

Prepared by the Department of Language and Literature  
Department Approval Date: February 2, 2009  
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Effective: Fall 2009

1. **Course Number: ENL216**  
**Course Title: Advanced Research Report Writing**
2. **Description:** This course focuses on methods for organizing information, for analytically structuring complex issues, and the logic for making persuasive arguments. Students select topics of interest to them – ranging from studies they have wanted to pursue to projects in their academic specialization. The instructional approach is highly individualized. Seminars center around issues of global significance. The tangible goal is to produce a portfolio piece.
3. **Student learning outcomes:**  
Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:
  - Advance beyond personal opinion in order to make inferences and reach conclusions based on reliable sources of information, on methodical observation and on consistent logical reasoning
  - Appraise and objectively critique alternative viewpoints
  - Collect library, internet and field research
  - Apply appropriate analytical frameworks to organize and to explain the results of research findings
  - Distinguish between evidence and argument both in research sources and in their own written reports
  - Apply an explicit problem-solving methodology for proposing concrete and consistent conclusions, recommendations and/or policy options
  - Refine the use of natural language (informal) logic in structuring an argument
  - Apply various rhetorical appeals – to reason, to value, to authority or to empathy – in presenting a report
  - Recognize indigenously unique values in assessing information concerning national, cultural, racial, geographic, economic and religious variations
  - Write appropriate length reports based on the findings of their research and on the analytical frameworks which they have applied
  - Apply the appropriate usage of quotations, paraphrasing, in-text citations and source references
  - Apply technical and analytical terminology appropriate to their field of specialization
  - Use the format and stylistic conventions of the Modern Language Association (MLA), the Council of Science Editors (CSE), or the American Psychological Association (APA) to prepare research reports
  - Design a presentation package using relevant charts, tables, and diagrams along with engaging graphics and document layout to enhance visual communication.
4. **Credits:** 3 credits
5. **Satisfies General Education Requirement:** No
6. **Prerequisite(s):** ENL102 English Composition II
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Varies
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** The primary components determining the final grade will comprise of:
  - the submission of two eight to ten typed page and properly formatted preliminary and interim research reports,
  - the submission of a fifteen to twenty page typed and properly formatted final position paper,
  - a classroom presentation of the final project, and
  - attendance and active participation in peer project reviews and in discussion of on-going research findings.
9. **General Topical Outline (Optional):**
  1. Types and purposes of research reports
  2. The discovery, research and composing phases of the report writing process

3. Organizational components of the research report
4. Refinement of the position statement, transitional elements and the summary/conclusion
5. Criteria for evaluating reliable sources of information
6. Distinction between evidence and argument
7. The procedures and the logic of various analytical frameworks
8. Persuasive appeals and techniques
9. Quotes, paraphrase, in-text citations and source references
10. The MLA, APA and CSE style and report formats
11. The craft of writing readable expository prose
12. Use of graphics, charts and diagrams
13. Complex sentence structures
14. Analytical and technical vocabulary