**SPAN 309**

**Seminar in Style: Academic Writing**

Fall 20XX

**“Start writing no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.”**

[Louis](http://www.proverbia.net/citasautor.asp?autor=313) L’Amour *(1908-1988), escritor americano.*

Instructor Name

Office Hours & by appointment

Office Location

Instructor Email

Instructor Phone Number

**WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?**

In graduate school we write almost every day, from class notes, discussion comments, peer reviews to lengthy essays and reports. Many of us write daily in more than one language. For some, writing is a breeze, for others, not so much. You may have wondered, is there a way writing can become easier, especially the *academic writing*? How can I be more efficient at it? How can I overcome the fear of academic writing? This course will address these questions. Together we will explore the ways of approaching the academic writing and its requirements; we will look into the efficient use of primary and secondary sources, discuss the MLA guidelines for citations and bibliography and explore the types of documents you may have to create when looking for jobs. *This course is conducted in Spanish.*

**THE FORMAT OF THE COURSE**

\*This is an *online course with 4 in-person meetings*. The weeks when there are no in-person meetings, all the assignments and class interactions will be online in an asynchronous mode.

\***This course also has a *Service Learning* component**. *You will have an opportunity to conduct a real-life research though our service learning component in collaboration with LA Superior Court.*

\*This course requires active online and in-person participation and extensive class discussion of reading materials and problematic issues.

**WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS COURSE? By the end YOU WILL be able to…**

* Explore your local community to uncover the connections with Latin America and bilingual writing.
* Acquire broader knowledge about the steps of the writing process.
* Analyze critically, evaluate and edit the written text in Spanish.
* Develop an ability to select, analyze and cite the critical and literary sources.
* Improve understanding of conceptually abstract texts that may treat unfamiliar topics and situations.
* Integrate literary and cultural analysis into the context of oral and written assignments.
* Develop the ability for self-assessment and critical reflection of your perception and understanding of literary works and cultural phenomena.
* Take responsibility for identifying, evaluating, and using practical experience, primary and secondary sources and resources needed to prepare for assignments in this class.

**HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Weekly Online Participation and Preparation (including in-person session attendance) | **35%** |
| Annotated Bibliography for the Final Project | **10%** |
| CRIT Essay | **10%** |
| Conference Abstract and Bio | **10%** |
| LinkedIn Profile | **10%** |
| Research Practicum Preparation (including preparing required paperwork, shadowing and translation sessions) | **10%** |
| Final Essay based on Research Practicum | **15%** |

\****Unexcused absences and tardiness*** (≥ 10 minutes late) can be disruptive both for you and your classmates who will be already working on the assignments. However, I understand that life happens so you are always encouraged to come to class, even if you are late. Please know that unexcused absences and tardiness will be recorded and graded as follows: 0-1: A // 2-3: B // 4-5: C // 6-7: D // 8+: F

\****Late assignments policy***: You can turn in your assignments late (except Discussion Forums) for any reason, but each subsequent day will ***drop the grade by 20%* (**please, let me know if you need to turn in the assignment late due to extenuating circumstance, such as medical emergency, etc.).

**GRADING SCALE (%)\*\***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 94-100 A | 87-89 B+ | 77-79 C+ | 67-69 D+ |
| 90-93 A- | 83-86 B | 73-76 C | 63-66 D |
|  | 80-82 B- | 70-72 C | 60-62 D- |
|  |  |  | 0-59 F |

\*\****Grade of Incomplete***: The grade of IN usually indicates that the course work could not be finished due to unforeseen dramatic circumstances. The professor, at her discretion and with adequate proof will consider these circumstances.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA**

**Research Practicum Preparation (10%):** As a part of your service learning project, you will be observing and translating at the LA Superior Court. In order to be able to carry out this project, you will be required to submit mandatory paperwork, attend the required number of sessions where you will observe court proceedings or shadow an interpreter, work with legal vocabulary, etc. *It is key to complete all these required steps, as failure to do so will result in NOT being able to participate in this required project*.

