

MCPHS

MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE of PHARMACY and HEALTH SCIENCES

LIB 111.K | Expository Writing I Spring 2013 (Subject to change)

Course Information

LIB 111.K | Expository Writing I

Credits: 3

Location: Fennel 315

Schedule: Mon, Tues, Thur 11:00-11:50

Instructor

Jeff McClelland

Office: Fennel 314

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00-1:00, Tuesday 10:00-10:50 and 2:00-2:50, Thursday 12:00-1:00.

Catalog Description

Catalog Description: LIB 111 focuses on writing clear and coherent summaries, analyses, and essays. The course also stresses the ability to understand, use, and document college-level non-fiction readings as evidence for effectively formulating and accurately supporting a thesis.

Course Description and Goals:

Both globalization and the internet are contributing to an increasingly mass-mediated social world with a proliferation of information. As a result, critical thinking, reading and writing skill are becoming more indispensable as we navigate and make sense of this complex and ever evolving world. In this class, you will practice these critical skills through reading, discussing and analyzing a selection of literary and academic texts that explore issues in various scientific fields. These readings, most of them written by scientists, are organized thematically around challenging and controversial questions such as the nature of science, relationships between science and our physical bodies, and the ways science impacts our natural environment. They will form the basis for assignments in summary, critique, synthesis, and persuasion. You will engage in a writing intensive approach that emphasizes mastery of information and concepts AND the application of what you have learned in a variety of forms.

In addition to being assessed on their mastery of course-specific forms of information and content, students will also be expected to meet the College's standards for Writing Proficiency. Students who are not performing at a satisfactory level of proficiency in the course, may, at any time, be required by faculty to seek additional instruction from the course instructor and/or the Writing Center.

Course Textbook

Grinnell, R. W. (Ed.). (2007). *Science and Society*. NY: Pearson Longman.

Course Materials

- A folder for organizing your papers and taking notes
- A notebook for keeping your academic journal

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- comprehend, evaluate, and summarize college-level readings;
- recognize and evaluate sound and flawed arguments;
- write coherent essays, including creating a strong thesis, developing logical analysis and synthesis of their own ideas and others', and organizing paragraphs with strong topic sentences and transition;
- present their own and others' views about a subject clearly, soundly, and accurately by selecting, documenting, and discussing appropriate evidence;
- quote and/or paraphrase all sources accurately, and cite them using Modern Language Association (MLA) format;
- effectively write various expository genres, including summaries, analysis, synthesis, and argument;
- determine and use an appropriate writing voice;
- demonstrate an understanding of all aspects of the writing process, including pre-writing, drafting, revising, and proofreading for mechanical errors;
- generate essays and response papers that demonstrate a strong comprehension of vocabulary and usage, and a low error rate (fewer than 2-3 vocabulary/mechanical errors per page);
- present material orally, in a form that is logical and organized, and which demonstrates knowledge of good public speaking skills, including clear speaking, expressive body language, and effective use of audio-visual materials.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING AND TEACHING EFFECTIVENESS

Class requirements and assignments

Summary (300 word minimum)	10%
Explanatory Synthesis (500 word minimum)	20%
Argumentative synthesis (800 word minimum)	20%
Quizzes	20%
Portfolio	10%
Academic journal	10%
Participation/Homework	10%

Explanation of assignments

Papers and essays

You will write three formal papers or essays. Papers must be completed and handed in at the beginning of the class on the day that they are due. In addition to a hard copy, you must also upload your paper to Blackboard by class time on the day they are due. Papers that are handed in late will be lowered a full grade (for example, a B- becomes a C-). If you anticipate not being able to hand in a paper on time, you must talk with me at least 2 days before the paper is due. In order to pass this class, you must complete all three writing assignments.

Quizzes

You will take 3 quizzes that will assess your understanding of the readings. They may include in-class writing assignments, short answer reading comprehension questions, and questions on concepts and vocabulary from the readings. Some of the quizzes will be announced while others will not be announced. There will be no opportunities for making up a quiz if you are absent, but your lowest score will be dropped.

Final Portfolio

You will compile a final portfolio to demonstrate your overall improvement in writing throughout the course. It will include samples of your best writing and a reflection on your writing progress.

