## Composition II: Research-Based Writing

### Jan. 13
- **M** Introduction

### Feb. 3
- **M** Discuss paper #1.

### Mar. 3
- **M** Craft of Research 120–29: Making Claims

### Apr. 2
- **W** Article or book chapter on Cloud Atlas.

Article or book chapter on Blader Runner, The Matrix, District 9, or Cloud Atlas

Snow day make-up: Article or book chapter on Blader Runner, The Matrix, District 9, or Cloud Atlas

Article or book chapter on Blader Runner, The Matrix, District 9, or Cloud Atlas


Give an ECU student some advice about writing research papers. Bring a typed list of four suggestions. = 1 reading quiz.

May 5  M  Exam-period activity (2:00–4:30)

TEXTBOOKS AND FILMS


You will need to purchase the current editions of both textbooks. In addition, you will need to watch four films outside of class: Blade Runner, The Matrix, District 9, and Cloud Atlas.

TOPICS

For this course, you will write six short papers about four great movies. The topics are wide open: you can write about a film’s meaning, its philosophical content, the production process (including technology and financing), its music, or its reception by critics and ticket buyers. There are many approaches you can take: the important thing is to (a) make a strong argument about the film and (b) use reliable, authoritative sources.
REQUIREMENTS

Reading Quizzes and Homework (25%). On most days when there’s a reading or viewing assignment, there will be a reading quiz at the beginning of class. (This includes days when we’re discussing a film.) Don’t come late, or you’ll miss it. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes. The quizzes are open-note, but not open-book, so take notes when you read. Each quiz will count as 1% of your total course grade and there will be 26 quizzes. However, because there is an extra (26th) quiz, you can miss one quiz without harming your grade. Think of it as a free pass: you can use it to go to the beach, or you can use it when you’re sick. Because this system is based on numbers, you don’t need to explain why you missed class; the math will take care of it automatically. Of course, you’ll still be responsible for the material discussed in class. But once you’ve used that free pass, it’s gone. My advice is to save it for when you’re sick or need to care for a relative.

Revised: Each student will be responsible to provide the reading for one class discussion. The reading should be a scholarly article or book chapter, not a blog, web page, or movie review. Aim for about 15 pages long and look for something that has an argument you could respond to in a paper. The reading should be posted on Blackboard and is due 7 days before we discuss it. This assignment will be worth 3 reading quizzes; your grade will be the average of your peers’ rating, on a scale of 1 to 9.

On days where there is a written assignment but no reading, the written work will count for one or more quizzes. These are indicated in the schedule: for example, “Bring a typed draft of your conclusion. = 1 reading quiz.”

All written assignments must be typed.

Late Assignments. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Leave time to print; don’t assume that a printer will be available five minutes before class. If you arrive late, the assignment is late. Assignments delivered after the due date will receive a lower grade according to the following schedule: an A- essay that is delivered up to 24 hours late will receive a B+, an A- essay that is delivered between 24 and 48 hours late will receive a B, and so on. Every 24 hours, the grade goes down by one third of a letter.

I do not accept assignments by email. If an assignment is due on Monday, you can turn it in on Tuesday by slipping it under my office door (Bate 2137); it will be one day late. If it’s due Friday, the earliest you can turn it in is on Monday; it will be two days late.

Here’s some free advice for life after ECU: if you want a promotion, finish your work on time.

No work will be accepted after the last day of class, April 29.

Midterm and Final Exams. There will be no midterm or final exams in this course; however, the university does require an activity during the final exam period. We’ll decide how best to use that time when we get closer to the end of the semester.

Please don’t read, send, or monitor text messages in class. Please do turn off your cell phone ringer before class begins. Laptops and tablets might be helpful in some courses, but not this one; please keep them shut during class.
**Essays (75%).** Over the course of the semester you will submit six essays. Due dates, topics, and word counts are detailed in the schedule.

- Include a word count on the first page. Do not count long quotations or list of works cited.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. These are pre-college subjects, so they won’t be covered in this class. If you need to review, I recommend *Grammar in Plain English* by Harriet Diamond and Phyllis Dutwin.
- Double-space. Use 12 point Times Roman (or a similar font of the same size).

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<td>More opinion than fact.</td>
<td>Facts are disorganized.</td>
<td>Facts are organized.</td>
<td>Facts are organized and form a plausible argument.</td>
<td>Facts are organized and form a challenging, persuasive argument.</td>
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<td>Numerous errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation.</td>
<td>Some errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation, but not more than one a page.</td>
<td>Occasional errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation, but not distracting.</td>
<td>The writing is finely crafted, elegant as well as clean.</td>
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<td>No sources, or uses random websites instead of reliable, authoritative sources.</td>
<td>Uses random websites instead of reliable, authoritative sources.</td>
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<td>Sources are acknowledged, but sloppily: the reader can tell that you used a source, but not how or for which points.</td>
<td>Sources are acknowledged, but sloppily: the reader can tell that you used a source, but not how or for which points.</td>
<td>Sources are acknowledged using the correct format. Original points are clearly distinguished from points that were already made by one of your sources.</td>
<td>Sources are correctly-acknowledged and well-chosen. The argument shows an awareness of current debates in the field.</td>
<td>Sources are correctly-acknowledged and well-chosen. The argument contributes to a current debate in the field, at a level appropriate for an undergraduate research paper.</td>
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PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas in such a way that they seem your own. Give credit where credit is due; otherwise, you are cheating. If you plagiarize in this class, expect an F for the course. All plagiarism will be reported to the university, and additional sanctions may be imposed. If you have questions about plagiarism, ask them before the paper is due. Finally, be sure that the paper you do hand in is your final draft. If it’s plagiarized, and you explain that you gave me “the wrong draft,” I will feel sorry for both of us, but you will still get an F for the course. So check before you turn something in and make sure it really is your final draft. Better yet, avoid plagiarism in all of your drafts.

OFFICE HOURS, EMAIL
Office: Bate 2137
Office hours: MWF 1:00–2:00, 3:50–4:30. This spans two class periods: if you have class during both, grab me after class or call me on the telephone and we’ll set up an appointment. My home number is in the book but, please, no phone calls after 9:00 pm.
Email: Instead of exchanging emails, let’s have a conversation. That’s what office hours are for.

FIRST-YEAR WRITING STUDIO
Where can you get help outside of class? The first place is in my office, during office hours (see above). The second place is the First-Year Writing Studio in Bate 2005. Walk-ins are accepted, but it’s better to call 328-6399 and make an appointment.

ACCOMMODATIONS
East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Slay 138 (Voice/TTY: 252–737-1016; Email: dssdept@ecu.edu).

COURSE OUTCOME GOALS
As determined by the Composition Committee: “English 1200 builds on your understanding of rhetoric and writing processes through an exploration of research-based writing. In this course you will develop your abilities to (1) formulate significant research questions; (2) craft a strong research proposal; (3) establish work plans and timelines; (4) locate and evaluate a variety of sources, including field-based, print, and electronic sources; (5) apply research and use writing to achieve a variety of purposes; (6) convey the results of your research to a variety of audiences; (7) organize source materials; (8) integrate outside source materials—field-based, print, and electronic—into your writing; (9) cite sources accurately and responsibly in order to avoid plagiarism; (10) identify and explain writing strategies used in your own work as well as in the work of experienced writers.”

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION
Q: What if I stop coming to class, but turn in everything the last week of class: can I still earn a D-?
A: No.