

Catalog Description:

This course focuses on four major writing projects, enables students to review the creative process as it applies to composition, learn the research methodologies and procedures of their chosen discipline (including computer-generated research), internalize approaches to critical thinking, apply basic principles of public speaking, and perform literary analysis. Students must earn a grade of C or better to pass this course.

Required Text(s) and/or Supporting Resources:**Required Text:**

Kirsznner, Laurie G. and Stephen R. Mandell. *The Pocket Cengage Handbook* (any edition). Boston: Cengage Learning.

Additional Supporting Resources (not required to purchase):

Resources included in Learning Management System (LMS).

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge:

ACT English score of 25 or better, or an SAT recentered verbal score above 570 or completion of ENGL-106 with a grade of C or better.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes:**PURPOSE**

This course focuses on the development of *advanced writing skills and basic oral communication skills* as students review principles of rhetoric, practice techniques of research (including computer-related skills), improve critical thinking skills and strategies, apply principles of public speaking, and analyze literature.

General Objectives (Course Goals):

This course seeks to:

1. Encourage students to use writing and reading for inquiry, learning, thinking, and communicating.
2. Present the techniques of critical thinking as applied to essay writing and research.
3. Provide opportunities for students to write and revise multiple drafts of major writing assignments
4. Help students understand a writing assignment as a series of tasks, including finding, evaluation, analyzing, and synthesizing appropriate primary and secondary sources.

5. Acquaint students with research methods.
6. Teach the basic techniques of public speaking.

Specific Objectives (*Learning Outcomes*):

As a result of the activities and study in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Ask and begin to answer worthwhile questions.
2. Understand the ethics of reading, writing, and research.
3. See research and writing as a way to care about the well-being of others and an opportunity to extend hospitality.
4. Write clear and coherent academic prose.
5. Construct a persuasive and ethically responsible argument.
6. Employ writing and research as a recursive process.
7. Analyze assigned readings for literary and rhetorical techniques.
8. Synthesize information from a variety of sources.
7. Apply the techniques of public speaking in oral presentations based on writing or research projects.

Major Topics:

1. Rhetorical principles, processes, and structures
2. Basic techniques of public speaking
3. Research methods and techniques
4. Documentation forms and techniques
5. Revising and editing procedures, including spot attention to grammatical deficiencies in papers
6. Techniques of analysis of the chosen literary genre
7. Critical thinking skills

Course Assessments:

- A. **Text/Media.** All text/media is evaluated in the threaded discussions and other assignments.
- B. **Threaded Discussion.** The threaded discussions are an opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course material and interact with fellow students. Students must demonstrate mastery of unit readings and offer evidence of insightful and constructive discussion in threaded discussions. Collaboration in weekly threaded discussions requires the skillful integration of source materials, documentation of all sources in the proper writing style based on the requirements of your chosen major (APA or Turabian), and evidence of critical thought on weekly readings. Just doing an initial post and/or response will not guarantee any point value. Discussions will be evaluated as follows: a) on the depth of engagement with the discussion topic and/or issue; b) on the depth of understanding of the topic and/or issue; and c) on the depth of interaction with the other students. An initial post is required (evaluation of "a" and "b" above) and then response posts interacting to other students' initial posts (evaluation of "c" above). Once the discussion deadline is reached, there will be no further opportunity to attain points for that discussion. If you have further questions on how these are evaluated, please contact your instructor.
- C. **Unit Assignments (Reflections).** Students will engage in a variety of independent weekly assignments. These assignments may include the application of all grammatical/mechanical/research principles of weekly lessons; evaluations of models of writing (including peer reviews); proof of revisions based on self and peer evaluation; and/or analysis of figurative language, rhetorical appeals, and/or rhetorical devices.

- D. **Unit Assignments (Essays).** Students must complete three essays. Two will be literary analysis essays demonstrating critical reflection from unit lessons in regard to artistic style, literary elements, mechanics, and appropriate documentation. These literary analyses will include the effective and persuasive integration of textual evidence and meaningful connections supporting your arguable thesis. The other essay will involve conducting library research and submitting an argumentative research paper demonstrating evidence of style, rhetorical devices and appeals, research documentation, mechanics, and critical reflection from unit lessons. In this essay, you are expected to show mastery of the rhetorical elements of persuasion and make effective connections supporting your arguable thesis. In all essays, you will engage in all stages of the writing process, including self and peer evaluation.
- E. **NOTE: *It is expected that students demonstrate a basic proficiency in punctuation, mechanics, grammar, and the writing style based on the requirements of your chosen major (APA or Turabian) documentation.***

Evaluation:

A. Threaded Discussions	340
B. Unit Assignments	660

NOTE: In English courses, you must receive a "C" (70%) or above to pass.

Grading Scale:

The standardized grading scale provides a uniform foundation from which to assess your performance.

