

ENGLISH 129 01: Informing Writers: Text and Tech, Fall 2011

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Course Statement: The four library sessions of EN 129 will familiarize students with the organization of libraries, organization and presentation of information in print, online, and in other forms and its importance to writers. Students will become more proficient at finding information they need at BC libraries, on the Web, and from other sources.

Final Grades for English 129 are based on the following:

- Weekly Assignments: 40%
- Research Exam: 50%
- Class Participation: 10%

Homework Assignments: Homework assignments will be given at the end of each of the first three sessions of this course. Assignments are due by Sunday before each class, so that I can return them at the beginning of the next session on Monday. Assignments not turned in on time will receive no credit.

Attendance: Attendance in this class is essential. There are only four sessions. Material covered in each session will be included on the Research Exam. If you miss one, you will miss about 30% of the content of the course, and it will be hard to make up. You will also have trouble completing the weekly assignments if you have not been in class.

Course Calendar

Monday, September 19th:

Library Session #1

The Information Explosion & The BC Libraries

- The Information Explosion
- The Role of Libraries
- The Organization of Information
- Libraries at BC
- QUEST, the BC Libraries Catalog
- E-Books
- Items not in the BC Library
- Your Quest Account
- WorldCat

Monday, October 3rd:

Library Session #2

The Computer as Information Gateway

- Online Databases
 - Databases by Subject
 - Article Indexes
 - Full text databases
 - Statistics & Data
 - Business Information
- Special Tools & Techniques
 - Search techniques (Boolean search, truncation, etc.)
 - FindIt (linking to full text)
 - Cross-searching/Quicksets
 - Citation management (print/email/download)
 - Holmes

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Course Calendar (continued)

Monday, October 17th:
Library Session #3

Getting Started with Research

- Generating a Paper Topic
- Getting Background Information
- Primary & Secondary Sources
- Picking the Right Databases
- Creating a Bibliography

Ethical Issues in Research

Plagiarism

- Quoting
- Paraphrasing
- Summarizing

Monday, October 31st:
Library Session #4

Google Scholar Overview

The BC Libraries Home Page

- Research Help by Subject
- Libguides
- “How Do I...?”
- Getting Help: Ask a Librarian

Course Review

Final Exam