



1742
MORAVIAN COLLEGE
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

LINC 101 Q
Fall 2015
Writing 101

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**This course will focus on sharpening the skills required to write ...
and to make you like writing, which is not as hard as some of you
might think. It will focus on journalism, but take in many other forms
of non-fiction writing.**

Goals

- * Students will be able to comfortably write thoughtful essays on various readings and experiences.
- * Students will be able to write non-fiction journalism.
- * Students will be able to freely debate and discuss current topics in class.
- * Students will be able to find sites on the internet which will cater to their interests in current events, and other sites which might expand their interest-horizon.
- * Students will be able to research a topic for a final paper that will demonstrate skill in both researching and writing a academic paper. This will not feel like work.
- * Students will have fun.

Assignments

There will be several assignments. We will read essays, stories and articles out of class, write about them in class. There will be infrequent out-of-classroom writing assignments. Each student will produce a multi-modal review of a feature story from a national

magazine/website. This will entail a "report" on the story done by any mode but the written word (song, poem, artwork, etc. We will discuss).

The research paper will serve as the final exam.

Lastly, we will organize a peaceful "protest" as a class: We'll come up with something we'd like to see change, and help change (violence against women, for instance, but hopefully something not many people are aware of) and collectively write a manifesto. We will then organize a way to present our cause (with cupcakes) to the student body at some point.

Regular grammar reviews -- readings in a cool grammar book by Ben Yagoda -- will be assigned. They are not indicated on this syllabus. They'll be used as brush-ups when necessary.

Assignments are due as indicated below. Please note that unless a mutually agreeable revised due date is negotiated with the instructor, any late assignment will lose percentage points for each calendar day it is late, and any assignment not submitted within two weeks of the due date will receive a "0." It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for an assignment or for a course.

Grading guidelines

Grades will be determined by mutual decision between instructor and students, based on attendance, effort, class participation, completion of assignments and overall effort.

The rubric:

Effort/participation in class 40%

Writings in class 15%

Out-of-class readings 15%

Attendance 20%

Respect for the class 5%

Extracurricular activities 5% (This can be most fulfilled by showing up at the HUB on three of the four Saturdays when farmers are visiting the college's farmer's market:

Sept. 14th - Scholl Orchards (Apples / Peaches)

Oct. 7th - Castle Valley Mill (Grains & Flours)

Nov. 4th - Valley Milk House (Sheep and Cows Milk Cheeses)

Dec. 9th - Primordia Mushroom Farm

Attendance...

...is crucial. If you are going to miss a session, you must e-mail me at richmondp@moravian.edu to explain. When an absence is unavoidable, a written response to the assigned readings must be submitted on or before the next regularly scheduled session. A missing or incomplete written response to readings following an absence will reduce the final grade. More than two class absences or a pattern of late arrivals to class may, at the discretion of the instructor, result in a failing grade for the seminar.

Academic honesty...

...Is Essential. In other words, all work that you submit must be your own. Be certain to cite the sources that you used, and take care to avoid plagiarism, which the *Moravian College Student Handbook* defines as “the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgement. Academic dishonesty will result in a zero for the assignment and notification of the Academic Dean, in accordance with Moravian College policy.

On top of which: You don't need to use other peoples' stuff! Plus which, if you do, it'll be *so* obvious.

Course Schedule

While every effort will be made to follow the schedule indicated below, the syllabus is subject to change as the instructor deems necessary to help students meet the objectives of the course. In other words, sometimes we'll be winging it, as the instructor and students see fit.

Writing Center

Each student is expected to visit the Writing Center, bringing an example of her or his work. Note: The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of The Writing Center, please call 610-861-1632.

Accommodations

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, assistant director of academic support services for academic and disability support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Groups 1-3

For purpose of the multi-modal reports the class will be divided into three sections, alphabetically.

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Texts:

<http://writingcommons.org/>

"Twilight"

http://chronicle.com/blogs/linguafranca/2014/08/08/humanizing-academic-citation/?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

*

9/1:

In Class:

Review of syllabus

Opening nuts and bolts. Intros.

Why learning writing is like learning how to be in a society.

What role has writing played in your life? If any?

What are your thoughts about the media?

Finding something to write about

Where to look. Matching the story with the writer's sensibility (music? religion? Art? sports? outdoors?) Elements to look for. Expanding the writer's radar. Choosing subjects/topics that resonate on a larger scale and speak to a larger issue.

9/3

Due in class:

That morning's The Skimm.

Think about a possible research paper topic.

