

Tentative Outline

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

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

COURSE CONTENT AND AIMS

"Research methods" is designed to introduce students to the skills and resources that are required to successfully read and interpret a primary literary text, produce presentations, answer essay exam questions, and research, organize, and write research essays at upper-year levels of the undergraduate program in literature. Employing the principle of "learning by doing" throughout, the course is divided into two parts. In the first half of the course you will read and interpret two literary texts (Lazarillo de Tormes, E.T.A. Hoffmann's *The Sandmann*). The primary texts will be read either in the original language or in English translation and you will learn how to produce a short presentation and how to write good answers to essay exam questions. The second half of the course concentrates on how to produce a large research essay (1500-2000 words). Beyond lectures and presentations, much of the course work is based on individual continuous work and collaborative assignments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students are expected to have acquired:

- practice in producing questions and hypotheses about literary texts independently
- facility in the collection of information from self-selected sources and in their documentation according to MLA style
- competence in literary analysis and in research at the level of an open inquiry within structured guidelines
- an ability to evaluate the meaning of cultural products and of secondary information using self-determined criteria
- practice in the organization of information and ideas according to recommended processes and structures with the goal of presenting clearly expressed, persuasive, original arguments
- an improvement in the ability to think critically, abstractly and synthetically supported through self-evaluation and peer-review
- appropriate usage of the language of the discipline to address knowledge and understanding gaps from several perspectives within classroom discussion, presentations, essay examinations and research essays

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. Michael Greer. *What Every Student Should Know about Citing Sources with MLA Documentation*. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada, 2007.
5. WebCT site: <https://webct.uwo.ca> (to login use UWO email logon, then email password)

GRADES

1. Participation: 10%
2. Oral Presentation: 10%
3. Assignments: 10% includes group work, presentation critique, thesis and argument, grammar quiz at 2% each
4. Essay Exam: 20%
5. Research Essay: 50% includes idea journal (5%), working thesis (1%), annotated bibliography (3%), outline (3%), first draft (15%), peer review (3%) and final draft (20%)

Prerequisites: none

Antirequisites: none

Preliminary Syllabus (updates during the term will be posted on WebCT)

| Class | Topic | Reading Assignments | Writing Assignments | Work Due |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Introduction | | In class: Reponse Paper | |
| 2 | Strategies for Reading | CLC/GER: Lazarillo de Tormes SPA: The Sandmann | Idea Journal 1: choose one quote from the text and respond to the quote writing freely | |
| 3 | Exploring a Literary Text The Evolving Thesis | CLC/GER: Lazarillo de Tormes SPA: The Sandmann | Idea Journal 2: choose one aspect of the text (character, setting, image, title, narrator...), frame a question and respond freely | Group work: theme analysis |
| 4 | Library Reference Tools Guest Lecturer: Peggy Ellis (Research Librarian, Weldon Library) | CLC: The Sandmann GER: Der Sandmann SPA: Lazarillo de Tormes | Idea Journal 3: note ideas for character analysis or theme collection Print Preview, CH. 11, 169-176 | WebCT: post results of group work on theme analysis |
| 5 | Terms of Literary Analysis Rephrasing the Thesis | CLC: The Sandmann GER: Der Sandmann SPA: Lazarillo de Tormes | Idea Journal 4: search for essay topics by freewriting for 10 minutes Print Preview, CH. 11, 176-184 | Group work: compare collected materials on terms, definitions, research process and examples |
| 6 | Planning an Essay | Print Preview, Ch. 1 and 2 | Idea Journal 5: create three different thesis statements | WebCT: post results for literary |

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| | | | Print Preview, CH. 12, 185-198 | terms of analysis, including definitions and comments on research process |
| 7 | Developing Essay Ideas | Print Preview, Ch. 3 | Idea Journal 6: choose one thesis and use brainstorming, clustering or freewriting to find ideas to develop the thesis Print Preview, Ch. 12, 198-211 | |
| 8 | Composing Effective Paragraphs | Print Preview, Ch. 4 | Idea Journal 7: create an outline or skeletal argument from your materials Print Preview, Ch. 13, 212-219 | |
| 9 | IN CLASS THESIS and SKELETAL ARGUMENT Polishing your Sentences | Print Preview, Ch. 5 | Idea Journal 8: search for research essay topics for example by freewriting for 10 minutes Print Preview, Ch. 13, 219-223 | |
| 10 | Thinking Critically and Logically | Print Preview, Ch. 7 | Idea Journal 9: choose a research topic and create a working thesis statement Print Preview, Ch. 14, 224-230 | |
| 11 | Preparing an Oral Presentation | WebCT: Oral Presentations CLC: The Sandmann GER: Der Sandmann in translation SPA: Lazarillo de Tormes in translation | Idea Journal 10: use the working thesis statement and explore the primary text for evidence by clustering, brainstorming etc. Print Preview, Ch. 15, 232-245 | Group work: prepare a ten minute mini-presentation No secondary research material necessary; do use reference sources |
| 12 | Writing an Essay | WebCT: Exam | Idea Journal 11: use | WebCT: |

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| | Exam Guest Lecturer: Janet Roukema (Writing Support Centre) | Preparation | the working thesis statement and explore the primary text by searching for relevant quotes | grammar quiz open from Wednesday Oct. 15 to Wednesday Oct. 22 |
| 13 | ORAL PRESENTATIONS AND CRITIQUE | WebCT: Critique of Oral Presentations CLC/GER: Lazarillo de Tormes SPA: The Sandmann | Presentation on CLC/GER: The Sandmann SPA: Lazarillo de Tormes | |
| 14 | Review | | Idea Journal 12: revise your working thesis for the research essay and develop a list of research questions | |
| 15 | MIDTERM EXAM | | | Idea Journal and Working Thesis for Research Essay |
| 16 | The Research Essay | Print Preview, Ch. 8, 101-103 | NB: if you use the writing program you will receive 2% extra on your essay grade | |
| 17 | Research Strategies Guest Lecturer: Peggy Ellis (Research Librarian) NB: class takes place in HSB 13 MLA Format | Print Preview, Ch. 8, 104-113 and Ch. 10, 152-160 Print Preview, Ch. 10, 152-160 Citing Sources, Ch. 1 to Ch. 4 | | |
| 18 | Thesis Statement and Outline | Print Preview, Ch. 8, 113-115 | | |
| 19 | Researching Catalogues, Databases and the Internet Guest Lecturer: Peggy Ellis (Research Librarian) NB: class | Print Preview, Ch. 8, 104-113 and Ch. 10, 152-160 | | Revised Working Thesis |

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| | takes place in HSB 13 | | | |
| 20 | Logical Structures | WebCT: Critical Thinking | | |
| 21 | Integrating Sources Avoiding Plagiarism | Print Preview, Ch. 9 | | Revised Working Thesis Annotated Bibliography (8-10 sources, incl. at least 2 books, 3 journal articles, 1 web site) and Outline |
| 22 | Title, Introduction and Conclusion | WebCT: Making an Introduction and Drawing a Conclusion | | |
| 23 | Peer Reviewing Guest Lecturer: Janet Roukema (Writing Support Centre) | WebCT: Peer Review Checklist | | First Draft |
| 24 | Peer Review of Final Draft | WebCT: Peer Review Checklist | | Peer Review Responses in Class on Paper to Partner |
| 25 | Revising | Print Preview, Ch. 6, Ch. 9, 128-137 Citing Sources, Ch. 4 and Ch. 6 | | |
| 26 | Learning from Experience | | NB: Use TURNITIN.COM | Final Paper, First Draft and Peer Review, Thesis Statement, Outline and Annotated Bibliography |

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