

EN EN106 (SPHOC): First Year Writing II: Academic Research and Writing

Spring 2017 | Glenn Lester

15		Students Enrolled
9		Students Responded
60%		Response Rate

Quantitative

<i>Please indicate the frequency of the following:</i>	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Not applicable	N	DNA	SD	M
The professor communicated instructions clearly.	88.89% (8)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.31	4.89
The professor communicated expectations clearly.	88.89% (8)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.31	4.89
The professor was available during posted office hours, or by email/online for consultation or assistance.	77.78% (7)	22.22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.42	4.78
The professor offered and encouraged alternative viewpoints.	77.78% (7)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	11.11% (1)	9	0	0.33	4.88
The professor used the criteria and grading scale presented in the syllabus to evaluate my learning in this class.	100% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0	5
The required readings (for example: texts, reserve readings and internet links) complemented the professor's presentation.	77.78% (7)	11.11% (1)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.67	4.67
The professor effectively presented the subject matter of the course.	100% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0	5
<i>Please indicate the frequency of the following:</i>	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Not applicable	N	DNA	SD	M
The professor identified local library or online resources and encouraged their use.	77.78% (7)	22.22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.42	4.78
The professor guided students to achieve the learning outcomes for the course listed in the syllabus.	66.67% (6)	33.33% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.47	4.67
The professor used a variety of teaching strategies.	55.56% (5)	22.22% (2)	22.22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.82	4.33
The professor was consistently well-prepared and organized.	88.89% (8)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.31	4.89
The professor provided helpful responses to student questions in a timely manner.	77.78% (7)	22.22% (2)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.42	4.78
The professor provided helpful, individualized, and constructive feedback on all assignments (e.g., highlighted strengths, provided suggestions for improvement).	100% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0	5
The professor encouraged student-to-student interactions (e.g., small group discussions in the face-to-face environment, and asynchronous discussions in the online environment).	77.78% (7)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0.96	4.56
Grading was completed promptly so that learning was reinforced.	100% (9)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	0	5
	Excellent (one of the best professors I ever had)	Above Average (outstanding, but not one of the best)	Average (did a good job, equal to most professors)	Below Average (not average, but not the worst)	Poor (one of the worst professors I ever had)		N	DNA	SD	M
Overall, I rate this professor as:	88.89% (8)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)		9	0	0.31	4.89
	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduate Student		N	DNA	SD	M
Year in school:	77.78% (7)	11.11% (1)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)		9	0	-	-

	A	B	C	D	F	N	DNA	SD	M
What grade do you expect in this course?	88.89% (8)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	-	-
	Expectations were very clear!	Expectations were somewhat clear.	Expectations were a little unclear.	I was often confused about what was expected of me.		N	DNA	SD	M
Please rank your professor's clarity in communicating expectations for major writing assignments.	88.89% (8)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)		9	0	-	-
	Excellent.	Better than average.	About average.	Below average.	Very poor.	N	DNA	SD	M
Please rank your professor's ability to facilitate discussion in class.	55.56% (5)	44.44% (4)	0% (0)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	-	-
	I have improved quite a bit.	I have seen some improvements.	I am about the same as before.	I got worse!		N	DNA	SD	M
Please rank your overall progress as a writer this semester (according to you!).	66.67% (6)	33.33% (3)	0% (0)	0% (0)		9	0	-	-
	I am very good at making arguments and supporting claims in my writing.	I am somewhat effective at making arguments and supporting claims in my writing.	I sometimes have trouble making effective arguments in my writing.	I often have trouble when it comes to making arguments in my writing.	What's a claim?	N	DNA	SD	M
How do you rate your ability to support a claim in your writing?	55.56% (5)	33.33% (3)	11.11% (1)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	-	-
	I can summarize most sources effectively and efficiently.	I know how to summarize sources, but it's not easy.	I sometimes have a hard time summarizing sources.	I usually struggle when I summarize sources.		N	DNA	SD	M
How do you rate your ability to summarize a source?	44.44% (4)	55.56% (5)	0% (0)	0% (0)		9	0	-	-
	We moved much too fast.	We moved a little too fast.	We moved just right.	We moved a little too slowly.	We moved much too slowly.	N	DNA	SD	M
How would you rate the pace of class activities, lectures, and assignments this semester?	11.11% (1)	22.22% (2)	66.67% (6)	0% (0)	0% (0)	9	0	-	-

