ENGL 404-02: Research Writing for International Students

Course Description:

English 404-02 is an advanced research writing course designed for international and non-traditional graduate students. This graded three-credit-hour course builds the skills that advanced students need to effectively enter into the academic discourse communities in their fields. Students receive explicit instruction, linguistic support, and guided practice in writing and citation.

Goals and Objectives:

1. Students will develop skills to assess and effectively meet requirements of various academic writing assignments.

2. Students will develop skills necessary to avoid accidental plagiarism by presenting their own ideas as related to, but clearly distinguished from, the ideas of others: Students will correctly reference, quote, paraphrase, and cite material from outside sources in the styles accepted by their academic communities.

3. Students will write critical summaries, syntheses, analyses, and evaluations of outside sources.

4. Students will recognize and produce academic argument according to accepted principles as they propose and support original ideas in writing.

5. Students will analyze structures and techniques from published texts to use as models for improving the clarity and organization of their own writing.

6. Students will strengthen skills in grammar, mechanics, and proofreading to produce writing that maintains the conventions of published English.

Expectation of Professional Level of Participation:

This course is driven by both a carefully designed syllabus that presents the basic skills necessary for all academic writing and by the specific needs of the participating students. Students are, therefore, highly encouraged to offer opinions and feedback during the course and to, thus, actively participate in the flexible design of the class. This is a graduate level course for students who are entering their fields as professionals, therefore professional standards of behavior are expected, including adherence to expectations of punctuality, preparedness, and academic honesty.

Expectation of Civility:

Spirited academic discourse is one of the great educators and joys of the university experience and is enthusiastically welcomed in this course. Students are encouraged to explore new ideas and to engage in reasoned academic argument. In keeping with the civility statement of this university, all students are expected to listen and respond to the ideas of others with respect and tolerance.

Recommended Texts:

They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, any edition, and the style manual most appropriate for the student's chosen field of study, such as *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6thedition, or *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition.

Technology Requirements:

The fall 2012 class of Engl 404-02 is offered entirely via internet. Students are required to have reliable, adequate internet access, to provide and check email, to download and upload files that are readable and editable by Adobe and Microsoft products, to access the course website, to communicate with classmates via Facebook, to conference with the instructor via Skype, and to access and use the university's BbLearn system. All writing must be computer-generated and submitted via Blackboard in Microsoft Word-compatible format. University of Idaho campus computers provide all technology required. Laptops may be checked out from the university.

Work Requirements and Grading:

During the first half of the semester, there will be various short individual and group writing assignments to clarify and practice the fundamental principles needed for students to successfully progress to discipline-specific writing in the second half of the semester. Students are strongly advised to take advantage of this time to master these fundamental principles by fully participating in class assignments and webinars. **All grading for this section of the course is competency-based. This means that, within a certain time period, students can repeat assignments so that they can achieve 100% credit.** To encourage this participation, 60% of the total grade for the course is based on completion of these early assignments and peer work in which students evaluate the writing of classmates. The remaining 40% at the end of the semester is based on the student's individual progress in a writing project of the student's own design.