Research Methods Workshop (ENGL 3105) Dr. Fowler

M 2-2:50 (CRN 15140) Office: Irby 412

Irby 201 Hours: M 11-12, 3-4; WF 11-12, 2-4

Fall 2015 T Th 12:30-1:30

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**Text:** *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*(7th ed.)

**Course Description:** As stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin, English 3105 is a “[r]equired course for English majors and minors. This course is designed to introduce students to the use of research in writing papers for literature courses. Students will use techniques and protocols learned in the course to complete a research assignment drawn from a concurrent upper-division course. [This course] must be taken in conjunction with the student's first upper-division course in English that assigns a research paper.”

This section is attached to my Twentieth-Century American Poetry class (ENGL 4315). Please note that 3105 is not an upper-division composition class. My assumption is that you already know the basics of essay writing. Further, I will not be grading the quality of your paper’s argument or mechanics (spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax, etc.) in this class. That assessment will be part of my overall evaluation of the paper in 4315. I will, however, bring MLA formatting deficiencies (e.g., quotations, in-text citations, works-cited page) to your attention and score the paper accordingly. I will not make the corrections for you; I will simply point out what needs fixing. You are the one who must gain adequate proficiency by repeatedly consulting the *MLA Handbook*.

**Course Objectives:** Students taking this course will

• survey major modern critical and theoretical trends as groundwork for researching a topic

on a modern American poet;

• familiarize themselves with the research tools available in Torreyson Library (as well as

selected libraries in the central Arkansas region);

• learn how to incorporate secondary sources as supporting and contextualizing materials for

their own thesis-driven arguments;

• learn MLA formatting protocols for research papers;

• produce a research paper for English 4315 while gaining detailed feedback from this course’s

instructor and fellow students in a workshop setting.

**Course Schedule:**

8/24 Course Overview

“Critical Approaches” 1317-27 (to “Emphasis on the Source”) (handout)

8/31 “Critical Approaches” 1327-47

**[Quiz]**

9/14 **[Paper Abstract due]**

Library/Online Research *MLA* 8-38

9/21 Getting Started, Developing a Process *MLA* 3-7

General Format for Research Paper *MLA* 116-18 (to “Tables and Illustrations”)

Titles of Works *MLA* 86-92

9/28 Incorporating Quotations *MLA* 92-105

In-Text Citations *MLA* 214-32

Plagiarism *MLA* 52-61

10/5 **[Take-Home Exercise #1 due: quotations and in-text citations]**

Works-Cited Page Overview *MLA* 126-35

10/12 Works Cited: Nonperiodical Print *MLA* 148-81

10/19 **[Take-Home Exercise #2 due: nonperiodical print]**

**[Paper Abstracts due: Masters-Cummings]**

Works Cited: Periodical Print *MLA* 136-48

10/26 **[Take-Home Exercise #3 due: nonperiodical and periodical print]**

Works Cited: Web *MLA* 181-93

11/2 **[Paper Abstracts due: Crane-Ríos]**

**[Workshop: Late-Stage Draft of Research Paper (Masters-Cummings)]**

**[Revised version of Masters-Cummings works-cited page(s) due Tues., 11/3, 4 p.m.]**

11/9 Paper Consultations

**[Final Draft of Masters-Cummings Research Papers due in ENGL 4315 Wed., 11/11]**

11/16 **[Workshop: Late-Stage Draft of Research Paper (Crane- Ríos)]**

**[Revised version of Crane-Ríos works-cited page(s) due Tues., 11/17, 4 p.m.]**

11/23 **[Final Draft of Crane-Rios Research Papers due in ENGL 4315 Mon., 11/23]**

