

research writing

dr. david wilson-okamura english 1200.043 spring 2006 east carolina univ.

Jan. 6	F	Introduction
9	M	Due: first essay on assigned topic from <i>NYT</i> column
11	W	
13	F	
16	M	Martin Luther King Day
18	W	Palmquist, ch. 2 “Exploring and Narrowing Your Topic”
20	F	Palmquist, ch. 3 “Developing Your Research Question and Proposal”
23	M	Due: list of 5 possible research questions.
25	W	Palmquist, ch. 4 “Getting Ready to Collect and Keep Track of Information”
27	F	Palmquist, ch. 5 “Searching for Information with Electronic Resources”
30	M	Palmquist, ch. 6 “Searching for Information with Print Resources”
Feb. 1	W	Due: list of forty potential sources on your topic. Use MLA format (explained in Palmquist, ch. 18b). No more than ten sources may come from publicly-accessible, non websites.
3	F	Palmquist, ch. 8 “Reading Critically”
6	M	Palmquist, ch. 9 “Evaluating Sources”
8	W	Due: an annotated bibliography of ten sources; see Palmquist, p. 60 for instructions. No more than two sources may come from publicly-accessible, non-government websites.
10	F	Palmquist, ch. 13 “Integrating Sources”
13	M	Due: first draft of second essay due (length: 3,000–3,500 words); bring two copies.
15	W	Workshop first draft;
17	F	Read Palmquist, ch. 14 “Avoiding Plagiarism”
20	M	Palmquist, chs. 17 and 18 “Understanding Documentation Systems” and “Using MLA Style”
22	W	Due: second draft of second essay due; bring two copies.
24	F	Workshop second draft
27	M	Due: final draft of second essay
Mar. 1	W	
3	F	
6	M	
8	W	Due: list of 5 possible research questions for third essay.
10	F	
12-19		Spring break
20	M	
22	W	
24	F	Due: list of forty potential sources on your topic, using MLA format. No more than ten sources may come from publicly-accessible, non-government websites.
27	M	
29	W	
31	F	Due: first draft of third essay due (length: 3,000–3,500 words); bring two copies.
Apr. 3	M	Workshop first draft
5	W	Due: second draft of third essay due; bring two copies.
7	F	Workshop second draft
10	M	
12	W	Due: final draft of third essay
14	F	Good Friday
17	M	
19	W	
21	F	
24	M	

REQUIREMENTS

All assignments, including lists of research questions, bibliographies, and peer reviews, are to be typed. Late assignments will receive a lower grade. (For instance, 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.)

Reading Assignments. This class has two main texts, *The Bedford Researcher* (2nd ed.) by Mike Palmquist, and the *New York Times* (NYT). Readings from Palmquist are given above. The schedule for NYT readings will be as follows: On Mondays, we will discuss Friday's newspaper; on Wednesday's, we will discuss Monday's newspaper; and on Friday's we will discuss Wednesday's newspaper. Copies of NYT are available free to students in the purple bins around campus; you can also read the *Times* in Joyner library (on campus) or Sheppard library (downtown). For a given day's newspaper, you will be responsible for two sections: front-page new stories above the fold (national and international news only) and regular opinion columns by David Brooks, Thomas Friedman, Paul Krugman, and Nicholas Kristoff. (None of the columnists writes everyday, so on most days, you will read only one or at the most two opinion columns, plus the above-the-fold news stories on the front page.)

Please bring both texts to class with you; we'll be referring to them in discussion. You may notice that the second half of the course has a lot of blank days on the schedule: normally these are days that will be devoted exclusively to discussing the NYT.

Reading Quizzes (25%). Most classes will begin with a reading quiz. Each quiz is worth 1% and there will be 26 quizzes. **There will be no make-ups for missed 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. Just do it: 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! Forever! My advice is, save it for when you're sick or need to attend court. But I leave that to you.

Reading, response, revision (75%). Full-length research papers are seldom composed in one long, continuous writing session. In this course, the writing process is deliberately broken up into several steps, including one or more rounds of revision based on feedback from your peers. As you revise, you will also continue to read more material on the given topic; some of this new material will no doubt be incorporated into your writing as you revise and rethink your arguments.

- Essays should be typed, include a list of works cited, and follow the MLA citation style (explained in Palmquist, ch. 18).
- When you're done, do a word count and write the result on the first page of your paper. Word count should not include long quotations or list of works cited.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer. Ask someone at the computer lab if you don't know how to do this already.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. If you have trouble, I recommend *Grammar in Plain English* by Harriet Diamond and Phyllis Dutwin. The following basic errors should not appear in college writing, and will lower the final grade for a given paper by a full letter grade: sentence fragments, comma splices, and misspellings of any kind (including the following homophones: its/it's, their/there, and than/then).
- Double-space. Use 12 point Times Roman (or a similar font of the same size).
- With every round of revision, you will receive two sets of typed comments; copies of these comments should be attached to the final draft of each essay. If a round of comments is missing, one letter will be deducted from the final grade of the paper; if two rounds of comments are missing, two letter grades will be deducted; and so on.

Midterm and Final Exams. There will be no midterm or final exams in this course.

Email. Announcements and changes to the schedule will be delivered to your university email; you will therefore need to check this on a daily basis.

Cell phones are here to stay, but they don't belong in the classroom. If you have one, turn off the ringer before class starts.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas in such a way that a reader cannot distinguish them from your own work. As such, it is a form of cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask me about it before your paper is due; after a paper is handed in it's too late to claim ignorance. The minimum penalty for plagiarism is an automatic F for the course; the incident will also be recorded in your university file and additional penalties may ensue.

IMPORTANT TIMES, PHONE NUMBERS

Office: Bate 2137 (phone 252.328.6714)

Office hours: MWF 10:00-11:00, 1:00-1:30, and by appointment. To schedule an appointment, grab me after class or give me a phone call and we'll set up a time. (In practice, I find that setting up appointments via email is not efficient.) If you call my office and I'm not there, do try me at home, though not after 9:00 pm, please. My number is in the phone book.

Course materials on the web: <http://virgil.org/dswo/courses/engl1200>