

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

ENGL 32053 Textual Research Methods

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Focuses on textual research, including a review of methods for finding, organizing, evaluating, and synthesizing primary and secondary materials. This course is intended for students in the liberal arts, humanities, and communications.

B. Additional Information

Students will use the skills they are learning in the production of researched papers/projects, focusing on designing appropriate research projects, formulating theses/arguments, evaluating and integrating sources, and appropriately citing sources. Familiarity with both database research and handling archived materials will be another strong component of the course.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Develop methods for idea invention/project genesis.
2. Improve facility with databases (*e.g* use appropriate research terms).
3. Generate technically correct citations, parenthetical and bibliographic.
4. Write well-researched annotated bibliographies.
5. Produce well-researched papers/projects.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Inquiry based research and writing
- B. Information Literacy
- C. Bibliography
- D. Databases
- E. Ethical use of primary/secondary sources
- F. Synthesis of research material
- G. Evaluation of research material
- H. Textual evidence