

Fall Showcase 2019

Quality Standards for “Writing Emphasis” Online Courses and Beyond

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Humanities and History

Research question/statement

This project revised and enriched a group of five online courses:

- ENG COMP 100,
- HUM STUD 360,
- HUM STUD 383
- HUM STUD 385

These courses are bound by the common thread of “Writing Emphasis” (WE) designation. It was conducted during a UWGB Hybrid and Online Program Development Grant (2018-2019) with Drs. David Coury, Kevin Kain, Cristina Ortiz, and Jennie Young and Patricia Hicks. The new standards created by our community of practice refurbished existing individual courses though quality design which bind them together as a program and align them with the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences requirements and outcomes prescribed in the “Writing Emphasis Requirement Policies,” including “faculty responsibilities” and “required assignments.” Focus on “faculty responsibilities” increased instructors’ abilities to design high quality courses as part of an integrated program with shared criteria.

A grade of “F” indicates multiple aspects of writing that are unacceptable for college-level work (logical reasoning, sentence structure, grammar, mechanics, research quality, citation).

A grade of “D” indicates at least one aspect of writing that is unacceptable for college-level work (see above).

A grade of “C” must meet these criteria:

1. Meet all the basic requirements of the assignment.
2. Employ a structure that adequately organizes the writing.
3. State basic points, although the points may lack development or support.
4. Integrate ideas, although implications may be imprecise or inconsistent.
5. Control grammatical/mechanical errors to a degree that they do not interfere with reading.

A grade of “B” must meet all the “C” criteria plus these criteria:

1. State important points; support most points with details and examples.
2. Demonstrate appropriate if not perfect academic prose (vocabulary, writing style, quote/paraphrase integration).
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of academic citation (if required by assignment).
4. Analysis is logical and solid but may not be insightful.
5. Contain few grammatical/mechanical/spelling errors.

A grade of “A” must meet all the “B” and “C” criteria plus these criteria:

1. State important points; supports points with illuminating details and examples.
2. Demonstrate an ability to write in clear and lucid academic prose and properly employ academic conventions (writing style, transitions, source integration, etc.)
3. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of academic citation (if required by assignment).
4. Analysis is logical, consistent, and insightful; draws meaningful implications.
5. Be nearly perfect grammatically and mechanically.



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