



Curriculum Description for St. Francis Baccalaureate

Research Across the Disciplines: LAS 120

Course Description: A writing intensive course stressing research methods across the disciplines. Emphasis on different methodologies used in a variety of fields, including social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.

Outcomes:

- To introduce, practice, and apply techniques of reading critical material, film viewing, and other sources as tools of research in specific disciplines so that students can express themselves effectively in written communication
- Develop ideas and skills for life enrichment
- Interpret human behavior and cultural diversity
- Synthesize experience and research as it relates to the traditional and contemporary views of modern media and modern society

Texts:

Convergences. Robert Atwan, Ed.
Writing Research Papers. James D. Lester

Participation:

Each student will be awarded 200 points for their participation in the class. This includes all assignments and your attendance. This also includes thoughtful, well-organized responses to the assigned reading, as well as, contributions to class discussions. For this class to succeed, all students must be prepared to discuss the major issues. Every member of the class should be an active participant; failure to do so will affect your final grade. During this class, you will be expected to express your views honestly, react to the comments of your peers respectfully, and help to promote a spirit of cooperation at all times. Your active and constructive participation in this class is the key to the success of this course.

Papers:

Three 4-page papers, worth 50 points each, will be assessed using the traits of the Six Trait Writing Model. The six traits to be assessed are content, organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. Papers turned in after the due date will have 15 points deducted.

There will be a final 8-10 page research paper, worth 150 points, due during the final week of class. This research paper can contain portions of previous papers, but must reflect one of the major topics discussed during class.

Standards for Written Work: Essays and written exams are evaluated as to title, opener, thesis, organization, quality of ideas, number of ideas, grammar and mechanics, attribution of ideas (citation), handling of quotations, and quality of expression. Here are some characteristics of different grades of essays:

A: Demonstrates unusual competence. Thesis is clear, content is unified and coherent. Meaty with ideas and details. Few grammatical or mechanical errors. Varied syntax; diction is tight, fresh, and imaginative rather than trite, obvious and unvaried. Ideas are logically appealing.

B: Suggests competence. Clear thesis with supporting details. Few errors. Enough ideas to flesh out the paper. Above average but lacks spark, interest, and originality of an A paper.

C: Suggests incompetence: problems with organization, thesis, grammar, mechanics. Few details; may have logical fallacies. Sentence problems.

D: Demonstrates incompetence: missing thesis, incomplete sentences, little effort made at correct grammar and mechanics, too short.

F: Plagiarized or didn't get turned in! Either intentionally or unknowingly represents words and/or ideas of others as the writer's own without proper documentation.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism of any kind is an unacceptable form of expression as it is not your own. Please be aware of the serious consequences associated with its practice.

Grading Scale:

500 Total Points

450-500 A

400-449 B

350-399 C

300-349 D

000-299 F