

## English 201 sec B Item 1141

### The Research Paper

Fall 2012

Monday-Friday 8:30-9:20 a.m., Room R209

Instructor: Tom Gibbons

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Phone: 425-564-2011 (please be sure to leave your name, what course you're taking and your email address in your message)

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30-12:00 p.m., or by appointment, Room R230K.



### Required Materials:

1. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed.  
ISBN: 978-1-60329-024-1
2. A way to access additional electronic texts **in class** (either electronically or printed out—Printing is available in campus computer labs, particularly in the N building.)

### Course Objectives:

- To objectively summarize college-level material and identify primary and supporting assertions
- To evaluate different types of evidence (i.e., tone/diction, logical reasoning, authority)
- To synthesize source material into your own writing
- To create an original and clearly supported thesis
- To demonstrate proper use of in-text citations and correctly create a Works Cited page
- To demonstrate facility with varied primary sources and gain familiarity with library research skills.

### Composition of Course Grade:

- Research Project 55%
  - Position Paper 15%
  - Interview Project 15%
  - Annotated Works Cited 5%
  - Final Paper 20%
- Short Writings 15%
- Reading Responses, Drafts, Quizzes and Participation 30%

### Grading Scale and Its Meaning:

A: 94-100	B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69	F: 59 and below
A-: 90-93	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	D: 60-66	
	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73		

- A: Answers all major aspects of the assignment in a beautiful way. Grammatical and mechanical errors are nearly non-existent. May cause the brain to fire in unexpected ways.

- B: Completely answers all major aspects of the assignment. Grammatical and mechanical errors are few. Some aspect of the paper (complexity of ideas, structure, expression, grammar and mechanics, etc.) is outstanding.
- C: Completely answers all aspects of the assignment. There may be some grammatical or mechanical errors. In general, the paper works, hangs together, is complete.
- D: Fails to answer at least one major aspect of the assignment. Grammatical or mechanical errors are common. The paper may feel sloppy or rushed.
- F: Fails to answer more than one major aspect of the assignment. Grammatical or mechanical errors serve as a significant barrier to clear communication. The paper lacks coherence and/or control.
- U: Grammar, mechanics and composition errors serve as a significant barrier to communication. If you earn a grade of "U" on an assignment, you have one week from the date the assignment is returned to make all necessary corrections and resubmit it. Grade impacts:
- An initial grade of "U" on an assignment will result in a 10-point deduction from the grade of the resubmission.
  - A second assessment of "U" on a resubmitted assignment will result in a grade of 59.
  - Failure to meet the resubmission deadline will result in a grade of 59.

### Attendance:

You are expected to attend all class meetings. There is no such thing as an excused absence. Any in-class assignments are due at the beginning of class, even if I don't collect them then. If you come in late, your assignment is late, too.

You are responsible for finding out what you missed in class on a day that you are absent. If at all possible, make advance arrangements with someone in the class to help you catch up with what you missed.

Points for missed in-class work, quizzes, participation and peer evaluations cannot be made up.

If you choose to make a habit of arriving late or not attending, you will create the impression that you are irresponsible and careless, **even if that isn't the case**. If you are having trouble getting to class, or getting to class on time, I encourage you to talk to me. I may be able to help you find a solution to your problem.

### Participation

You are expected to actively participate in class on a daily basis, including discussions and peer editing. I understand that this sort of participation can be difficult for some people. Please do try. Don't expect to get full marks in this area unless you actually contribute to the class on a regular basis. For others, this sort of participation is easy.

Please try to be sensitive to the needs of others who also need the opportunity to participate.

### **Timely Submission of Work:**

Lateness makes me cranky. Late work throws off your schedule and mine. All assignments have a due date and time. Your grade will be lowered by 10% of the value of the assignment for every calendar day the work is late; The first late day begins one minute after the assigned deadline. If you fail to turn in an assignment by the time it has been graded, your assignment will not be accepted.

### **Electronic Devices:**

Electronic devices may be used in this classroom for class work only. Use of electronic devices for anything other than class work is not permitted. Ringers should be silenced.

### **Mutual Respect:**

We're all here for the same reason, to learn. Yes, me too. Therefore, we will all respect each other in this class. If you choose not to respect your fellow learners, then you choose not to be in this class. Repeated acts of gross disrespect will result in removal from the class. It's okay not to agree with others, but you must be civil about it. If you have any questions, please ask me or refer to the college's "Affirmation of Inclusion" posted in this classroom and online at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

### **Academic Honesty:**

I expect you to behave both honorably and with integrity. Cheating, lying and stealing will not be tolerated.

Please do not use a single paper or project to fulfill requirements for this course as well as another. Every assignment should be written expressly for this class.

Plagiarism is the theft of the ideas, words or work of others. Plagiarism is not only taking someone else's paper and trying to pass it off as your own, but also involves failure to cite quotations, paraphrases or ideas from a source. A good rule of thumb: if the idea isn't yours, cite it. I understand that sometimes it can get confusing, knowing when to cite and when not to. That's why I'm here. If you have a question, ask me. As far as the other type of plagiarism is concerned--the kind where you baldly steal someone else's work and call it your own--don't do it. It's a waste of your time and money. You will receive a "0" for the assignment, and, depending on the magnitude of the infraction, may well fail the class.

The college currently uses turnitin.com for checking the originality of work. You will be required to create an account and submit specific assignments directly to turnitin.com.

Credentials for creating your turnitin.com account:

Class ID: **5551825**

Enrollment Password: **engl201secB**

### **Values Conflicts:**

Essential to a liberal arts education is an open-minded tolerance for ideas and modes of expression that might conflict with one's personal values. By being exposed to such ideas or expressions, students are not expected to endorse or adopt them but rather to understand that they are part of the free flow of information upon which higher education depends.

You may find that class requirements may include engaging certain materials, such as books, films, and art work, which may, in whole or in part, offend you. These materials are equivalent to required texts and are essential to the course content. If you decline to engage the required material by not reading, viewing, or performing material you consider offensive, you will still be required to meet class requirements in order to earn credit. This may require responding to the content of the material, and you may not be able to fully participate in required class discussions, exams, or assignments.

### **Add/Drop:**

You will not automatically be dropped from this course if you just stop coming. It is your responsibility to fill out the appropriate paperwork at the Student Services Center. If you stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a failing grade in this class.

### **Disabilities:**

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the DRC if you have any questions about classroom accommodations whether you are a student or a faculty member.

If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC staff as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>

Remember if you are someone who has either an apparent or non-apparent disability and requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.