

Fayetteville State University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English
English 120: Research and Argument
Spring, 2012

I. Locator Information

Professor: G McConnell

Course: ENGL 120 Research and Argument

Office: Butler 124

Semester Hours of Credit: 3

Office Hours: 9—11 TR; 10—3 W

Day and Time: Section 12 11—12:30 TR

Office Phone: 910-672-1902

Total Class Contact Hours: 45 hours per semester

E-mail address: gmccconnell@uncfsu.edu

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU email. Inquiries or requests from personal email accounts are not assured a response. The university maintains open-use computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail.

Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at <http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf>

II. Course Description:

English 120 continues practice in the composing process, with emphasis on argumentation and research. The course involves gathering, analyzing, and documenting information from secondary sources. *Prerequisite: ENGL 110.*

III. Disabled Student Services:

In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability to please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding building, room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.

IV. Textbooks and Materials:

The texts and materials, including print and online items, will be compiled and furnished by the instructor.

V. Student Learning Outcomes:

English 120 is a course that continues practice in evidence-based academic writing, with emphasis on argumentation and research. The course involves gathering, analyzing, and documenting information from primary and secondary sources.

By the end of the course, students will be able to

1. Conduct independent research using various library databases and other research tools
2. Summarize, quote, paraphrase, and analyze material from multiple sources in support of an original argument
3. Cite material according to APA -- or APA and additional citation styles
4. Demonstrate proof of the writing process, including inventing or gathering ideas, researching by keyword and/or subject searching, constructing an argument, producing multiple drafts, revising, editing, and proofreading.

Course Objectives

English 120 is designed to help students develop and improve their written abilities in a variety of rhetorical contexts: students will gain fluency and confidence in their ability to make written presentations on a range of contemporary social issues. Students will also become acquainted with the best practices in the various forms of research and documentation.

English 120 is designed to encourage students to do the following:

- 1) Conduct independent research on a topic using various library databases and other research tools
- 2) Summarize, quote, paraphrase and analyze material in relation to multiple sources
- 3) Cite material according to a citation style, preferably APA
- 4) Demonstrate proof of the writing process, including inventing or gathering ideas; research the library catalog, databases, and other tools by keyword or subject searching; planning a draft, writing the first draft; revising; editing; and proofreading.

VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

Students will present papers typed and double-spaced, and the papers will adhere consistently to the conventions of Standard Written English (SWE). Students will also demonstrate a clear understanding and application of argumentative and research methods with the appropriate use of format and citations.

The class will use the departmental computer lab in Butler 312 for revising of first draft, using the Criterion resource, and also for on-line research.

Common Rubric for English 120:

In an **excellent** paper, a student

- Includes and analyzes source material to forward a specific and original purpose;
demonstrates evaluation of source material, pointing out strengths and weakness
- Chooses various reliable and credible sources appropriate to purpose
- Selects direct quotations that are almost always suited to purpose
- Incorporates quotation into grammatical structure of the overall sentence
- Accurately paraphrases source material in student's own language
- Accurately cites in-text citations and works cited according to details of MLA style
- Demonstrates revulsion for organization, clarity, and proofreading for conventions of Standard American written English in final draft

In a **good** paper, a student

- Includes and analyzes source material to forward a purpose;
demonstrates evaluation of source material
- Chooses various reliable and credible sources appropriate to purpose
- Selects direct quotations that are often suited to purpose
- Usually incorporates quotation into grammatical structure of the overall sentence
- Paraphrases source material accurately but may be too close to original sentence structure
- Usually accurately cites in-text and works cited according to details of MLA style
- Demonstrates evidence of the writing process in final draft

In an **acceptable** paper, a student

- Includes and analyzes source material that does not necessarily forward purpose,
and repeats source material without evaluation
- Sometimes chooses reliable and credible sources appropriate to purpose; sources may not be varied
- Selects direct quotations sometimes suited to purpose or sometimes uses quotations to the exclusion of original writing
- Sometimes incorporates quotation into grammatical structure of the overall sentence
- Paraphrases misinterpret or misrepresent source material
- Cites in-text or works cited not conforming to APA style
- Demonstrates evidence of the writing process in final draft

In an **unacceptable** paper, a student

- Rarely includes or analyzes source material that forwards a purpose
- Chooses sources that are unreliable, not credible, not varied, or not suited to purpose
- Rarely selects direct quotations that suit purpose or uses quotations to the exclusion of original writing
- Rarely incorporates quotations grammatically
- Inaccurately or incorrectly cites in-text or works cited according to APA style

Does not show evidence of the writing process

Grading:

The “A” paper demonstrates strengths in critical thought, rhetorical development, and rhetorical grammar. It also demonstrates fulfillment of the criteria for the writing assignment. It is insightful, engaging, and informative. It is free of grammatical, careless, idiosyncratic or dialectical items. It displays a strong command of Standard American English (SAE), and it demonstrates extensive analysis of the subject matter through research and reflective thought.