**Final Research Essay (based on Research Practicum) (15%):** Your capstone project for this course will be based on the independent Research Practicum you will be conducting during the semester. After completing all the required sessions, you will draft and submit an essay based on your critical analysis of any topic related to Spanish in court interpreting and your own experience. The essay may be focused on a variety of aspects: language, culture, literary comparisons, professional training and language education, but regardless of the focus, it should demonstrate thorough analytical skills and the ability to work with the secondary sources (you will have a chance to identify these sources while working with the annotated bibliography). As in a real-life situation, you will be responsible for identifying the problem, formulating the thesis, and looking for appropriate secondary critical sources to support your argument. I will assist you at all stages of the process, but you are ultimately responsible for the success of this assignment. Your final essay will be 8-10 pages with at least 10 critical secondary sources. \**Rubric available in Canvas.*

**LA Superior Court Interpreting Practicum**

**FINAL REPORT**

**Final Report (15%):** Your capstone project for this course will be based on your experience at LA Superior Court and the knowledge you obtained during the semester. As such, please, make sure your report is following the best practices we discussed in this course, is revised, and proper citations are included if relevant. The report should combine your observations with critical analysis of those. Your report is an individual project, even though you worked in groups, and will include the following parts:

\**Rubric available in Canvas.*

**Part 1: Background for your topic**

Write a short research paper analyzing the selected period/literary work. You will be responsible for identifying the problem, formulating the thesis, and looking for appropriate secondary critical sources to support your argument.

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| **Part 1** | **REQUIREMENTS** |
| **5-7 pages** including bibliography, but excluding title page, appendices, illustrations, etc. |
| **At least 5 secondary sources** |
| **At least one primary source** by Latin American author |

**Part 2: Final Practicum Report**

Submit a short report about your experience using the provided template.

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| **Report** | **REQUIREMENTS** |
| **2-4 pages** including bibliography, but excluding title page, appendices, illustrations, etc. |
| Include secondary sources if appropriate |
| Address all the questions in the report template |

**APPENDIX**

* 1. **Edited Class Observation & Report**
  2. **Final Lesson Plan and Supporting Materials for a Class Taught at Pierce College**

**ABOUT YOUR SERVICE LEARNING PRACTICUM**

To apply your theoretical knowledge on practice and enhance your professional CV, during this semester you will have an opportunity to observe and shadow court proceedings and interpreters (**AT LEAST 6 SESSIONS**), and ultimately, translate for the judges (pre-trial proceedings). Several class assignments will guide you in preparation for this experience: at the beginning of the semester you will sign up and observe the proceedings and critically analyze your experience; then you will participate as a volunteer interpreter in the pre-trial proceedings **ON NOVEMBER 6-8, 2018** (**AT LEAST 1 SESSION). Don’t forget to include this experience in your CV!**

In order for you to be able to participate in this Practicum, you will have to submit some paperwork. You will receive more information about the Practicum during the week 1 and 3 class meetings. **NOTE that failure to submit all required documentation for Practicum** (i.e., surveys, timesheets, volunteer agreement, etc.) will result in **DENIAL of the participation in this project.**

The main goals of this***research practicum*** are: 1). To observe and practice Spanish written and oral skills in a non-traditional non-academic environment; 2). To acquire an ability to conduct independent research (formulating the thesis, conducting the observation, collecting the data, analyzing the sources, etc.). 3). To analyze critically your experience and apply the theoretical material covered in class to produce a research paper.

***This is the first time the MCLL department is working with the LA Superior Court, so your patience with the process and your constructive feedback are greatly appreciated!***

**For this Research Practicum I will guide you through these steps:**

* Sign up for a specific time to observe court proceedings (at least 1 session) and to shadow an interpreter (at least 1 session). You can and are encouraged to observe more.
* Submit all the required paperwork in order to be allowed to attend said sessions.
* Obtaining a parking permit and badge (to be discussed in class).
* Attend 2 in-person class meetings with the LA Superior Court Judges (2 and 3 in-person classes tentatively).
* Prepare for the interpreting sessions.
* Sign up for an interpreting session **ON NOVEMBER 6-8, 2018.**
* Complete your interpreting assignment.
* Draft a research paper analyzing your experience and any issue related to Court interpreting and Spanish.