

Mastering the Liberal Arts II
50:606:302; Index 46844
Tues. 6:00 – 8:40 P.M., ARM 106

Instructor: Maggie Piccolo
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Hours by appointment

Course Description:

A range of topics and methods used to challenge students to further develop the array of advanced skills needed to master the material taught in upper-division liberal studies courses. Emphasizes developing reading, research, and quantitative skills appropriate for the social sciences and the natural sciences, with particular attention to psychology, sociology/urban studies, and ecology/biology. Regular writing and research assignments

Individualism and Capitalism: Is it really all about me?

Texts:

- *Norton Reader*, Eds. Linda H. Peterson and John C. Brereton, shorter 12th Ed. 978-0-393-93173-0 [Norton]
- *Brief Thomson Handbook*. Eds. David Blakesley and Jeffrey L. Hoogeveen 1-4130-2733-4 [Hbk]
- Readings, handouts, links, and instructions to be posted on Sakai, as assigned, during semester <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

Requirements:

- 1) Timed writing in class—five paragraph essay —5%
- 2) Participation and in class assignments—10%
- 3) Attendance at library orientation and two liberal studies suppers
- 4) Personal essay drafts one and two (5% each) —10%
- 5) Arguing a position on a prevailing psychological, social or ecological theme of interest—topic to be chosen by you but approved by me—first formal draft incorporating at least two researched sources—15%
- 6) Cover letter and resume, to be critiqued by Dean Jim Marino—15%
- 7) Two peer review and editing assignments on 2/10 and 4/14—10%
- 8) PowerPoint Presentation (no more than six slides)—graded on appearance and effect on the class—10%
- 9) Expansion of Position Paper to eight but no more than 10 pages with at least six scholarly, researched sources to include:
 - Working bibliography of six sources due 3/31—5%
 - Term position paper of 8 to 10 pages due 4/21—20%

Grade determination:

A: 91-100% B+: 85-90 B: 80-84 C+: 75-79 C: 70=74 D: 60-69 F <60

Policies:

Course work will require careful and active reading and response writing to selected assignments and will take approximately nine hours weekly. All researched work (formal and informal) must be documented and cited to avoid plagiarism.

You are required to establish a **Rutgers email account online and to secure a photo ID** at the Impact Booth, Campus Center. Your student account registration is necessary to engage in library research, to access the Sakai portal, and to link to library sites off campus.

Your success is important to me. As we meet only once weekly, attendance at and participation in each class are mandatory. If you have an emergency that prevents attendance, please send an email as soon as possible. Should you miss a class for reasons other than an emergency, it is your responsibility to get a synopsis of class activities from another student.

Your papers done in **MLA Style** should be stylistically and grammatically correct and should reflect professionalism. Where research is required, you are to use and document scholarly sources. Any research not properly cited will result in failure for that project.

Syllabus

All readings must be completed before assigned class; assignments may be added, based on instructional needs.

- 1/20 Introductions and course objectives, Sakai; Link to Robeson Library commentary on plagiarism and cartoon; in-class handwritten critique of one's own writing
- 1/27 *Who I am*: [Hbk] "Reading Critically" (47-57); "Reading Literature Critically" (58-64). "Understanding Mechanics" (509-27) [Norton] Morrison "Strangers" (75-79); Douglass "Learning to Read" (228-32); Franklin "Learning to Write" (233-36); [Sakai] "It's All About Me" and "Facework on Facebook"
- 2/03 **Where I come from**: [Hbk] "Managing Your Writing" (1-45). McMurty "Kill 'Em, Crush 'Em, Eat 'Em Raw!" (193-98); Cofer "More Room" (85-88); Momday "The Way To Rainy Mountain" (88-94). Look over MLA Guidelines; **Timed writing**—5 paragraph essay in class: My American Heritage, from outline prompts on one, 3x5 index card
- 2/10 **Liberal Studies Supper**; guest speaker, Professor Jane Siegel; [Hbk] On your own, review "MLA Documentation" (179-241). Personal Essay – a significant event that changed my life – 3 to 4 pages—due. I will distribute one copy on 2/17 for peer review and editing.
- 2/17 First drafts (my copy and peer copy) returned; [Hbk] "Understanding and Revising Sentences" (413-474); "Writing Arguments" (72-82, 84-87); [Sakai] **peer editing**; [Norton] Kingston "Tongue Tied" (282-85); Rodriguez "Aria" (286-91)
- 2/24 **Where I draw the line**: Using peer and instructor reviews, revised Formal Personal Essay due; [Hbk] "Research" (128-36), (156-66); [Sakai] "How to do a PowerPoint"; [Norton] King "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (548-61); Leopold "The Land Ethic" (430-36); Gordon "A Moral Choice" (437-43); discuss second (and final) formal writing assignments: Arguing a position, 3 to 4 pages, plus works cited, and Power Point Presentation, and final term paper (8 pages)
- 3/03 [Sakai] "Natural Rights and Individualism and Collectivism debate"; [Hbk] "Using Visuals to Inform and Persuade" (307-13); "Designing Interactive Oral Presentations" (324-30)

- 3/10 **First draft position papers with at least two sources due;** peer review and editing; [Hbk] “Writing in Digital Space” (331-80); “Revising, Editing, and Proofreading” (30-42)
- 3/17 *spring break;* no class
- 3/24 ***What I am or hope to be:*** [Norton] Postman “Virtual Students, Digital Classroom” (610-17); Welty “One Writer’s Beginnings” (625-31); Sontag “A Century of Cinema” (654-61); [Sakai] Resume package; preparing a resume; return first draft position papers and peer reviews (paper to be expanded to 8 pages, plus works cited, term research project with additional library research.) Working bibliography due 3/31; Final Drafts due 4/21
- 3/31 **Working Bibliography due; PowerPoint presentations** on term paper project; peer Feedback; [Sakai] “Is Privacy Still Possible in the 21st Century?”
- 4/07 **Liberal Studies Supper;** 5:45 to 7:30; academic advising with Dr. Singley
- 4/14 [Norton] Thoreau “Where I Lived, and What I Lived for” (688-96); [Sakai] “Towards a Model of Cross Cultural Business Ethics” Model; [Hbk] “Writing for Business and the Workplace” (88-98); **cover letter** for resume due; **peer review** of cover letter
- 4/21 ***The First Steps:*** Presentation, Jim Marino, Director, **Career Center**, conference room Student Center, lower level—bring **cover letters, resumes**, and questions; one copy to be given to me, the other copy will be left for Mr. Marino’s critique
- 4/28 **Term papers with additional research due;** resumes returned
- 5/05 Term papers returned; concluding business