**[PowerPoint Presentations on Masters-Cummings Research Papers]**

11/30 **[PowerPoint Presentations on Crane-Ríos Research Papers]**

**Graded Assignments:** There are various types of graded assignments in this course: quiz, abstracts, exercises, works-cited pages, research paper, and a PowerPoint presentation on that paper. The quiz on critical approaches to literature will be worth 30 points. The two paper abstracts will count for 30 points each. The three take-home exercises (worth 10, 20, and 20 points respectively) will test your grasp of MLA formatting details. The late-stage draft of your works-cited page(s) will be worth 30 points. The research paper itself, worth 100 points, will demonstrate your proficiency in bringing this writing project to a technically accomplished finish. Finally, the PowerPoint presentation on that paper will count for 30 points. Thus, the total raw score for the course will be 300 points. I will convert your accumulated points to a number on a 100-point scale, then assign a letter grade in accordance with the following breakdown: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. I will round up average scores within a half-point of the next higher letter grade (e.g., an average of 79.5 would earn you a B).

**Missed/Late Assignments:** If you miss the critical-approaches quiz, it is your responsibility to contact me prior to the next class session and arrange to take it. Likewise, if you are not in class the day that I hand out one of the exercises, simply contact me before the next class session, and I will email it to you. Failure to do so in either case may result in a score of zero on the assignment. You must be in class on one of the two PowerPoint presentation days to earn credit for that assignment.

My deadlines for abstracts, works-cited pages, and papers are especially firm. Especially toward semester’s end I will be working on tight deadlines myself. Your failure to turn these assignments in on time will result in a penalty of one letter grade per calendar day (a weekend counting as one calendar day).

**Attendance:** As this is a weekly class with a relatively small number of sessions, you may only miss up to two class periods, whatever your reasons. If you exceed that limit, you will either have to drop the course or be dropped by me. You may not leave class early; if you do so, you will be counted absent. If you arrive after I have taken roll or without the textbook, you will receive a one-half absence penalty. Please do not bring children to class. Turn off all beeping gadgets at the door.

**Course Announcements:** Now and then I may send an informational e-mail to your Cub address, so do periodically check your account.

**Course Evaluations:** The faculty and administration at UCA value your feedback on the quality of classroom instruction, course content, and student learning. Do exercise your right to be heard on such matters. Toward semester’s end you will receive emails encouraging you to evaluate your courses. Click on the provided link, or log on to myUCA and click the Evals icon on the top bar.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** “The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.”

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism, a form of academic misconduct and intellectual dishonesty, occurs when you present someone else’s ideas or language (verbatim or even paraphrased) as your own, intentionally neglecting to give due credit. In light of the fact that this is a course on proper procedures for writing a research paper, any act of plagiarism on your part will result in a zero on the assignment at the least, and possible expulsion from the course with a WF, depending on the gravity of the infraction.

Instructors are required to report all cheating infractions, and the university keeps a record of confirmed charges. The administration considers this record when imposing university penalties for cheating (e.g., suspension, expulsion).

**Building Emergency Plan:** “An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for the building in which this class is held will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/. Every student should be familiar with emergency procedures for any campus building in which he/she spends time for classes or other purposes.”

In the event of a fire alarm, proceed immediately to either stairwell and exit the building through the north or south doors, assembling near the fountain in front of Irby. In case of a tornado threat, again use the stairwells–*not* the elevator–and assemble in the first-floor hallway; if the hallway is full, stay in the stairwells. Should there be a shooter on campus, we’ll stay in the classroom, shut the blinds, turn off the lights, and barricade the door.

**University Policies:** You should be familiar with your rights and responsibilities as outlined in the Student Handbook. In particular, you should consult the Handbook on such matters as Academic Policies and the Sexual Harassment Policy.

**Title IX Disclosure:** “If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to "student-on-student" or "employee-on-student"), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved.  Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation.  Each situation differs, and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on [the] specific set of circumstances.  The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator.  For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>. Disclosure of sexual misconduct by a third party who is not a student and/or employee is also required if the misconduct occurs when the third party is a participant in a university-sponsored program, event, or activity.”

**Disabilities Statement:** “The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3613.”