

Department of English and Modern Languages
College of Arts and Sciences
Spring Semester, 20XX

**Course Syllabus for
ENGL 299 Introduction to Research Writing**

General Education

This course counts toward the requirements in General Education for your degree program. General Education is an important part of your educational program at Pittsburg State University that has been designed to implement the following Philosophy of General Education:

General education is the study of humans in their global setting. The general education curriculum, therefore, acts as the heart of a university education by developing the capacities that typify the educated person and providing a basis for life-long learning and intellectual, ethical, and aesthetic fulfillment. General education examines the world around us and fosters an understanding of our interactions with the world and our place in the universe. General education celebrates the creative capacities of humankind and helps to preserve and transmit to future generations the values, knowledge, wisdom, and sense of history that are our common heritage.

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.

Goals of General Education for 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 writing. 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*);
- Using visual and textual design elements that are appropriate for the audience, purpose, and context (*Style*).

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to compose evidence-based ideas and create an appropriate written document to convey a message.

Nature of the Course

Each instructor will determine how best to implement the goals and objectives within the parameters of the course design and assignments, but all students can expect that the course will foster critical reading and critical thinking skills as they work through the academic research process.

Methods

To achieve our instructional objectives, instructors will use lecture, class discussion, reading, and writing assignments. Instructors may also employ question and answer, small-group work activities—such as peer response review of written work prior to the final evaluated draft—panel discussions/presentations, videotaped instruction, film, overhead projector, journals, in-class writing, out-of-class responses, and other techniques as instructors deem appropriate.

Assessment

Student work will be evaluated on the basis of written research-based essays that have been developed through the writing process. Faculty may also include in- and out-of-class informal and formal writing, quizzes, and objective examinations.