The “B” paper demonstrates some strengths of the “A” paper but displays a few key weaknesses. It shows some critical thought and some area of development, but it lacks substantial support for the claims. It may have grammatical or careless errors. It fulfills some of the criteria for the writing assignment, but it is a bit lacking in other areas.

The “C” paper demonstrates strengths in few areas and has more weaknesses than strengths. It lacks in areas of critical thought, rhetorical grammar, and fulfillment of the criteria for the writing assignment.

The “D” paper needs much improvement. It is deficient in areas of critical thought, rhetorical development, and rhetorical grammar. It is especially lacking in fulfillment of the criteria for the writing assignment and displays poor usage of Standard American English (SAE). It shows significant weaknesses in development of the paper.

The “F” paper lacks significant thought and has deficiencies in such things as critical thought, rhetorical development, and rhetorical grammar. It does not appropriately fulfill the writing assignment. It has too many grammatical and careless errors, and it lacks insight. It is poorly prepared and does not fulfill the criteria for the writing assignment.

VII. Academic Support Resources:

In addition to supplemental instruction, students have at their disposal various support resources, including the online programs Smarthinking and Criterion, and students are urged to consider visiting the University College Writing Center for assistance with their written assignments.

VIII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

English 120—12
Spring, 2012

Instructor: G. McConnell (gmconnell@uncfsu.edu)
Office: Butler 124 Hours: TR 9—11, W 10—3

- January
- 10 Course Introduction and Policy Review
 - 12 Public Policy: Victimless Crime, Prohibition and Legalization
The Categories of Argument: Organic, Economic, and Aesthetic
The Issue: Illegal Narcotics and Drug Policy
 - 17 In-class writing (ten point maximum)
 - 19 Documentary: *Illegal Drugs: The Opiates*
(43-minute History Channel production on YouTube)
 - 24 Discussion of Film Review
 - 26 ***Documentary Film Review Due (APA Citation)*** (10%)
Websites: **The Cato Institute** (Research Source)
Serendipity (Not a Research Source)
- February
- 31 Visit to Cato Institute Website: Drug Policy
 - 2 Visit to Manhattan Institute Website: War on Drugs
 - 7 Sample Website Review
 - 9 ***Website Review Due:
Cato or Manhattan Institute (APA Citation)*** (10%)
 - 14 Introducing and Summarizing Sources
 - 16 Website Visit: **The Drug Policy Alliance Network (DPAN)**
 - 21 The Art of Summary: Samples
 - 23 Conducting Research
 - 28 Practicum: Researching Databases
 - 30 The Art of Paraphrase, the Act of Plagiarism
***Website Review Due: **DPAN** (APA Citation) *** (10%)
- March
- 6 Spring break
 - 8 Spring break
 - 13 Writing the Abstract
 - 15 Arguing All Approaches: Organic, Economic, Aesthetic
 - 20 Sample Abstracts
 - 22 *** Abstract Due*** (5%)
 - 23 ***Last Day to Drop a Course***

- 28 Conferences on Research Paper: Butler 124
- 30 Conferences on Research Paper: Butler 124

- April
 - 3 APA Presentation of Citations
 - 5 Research Paper Checklist

 - 10 ***Research Paper Due (Works Cited)*** (30%)
 - 12 Case Study: Analysis

 - 17 Analysis of Source Material
 - 19 Thanksgiving

 - 24 ***Analysis Paper Due (APA Citation)*** (15%)
 - 26 Final Evaluations

All graded work will be evaluated on a ten-point scale: 90=A, 80=B, 70=C, 60=D.

From time to time the class will write short items in class for stylistic practice and paper drafting, all of which will be used to determine the grade for class work, each in-class writing worth twenty points, or two per cent of the final grade. There is also an attendance component to class work: each absence beyond the third costs one point off the final average, late arrivals and early departures one-half point.

Papers are due at the beginning of class, and they must be written in the third person, typed, double-spaced, and handed in no more than one class day late (for a 10% penalty). Students should email only papers that otherwise would be late so their timely reception may be noted, but the professor will not print them. Printed versions of these emailed papers must be handed in the next class the student attends.

If a student revises a paper, the paper is due the next class day, and the paper grade will be the average between the first and second versions.

Paper Weights:	Documentary Review (500 words):	(100)
	Website Review (500 words):	(100)
	DPAN Review (500 words):	(100)
	Research Abstract (200 words):	(50)
	Research Paper (2,000 words):	(300)
	Final Essay (600 words):	(150)
	Class Work:	(200)

In case of a forecast absence, students should not call the professor but see him upon their return. Students are referred to the official, on-line version of this syllabus.

IX. Teaching Strategies:

This course will employ a variety of approaches to research and argument, including discussion, real time outlining, in-class drafting of papers, and the viewing of online research materials.

X. Bibliography:

APA Manual of Style (on-line version available)

The Cato Institute

The Manhattan Institute

Drug Policy Alliance Network.org

White House Drug Policy.gov

Library Items on Reserve

Research Materials Furnished by Instructor