Grade	Quality Points per Credit	Score
A	4.0	930 - 1000
A-	3.7	900 - 929
B+	3.3	870 - 899
B	3.0	830 - 869
B-	2.7	800 - 829
C+	2.3	770 - 799
C	2.0	730 - 769
C-	1.7	700 - 729
F	.0	0 - 599

Letter Grade Equivalencies:

A = Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.

B = Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an

acceptable level for a cohort member. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.

C = Quality and quantity of work is average. Has average comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.

F = Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Unit and Time Distribution:

The time to complete each unit is approximately 14-17 hours per week on average for a three hour course. Actual assignment completion times will vary. A more detailed breakdown of each assignment can be found within the course.

POLICIES

Attendance Policy:

At Lee University, student success is directly related to the student actively attending and engaging in the course. Online courses are no different from classroom courses in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner.

Online courses will have weekly mechanisms for student participation, which can be documented by submission/completion of assignments, participation in threaded discussions, and/or specific communication with the instructor as outlined within the syllabus.

Academic Honesty Policy/Information:

Cheating is defined as the use or attempted use of unauthorized materials or receiving unauthorized assistance or communication during any academic exercise.

Examples of cheating include:

- Submitting work for academic evaluation that is not yours as your own.
- Receiving assistance from another person during an examination.
- Using prepared notes or materials during an examination.
- Permitting another student to copy your work.
- Plagiarism.
- Falsification.
- Other misrepresentations of academic achievement submitted for evaluation or a grade.

As stated in the LEE UNIVERSITY Catalog, plagiarism is presenting as your own work the words, ideas, opinions, theories, or thoughts which are not common knowledge. Students who present others' words or ideas as their own without fair attribution (documentation) are guilty of plagiarizing. Unfair attribution includes, but is not limited to, a direct quotation of all or part of another's words without appropriately identifying the source. It is also unfair attribution to have included a source within a Works Cited page without having carefully cited the source within the text of the document.

Plagiarism also includes, but is not limited to, the following acts when performed without fair attribution:

- a. directly quoting all or part of another person's words without quotation marks, as appropriate to the discipline.
- b. paraphrasing all or part of another person's words without documentation.
- c. stating an idea, theory, or formula as your own when it actually originated with another person.
- d. purchasing (or receiving in any other manner) a term paper or other assignment, which is the work of another person, and submitting that work as if it were one's own.

Late Policy:

- No credit is available for postings of any kind made in the **Threaded Discussions** after a given Unit ends.
- If your faculty approves your submission of late assignments, each assignment score will be penalized 10% per day up to five days late. After the fifth day, late assignments will not be accepted. (Note: An assignment is a paper, a project, a team presentation, etc., **not** a discussion.)
- No late assignments will be accepted after the close of the final Unit.

EXPECTATIONS

Faculty Expectations of Students:

- Have consistent access to a computer and possess baseline computer and information skills prior to taking online courses.
- Log into their courses within 24 hours of the beginning of the session to confirm their participation. (Students who register after the session has begun will be responsible for any assignments or material already covered.)
- Take an active role in each unit, participating fully in discussions, assignments and other activities throughout the entire session. If some event interferes with that participation, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor in advance.
- Review the course syllabus and other preliminary course materials thoroughly as early as possible during the first few days of the course.
- Be responsible for raising any questions or seeking clarification about these materials, if necessary, within the first week of the session.
- Frequently check the course calendar for due dates.
- Submit assignments and papers on time, and take tests by the posted dates. Acceptance of late work and any penalties for late submissions are up to the discretion of the instructor, based on the expectations outlined in the course syllabus.
- Contribute meaningful, timely comments to online discussions according to guidelines provided.
- Contribute substantively to group assignments (if required in course).
- Check for University announcements each time you log onto the LMS. These postings are critical.
- Use Lee email address.

- Complete the "Student Survey of Instruction" for each course to evaluate the instructor and the course.

Students' Expectations of Faculty:

- The opportunity to be active participants in a stimulating and challenging education that is global in scope, interactive in process and diverse in content and approach.
- A friendly, respectful, open, and encouraging learning environment.
- A course outline or syllabus that clearly provides information regarding course content, teaching methods, course objectives, grading, attendance/participation policies, due dates, and student assessment guidelines.
- Instructors who are responsive and available to discuss within 48 hours students' progress, course content, assignments, etc. at mutually convenient times from the first day of the session through the last day of the session. (Check the faculty contact information regarding weekends and holidays.)
- Individual instructor's contact information, schedules, availability, and procedural details are located within the course.
- To have access to instructor feedback and grading on projects, exams, papers, quizzes, etc., within ten (10) days of assignment due date so students are able to determine where they have made errors or need additional work.
- Final grade/feedback provided within ten (10) days after the last date of course.

IMPORTANT STUDENT INFORMATION

Special Needs:

Lee University, in conjunction with the Academic Support Office, works to ensure students with documented disabilities have access to educational opportunities. Students who need accommodations based on a disability should visit the Academic Support Office, call (423) 614-8181, or email academicsupport@leeuniversity.edu. It is the student's responsibility to share the Accommodations Form with the instructor in order to initiate the accommodations.

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