

CLBR-090-02  
Winter 2014

### Advanced Academic Writing

Mr. Ken Benoit	Lynn 101A
Office Hours: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. M W F and by appointment	Phone: (206) 296-6064
Classroom: ADMIN 308 Days: Monday, Wednesday & Friday	Time: 12:30 – 1:20 p.m.
E-mail: <a href="mailto:kbenoit@seattleu.edu">kbenoit@seattleu.edu</a> <i>Phone calls will be returned and replies to e-mail messages provided within 48 hours (except on weekends).</i>	

#### Texts

*American Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective (Revised Edition)* by Edward C. Stewart and Milton J. Bennett

*A Brief Guide to Writing from Readings (Fifth Edition)* by Stephen W. Wilhoit

#### Course Description and Objectives

The goal of the course is to provide students an understanding of American cultural assumptions and values in order to increase their awareness of and improve their effectiveness in American academic environments. The course is structured as an overview of human perceptual processes, the influence of culture on language use, cultural dimensions of communication, and their cross-cultural implications. The assignments will focus on translating cultural values and assumptions into specific and practical applications. The course aims to develop students' ability to produce appropriate modes of formal academic writing. Strategic reading skills and sentence-level grammar are also included as ongoing course goals.

#### Course Concepts

*Cultural values and presuppositions:*

- An overview of American cultural values and their manifestations in speech, writing, interaction, and many other diverse aspects of human functioning
- Individualist and collectivist cultures and diverging orientations

*Aspects of academic writing:*

- Implications, overstatements, understatements, and hedges

- Cohesion devices, and discourse moves and markers
- Text organization and textual coherence
- Reader- and writer-based prose as a manifestation of cultural values
- Thesis-driven analytical and expository prose

## Course Components

**Three major written assignments, based on two drafts.** Assignments may be reporting information, and/or synthesizing and analyzing data, as well as readings. The major assignments vary in length but should be approximately 3 to 6 typed pages, double-spaced, with appropriate citations of readings and materials.

**Three in-class writing tests,** based in readings and information synthesis.

**Out-of-class readings, grammar and sentence-level exercises, vocabulary work, and textbook homework exercises.**

**Active participation in class discussions and activities is essential.** Verbal communication in today's professional world is highly valued and the university expects students to engage in active discussion so that students can increase their learning and be prepared for their professions.

## Course Policies

NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class hour on the day they are due. If a main written assignment is not completed on time, the course grade may be reduced by one grade point (letter grade).

REGULAR ATTENDANCE of classes during the quarter is mandatory. Students who miss more than two classes during the quarter may have their grade lowered as much as one grade point (letter grade). Arriving late to class three times is considered equivalent to one absence.

## ASSIGNMENT AND COURSE GRADING:

Writing or presentation assignments and participation are graded subjectively and receive letter grades.

- A -- Writing demonstrates very strong organizational, academic, grammar, and vocabulary skills.
- B -- Writing demonstrates good organizational, academic, grammatical, and vocabulary skills, but has some errors.
- C -- Writing demonstrates generally satisfactory rhetorical, grammatical, and vocabulary skills, but contains some consistent errors.
- D -- Writing demonstrates some organizational, academic, grammatical, and vocabulary skills, all of which require improvement.

F -- Writing demonstrates only basic organizational, academic, and grammatical skills; vocabulary is limited, and the ideas difficult to understand.

**C is the lowest passing grade, and those who earn a lower course grade will have to repeat the course. In this case, F letter grade will appear on student transcripts.**

<b>Three Major Writing Assignments</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Three In-Class Writing Assignments</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Participation and Progress</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Homework</b>	<b>5%</b>

**With the major assignments, the quality of the second draft is weighted double that of the first draft.**

After the class ends, students can pick up their papers at my office or leave a stamped and self-addressed envelope for the papers to be mailed in. Assignments not collected within two weeks after the end of the quarter will be discarded.

#### **A Special Note on Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as using the ideas and words of another individual without giving credit or acknowledging their work. If a student submits an assignment as his or her own, but it in part or whole represents someone else's work, the student commits a serious academic offense. In U.S. universities, plagiarism represents a transgression of rules of academic conduct. According to the policy of academic integrity outlined in the Student Handbook, the instructor will determine an appropriate course of action or penalties.

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There will be no class on the following days:

Monday, January 20 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Monday, February 17 (Presidents' Day)

Last day of class: Monday, March 17

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*Note: This syllabus is only a general guideline of course policies and goals. The instructor reserves the right to modify the course objectives, concepts, and components during the quarter.*

*If subsequent changes in the course goals or policies occur, students will receive updated information and syllabus revisions.*