

Department of English and Modern Languages
College of Arts and Sciences
Spring Semester, 201X

Course Syllabus for
ENGL 299 Introduction to Research Writing

Pitt State Pathway Mission Statement:

The *Pitt State Pathway* curriculum serves as the heart of the university education by fostering interdisciplinary competencies that typify the educated person. It is designed to facilitate the development of key proficiencies including communication and information literacy. The Pitt State Pathway curriculum provides a transformational experience that challenges students to think creatively and critically, and to immerse themselves in the productive examination of humans in their global setting. By encouraging the development of skills that promote life-long learning, the Pitt State Pathway fosters a sense of personal responsibility, an appreciation of diversity, and an understanding of interconnectedness in our truly global society.

Pitt State Pathway Core Element to be Covered in this Course:

Written Communication:

Demonstrates a thorough understanding of context relating to appropriate audiences and explains the writer's and others' ideas skillfully and ethically through written language that conveys meaning to readers with clarity and accuracy, and is nearly error free. Competency in this element means:

- Clearly *outlining* the main idea using appropriate sentence structure that connects all paragraphs to the overall point of the paper while organizing ideas effectively. Ideas are presented in a logical sequence that supports development of the main point (*Focus, Development, and Organization*);
- *Supporting* claims with appropriate evidence and valid reasoning. Opinions are clearly distinguished. Main ideas are developed through evidence-based sources that clearly distinguish the source material from the writer's own ideas and distinctly indicates the provenance of all source material (*Development and Use of Sources*);
- *Creating* effective and coherent sentences. Written language conveys meaning to readers with clarity and fluency. Word choice and vocabulary shows attention to audience (*Style and Editing*);
- *Demonstrating* audience awareness in written document. Intended purpose of the document is clear. The context for the communication is understood and articulated appropriately (*Focus, Development, Organization, Style, Editing, and Use of Sources*);
- *Demonstrating* the use of visual and textual design elements that are appropriate for the audience, purpose, and context (*Style*).

Catalog Description

Research writing techniques, critical thinking and critical reading, with emphasis on

rhetorical skills. Closed to students with credit in ENGL 102 or ENGL 103 English Composition. Prerequisite: ENGL 101 English Composition. Exceptions require consent of Composition Director. Offered on A, B, C, No Credit basis only.

Learning Outcome: Students will communicate effectively.

Course Objectives

- Written Communication: Level of Student Learning=Mastery
Definition of Mastery under Written Communication: *Composes* evidence-based ideas and creates an appropriate written document to convey a message.

Method of Assessment

To assess mastery, the final assignment, which requires students to compose evidence-based ideas and create an appropriate written document to convey a message, will be evaluated with the PSU Writing Rubric.

Course and University Policies:

- Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Please click the link to the Syllabus Supplement for more detailed information: https://www.pittstate.edu/registrar/_files/documents/syllabus-supplement-spring-2019-updated-10-5-18-.pdf.

- As stated in the Syllabus Supplement regarding Dead Week Policy: (https://www.pittstate.edu/registrar/_files/documents/syllabus-supplement-spring-2019-updated-10-5-18-.pdf) "no tests or major assignments will be presented during the week prior to final examination week, unless identified in the course syllabus presented at the start of the semester." For this class, final points, the syllabus, assignments, due dates, exams, and/or quizzes may be changed accordingly throughout the semester as deemed necessary by the professor.

Grading Policy:

The PSU Writing Rubric will be used for grading the major assignments in this course. Rubrics for grading other assignments are located with each assignment on Canvas.

Minimum Technology Requirements:

Students will need to be familiar and competent with general computer skills such as downloading information, saving, and uploading.

- Gorilla Geeks is a great resource for technical issues with Canvas, log ins, etc. They can be reached at the Gorilla Geeks Help Desk: 1.620.235.4600, or by E-mail at geeks@pittstate.edu, or online at <https://www.pittstate.edu/it/gorilla-geeks.html>
- If you are not completely comfortable with Canvas, please click the link to a Canvas help page: <https://www.pittstate.edu/it/information-technology-services/canvas.html>