

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

CLC 2204F/ GER 2204F/ SPA 2204F: RESEARCH METHODS



W 10:30-11:30, F 9:30-11:30; UC 224

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Office hours: W & F 11:30-12:30; UC 260

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"Research methods" introduces students to the skills and resources necessary for the analysis of literary texts at upper-year levels of literary studies. In this course, you will read two primary texts (Lazarillo de Tormes and E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Sandmann*, either in the original language or in English translation). Using these texts as a starting point, you will become familiar with the forms of scholarly writing and argumentation, and you will learn how to produce short presentations, exam essays and large research essays (1500-2000 words).

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students are expected to have acquired practice and competences in:

- formulating and developing research projects
- collecting and evaluating information from self-selected sources
- documenting secondary sources according to MLA style
- organizing information and ideas with the goal of presenting clear, persuasive and original arguments
- using the terminology and techniques of the discipline

COURSE MATERIALS

1. Anonymous. *Lazarillo de Tormes*. Ed. & Trans. Stanley Appelbaum. Mineola: Dover, 2001. (Spanish and English)
2. E.T.A. Hoffmann. "The Sandmann." *Five Great German Short Stories*. Ed.& Trans. Stanley Appelbaum. Mineola: Dover, 1993. (German and English)
3. Elisabeth McMahan, Robert Funk, Brian Way. *Print Preview: A Guide to Academic Writing Success*. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada, 2005.
4. WebCT site: <https://webct.uwo.ca> (to login use UWO email logon, then email password)

GRADE BREAKDOWN

1. Participation: 10%
2. Oral Presentation and Critique: 20% (includes: presentation 15%; critique 5%)
3. Short assignments: 10% (includes Glossary 2%; Grammar quiz 6%; Logic quiz 2%)
4. Essay exam: 15%
5. Research Essay: 45% (includes: annotated bibliography 3%; outline 3%; first draft 15%; peer review 4%; final draft 20%)

Prerequisites: none

Antirequisites: none

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (updates will be posted on WebCT)

Week	Topics	Assignments
1	Sept 11: Introduction	
2	Sept 16 & 18: Text and context. Presentation of the primary readings	Read: CLC/GER: <i>Lazarillo de Tormes</i> SPA: <i>The Sandman</i>
3	Sept 23: Library reference tools. Guest Lecturer: Peggy Ellis (Research Librarian, Weldon Library) Sept 25: Theme and character analysis	Read: CLC/GER: <i>The Sandman</i> SPA: <i>Lazarillo de Tormes</i>
4	Sept 30, Oct 2: Essay structure. The thesis statement	Oct 2: Glossary – submit on WebCT
5	Oct 7 & 9: Effective paragraphs. Avoiding wordiness	
6	Oct 14: Review Oct 16: Essay exam	Oct 16: Essay exam
7	Oct 21: Tricky grammar Oct 23: Research Strategies. Guest Lecturer: Peggy Ellis (Research Librarian, Weldon Library)	
8	Oct 28: Grammar and wordiness Oct 30: Researching Catalogues, Databases and the Internet. Guest Lecturer: Peggy Ellis (Research Librarian, Weldon Library)	
9	Nov 4: Grammar quiz (in class) Nov 6: A guide to oral presentations	Nov 4: Grammar quiz – in class
10	ORAL PRESENTATIONS	ORAL PRESENTATIONS Nov 13: Presentation critique – submit on WebCT
11	Nov 18: MLA documentation. Avoiding plagiarism Nov 20: Logical argumentation	Nov 20: Annotated bibliography and Essay outline – submit on WebCT

12	Nov 25: Peer reviewing. Guest lecturer: Janet Roukema (Writing Support Centre) Nov 27: Peer review (in class). Logic exercises	Nov 27: First draft – submit in class and on WebCT Nov 27: Peer review – in class
13	Dec 2: Logic quiz (in class) Dec 4: Revising your essay	Dec 2: Logic quiz – in class
	Dec 9: Conclusion	Due: Research essay

Course policies:

Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized at the rate of 5% per calendar day. A make-up exam or any other special arrangements will be scheduled in cases of real emergency; the student must obtain permission from the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation for a special exam in these cases.

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.