Academic journal

You will keep an academic journal to carry out homework writing assignments, react to class readings, and explore ideas to develop into your essays. Your grade will be based on teacher grades and comments that I write in your journal. You will hand your journal in at the end of the semester.

Participation and homework

You will be evaluated on your participation in the class and completion of homework assignments. Excellent participation demonstrates deep thinking and understanding of class readings and topics, as well as the ability to engage with the ideas of other students. You will also be expected to come to class with your homework completed. Late homework assignments will not be accepted due to absence or illness.

Grading and evaluation

SCORES	GRADES	DESCRIPTION
93~100	A	Excellent
90~92	A-	
87~89	B+	Good/Above Average
83~86	B	
80~82	B-	
77~79	C+	Average
73~76	C	
70~72	C-	
60~69	D	Below Average
< 60	F	Fail

CLASS POLICY

This section will give some details on my expectations for classroom behavior. Because you are preparing for a professional career, I expect that you will treat being a student as a job. If you showed up late for work, or missed work without an excuse, you would probably be fired. I expect that you treat this class as a professional commitment. This means that you should show up for each class, on time, with all the necessary materials and assignments, ready to do your job.

Attendance Policy

The Policy of MCPHS International and the English Language Academy (ELA) requires regular and punctual attendance in order for a student to satisfy course requirements. Accordingly, students are expected and required to attend all regularly scheduled ELA classes in which they are enrolled. Any student who fails to attend 6 regularly scheduled classes for any course will fail the course.

Attendance records will be based on sign-in sheets that will be circulated during each class. It is the responsibility of the student to sign his or her name at the appropriate place on the attendance sheet, at the beginning of class, and each student who fails to do so will be considered absent. The standards of academic integrity apply to this policy.

Arrival in class after the scheduled starting time constitutes one instance of lateness. Latecomers (those arriving 1 – 10 minutes after the start of class) will incur .33 of an absence. In other words, if a student is late to class three times, he or she earns one absence. If a student is more than 10 minutes late, s/he will be marked absent for the day.

Students will receive a written warning when they violate the absence policy (i.e., exceeds the maximum allowable number of classes) in a particular class. In that event, the student will receive an e-mail from the Associate Director of ESL's Office, notifying him or her that he or she has failed the course.

Cell Phones

Cell phones should be turned off and not used in the classroom. If I see you using one, I will take away points from your participation grade.

Plagiarism

All papers will be turned in through Blackboard which will automatically detect for plagiarism. If it is discovered that any writing has been plagiarized, the student will receive an automatic failing grade for the assignment.

MCPHS Academic Policies and Procedures

Students must abide by the Academic Policies and Procedures set forth in the MCPHS College Catalog. Important information regarding Excused Absence Approval, Disability Support Services for students, Academic Honesty and Plagiarism and other academic policies is set forth in the Academic Policies and Procedures section of the MCPHS Catalog. <https://my.mcphs.edu/CollegeCatalog>. Students must read, understand, and comply with all of these policies and procedures.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Week	Topics	Readings	Assessments/Assignments
Week 1	What is science?	p. 1-6 p. 7-10	Journal
Week 2	What is science?	“Boys will be Boys” p. 31-34 p. 34-42	Journal
Week 3	What is science?	p. 11-19 p. 22-30	Journal Summary due
Week 4	What is science?	p. 131-135 p. 149-152	Journal Quiz
Week 5	Science and the environment	p. 152-163 p. 164-175 p. 175-182	Journal
Week 6	Science and the environment		Journal
Week 7	Science and the environment	Additional readings TBA	Draft of Explanatory synthesis due Tues Explanatory synthesis due Thur Quiz
Week 8	Global Warming	An Inconvenient Truth Additional readings TBA	Journal Library module
Spring Break			
Week 9	Conferencing	p. 93-105	Journal
Week 10	Bodies and genes	p. 105-114 p. 115-119	Journal
Week 11	Bodies and genes	p. 119-122 p. 122-129	Journal Library module
Week 12	Bodies and genes	Additional readings TBA	Draft of Argumentative synthesis due
Week 13	Bodies and genes		Journal Argumentative synthesis due
Week 14	Portfolio review		Quiz Portfolio due