Qualitative

Do you wish to make any further comment on the course and/or instructor -

- You were an exceptional teacher. And my grade showed it. For the first time i actually enjoyed a writing class, and it was complete 180 from my writing class last semester. Your teaching style fit well with my learning style. I like how our papers all made sense, as far as what was expected. The only thing I did not like was the peer review. I feel as tho I could not get great feedback on my papers unless you gave me feedback. In most cases that was the case. I feel as though my grade suffered on some of these papers where we strictly relied on peer review. Also, for the bigger projects I feel we should consistently have more draft due dates because I felt so rushed with all my other classes and your homework. Trying to put together a final draft while I have other major assignments due.
- Professor Lester did a great job this semester. I learned a lot!
- Professor Lester, This past semester I have learned so much about academic writing! I felt like all of your lectures were engaging and had meaning. I enjoyed all of the peer reviewing and group work we did in class. You are more than willing to help students in and out of class and you always provided me with ample feedback on my assignments. My favorite part of this course was completing the community writing project! I was able to use the skills I learned and apply them to an issue that concerned me and others in my community. Throughout this course I felt challenged, but not too challenged! I was learning new things at a steady pace and I like that! When I didn't understand something you were always more than happy to help and explain it again. I did feel rushed at a couple points in the semester, especially when it came to completing the writing portfolio. However, I still got it done and I was happy with it! It just would've been nice to have a little more time to complete it. Over all, I thought this was a great course and you were an outstanding teacher! Thank you for a great semester!
- I really enjoyed this class. Most English classes are review for me, but I didn't mind since the professor was so enjoyable. I really appreciated the professor's consistently cheerful approach to the material; it made class time better because you could tell the professor really loved what he was teaching. I liked the variety within the assignments as it introduced me to several concepts that were somewhat new to me, and expanded upon things I already knew. In particular I liked the way that the first half of the semester built up to give you the skills needed for the community writing project in the second semester. Everything flowed well and made sense, and overall I thoroughly enjoyed this class.
- Professor Lester was always enthusiastic, confident, clear and precise every single day. If he was ever having a bad day, I'd never know. He was always smiling and very encouraging. His course provided the right amount of structure that ensured students stayed engaged and on task. But not so much that it felt like I was being micro managed. He taught with passion and you can tell he is truly working to master his craft. I will try to take another course with him if possible.
- I very much enjoyed having Professor Lester for a teacher. I feel like I learned a lot about how to become a better writer in his class. During classes he would always have us get in groups to discuss our essays or even about smaller topics that we were learning about and he would walk around and make sure we were all understanding the subject matter. On every essay I turned in, I always got feedback about how I can make my writing better. The only thing I would change is the amount of time that we had to complete each writing assignment.

What was most challenging in this class? (E.g., readings, workload, concepts discussed, etc.) -

- Workload
- Readings
- The workload was difficult for me.
- Could have used a little more time between some of the assignments
- research
- I would say the workload. It's a lot to get done in 16 weeks, but I thought it was worth it. I learned a lot by doing a lot!
- The instructor kept me on my toes by demanding just a little bit more everytime we had an expectation. It was challenging but also reasonable.
- I think the most challenging thing in the class was the literature review.
- WS2 project

Which assignment this semester was most helpful to your writing? -

- Summaries
- I think the literature review was most helpful even though it was challenging to write.
- The community writing project
- The community writing project helped me the most. I was able to develop a project around a real life issue and apply my academic writing skills to it. I feel like this was also the best writing assignment I competed all year.
- literature review
- Probably the literature review since I had never done anything like it and therefore learned the most from it
- The biggest writing assignments were the most helpful because I showed me how I could make an essay good and what I needed to do to get there.
- Summarizing sources

Which assignment did you feel most engaged by? In other words, which assignment was the most interesting for you to work on? -

- My community paper
- WS2
- Report and Recommendations
- Community Writing Project
- community project
- Again, the community writing project! I was very interested in this project because it was something I really cared about and wanted to find a solution to. I actually enjoyed researching and composing this project!
- The community writing project
- The community writing project was the most interesting to me
- Summaries

What about that assignment was engaging or interesting? -

- We were able to get in groups and talk about our papers to our peers and hear how they approached the same topic, but a different way. Also we were in different groups all the time so we got to hear every bodies point of view at least once.
- I think that really getting to delve into a community we belong to and develop a solution for a problem in our community was the most interesting.
- It took everything we learned and applied it to one big assignment. It also allowed us to be as creative and explore as deep as we wanted. There were no limitations to the topic we chose to tackle. It was awesome.
- The community writing project was over an issue that I specifically cared about a lot. It was a problem that I was faced with, and I was able to solve this problem and learn a lot about it in the process.
- It was interesting because it was our community we were writing on so when writing we wrote with passion.
- Getting to choose our own topic meant that I got to write about something I was truly interested in, and I enjoyed learning more about it
- I picked a topic that meant so much to me so it was nice to be able to write about something that I was interested in.
- Engaging

What suggestions for improvement can you offer your professor? -

- Give more time between assignment
- Give more time to go from rough draft to final draft. In the first half of the semester, I feel like I didn't get a good improvement on my essays because the rough draft could be due on a Tuesday and the final due on Thursday. The Report and Recommendations schedule was helpful because we had that second draft, but I suggest making the first draft and the almost final draft deadlines closer and giving more time between the almost final draft and the final.
- I don't really have any
- nothing
- I would offer more time to complete the writing portfolio.
- Professor Lester was very firm and very fair with everything. I really can't offer any advice. His bowties were fly too. Keep on wearing those.
- He was really good. Maybe add a little more clarification about each assignment.
- Keep doing what you are doing, it works extremely well.

What are your thoughts about peer review? What aspects of peer review are useful? What aspects are not? How could peer review be improved? -

- I am not a fan of it. I feel as though it does not help me at all because sometimes the person is not grading me as hard as i think a Instructor would. I prefer the Instructor to review my papers rather than a student.
- Peer review is sometimes helpful. I didn't feel like I got a lot of it. I think that getting feedback from Professor Lester was the most helpful.
- Peer review was useful. However, the instructor's reviews held the most weight for me to improve my drafts.
- I love doing peer review! It is super helpful to get the perspectives and feedback of others. The only time peer review isn't useful is when those who are in the peer review aren't engaged or providing appropriate feedback. I don't want to just know what was good. Tell me why it was good, tell me what was bad, and offer suggestions on how I could make it better!
- peer review was very helpful
- While I like the idea of peer review, it frequently doesn't help me. Reading my peer's papers lets me practice my analysis skills, but most of the peer reviews that I received were of little use. Out of the entire semester, only 2 or 3 of the peer reviews I received were well thought out and offered actual useable suggestions. I mostly used the professor's comments when revising my papers.
- I thought that peer review was very helpful. I especially found the peer letters to be the most helpful because in class it was hard to give good feedback in such a short amount of class time and it was also difficult for us to hear each other because the room was so loud.
- Yes