Multi-media example: [http://voicethread.com/?#q.b69839.i359105 ...](http://voicethread.com/?#q.b69839.i359105)

The Tragedy of Britney Spears

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/the-tragedy-of-britney-spears-rolling-stones-2008-cover-story-20110329>

and

Here s What Happens When You Cast Lindsay Lohan in Your Movie

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/13/magazine/here-is-what-happens-when-you-cast-lindsay-lohan-in-your-movie.html?pagewanted=all>

In Class:

Writing about the celebrity journalism stories

Discussion of research paper topics.

9/8 Due in class:

That morning's The Skimm.

http://home.moravian.edu/public/eng/writingCenter/prize/2013_FYS_Sweeney.pdf

In Class:

Sources: How to find them, how to cultivate them; how to use them. Who's important? What documents count? Who to trust? How do you approach the key sources? How can you gain the trust of your source? Which obscure source will turn out to unlock the power of your tale?

9/10

Due in class:

That morning's The Skimm.

Peter Richmond: Tangled Up in Blue

<http://thestacks.deadspin.com/the-brief-life-and-complicated-death-of-tommy-lasordas-485999366>

In Class:

Writing about Richmond story: Was it ethical for me to write it?

9/15

Due in class:

That morning's The Skimm.

A reading about journalism that also applies to the research paper.

<http://www.poynter.org/how-tos/journalism-education/251048/the-pyramid-of-journalism-competence-what-journalists-need-to-know/#.U3FVxgClgoY.twitter>

In class:

Storytelling

How to tell a story – plot flow, detail. What makes a story riveting? How can you make a detail bring a character to life? What elements of the tale make it jump off the page? What are the three acts of the drama? And most importantly: how do you write it? In what style?

9/17

Due in class:

That morning's The Skimm.

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/chrisstokelwalker/how-golden-eagle-snatches-kid-ruled-the-internet#.rc786pllq>

In class:

Internet ethics.

9/22

Due in Class:

That morning's The Skimm.

First Out of Class Writing Assignment:

"500 words on something you've seen (an object, building, something you saw happen) on campus."

Find the story you'll do your multi-modal report on.

In class:

Discuss stories, modes

In Class:

Discuss Essays

9/24

Due in Class:

That morning's The Skimm.

Discuss research topics

Watch a movie, TV show, band.

In class:

Writing a review.

Discussing research topics.

9/29

Due in class:

The Skimm

The Daily Beast of 9/27 and 9/29

Discuss Reading

Write about reading. Favorite poiece: Why? Least favorite: Why>

10/1

Due in class:

The Skimm

Bill Buford: Among the Thugs

In class

Writing: Mob rules

10/6

Due in class:

The Skimm

Tom Wolfe: The Girl of the Year

In Class:

Write a riffy essay about riffy writing.

10/8

Due in class

The Skimm

Final Day for Research-paper topic

In Class:

Discuss Reading

Interview each other

10/13

No class

10/15

Due in class:

The Skimm

Second out of class writing assignment: 500 words on An Injustice

In class:

Discuss our protest

10/20

Due in class

The Skimm

<http://thestacks.deadspin.com/the-ex-con-who-turned-his-life-around-and-the-nba-star-1677787978>

In class

Writing: On a crime in yr life.

Crime: Why does it compel us?

10/22

Due in class:

The Skimm

Joan Didion: The Los Angeles Notebook

<http://tywls12ela.wikispaces.com/file/view/Didion+Los+Angeles+Notebook.pdf>

In Class:

We write about a weather moment

10/27

Due in class:

The Skimm

Multi-media book reports Group 1

In class:

Reports

10/29

Due In class:

The Skimm

Multi-media report, Group 2

In Class

Reports

11/3

Due in class:

Multi-media book reports, Group 3

In class

Reports

11/5

Due in Class:

The Skimm

<http://deadspin.com/5986709/the-sports-fan-what-i-learned-from-three-days-of-watching-baseball-with-bill-murray>

In class

Discuss reading, research papers

11/10

Due in Class:

Read mic.com Friday, Monday

Read Vice.com Friday, Monday

In class

Discuss readings.

Shane's Smiles

Writing TBA

11/12

Due in Class

The Skimm

Marilyn Johnson obits

https://sports.vice.com/en_us/article/farewell-snake-remembering-the-badass-life-of-ken-stabler

Write an obit

11/16

Due in class:

The Skimm

<http://roaminghunger.com/ny/vendors/tag/lobster-rolls/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/14/dining/reviews/restaurant-review-guys-american-kitchen-bar-in-times-square.html>

In class:

Writing about food!

11/18

Due in class

The Skimm

Labels: Find some good ones, some bad ones, write them down. ("Hos: The Sweetest Comeback in the history of Ever"

Then you think about something you'd like to sell...and think about describing it in a way that would make me want to buy it.

In class:

We discuss labels.
You tell us yours.

You write about your product.

TGIVING BREAK

12/1

Due in class

Research paper

12/3

Research paper

12/8

Research paper

12/10

Celebration.