

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE
UC 175-003; CRN: 33084 – Three (3) Credit Hours
Fall 2016; MWF 10:20 -11:15 – TPH 248

Instructor: Marsha Hopper, MA
Office: AC 214; Phone: 270-745-4172
Office Hours: By Appointment Only
E-mail: marsha.hopper@wku.edu

Textbooks and Materials:

1. Paul, Richard and Elder, Linda. *Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*; required reading
2. **Available via Blackboard.** *A Critical Thinker's Guide to Success at Western Kentucky University*. Plymouth: Heyden-McNeil, 2011.

Course Supplies: Abacus or Calendar System of choice

WKU Undergraduate Catalogue. Available online: www.wku.edu/undergraduatecatalog

Course Description:

UC 175: University Experience

This course focuses on the development and application of critical thinking skills at the university level and across disciplines. This course uses the Foundation for Critical Thinking's model to help students evaluate their own thinking process with goals of improvement in all areas. Specific course content include library education, improving academic skills, exploration of majors and careers, use of campus technology and resources, and personal development.

Prerequisite: For beginning college freshman or transfer students with fewer than 24 hours of degree credit. *This course provides a supportive environment for students in a critical year of adjustment; our goal is to empower students to have a successful transition to the higher education experience.*

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students shall be able to:

- Develop effective critical thinking and reading skills.
- Conduct basic research in the University libraries to gather information, evaluate information, and construct arguments.
- Explore potential career options and develop an effective academic plan.
- Apply strategies for academic and personal success culminating in graduation.
- Identify Campus resources/services and co-curricular clubs and organizations.
- Recognize personal habits and choices that promote health and well-being.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend each class session. Attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. Three unexcused absences will be allowed for each student. *EACH UNEXCUSED ABSENCE THEREAFTER WILL INCUR A FULL LETTER deduction FROM THE FINAL GRADE.* Also, in the event that a student is unable to attend, the instructor should be called or emailed prior to class time. Failure to communicate in the above manner may result in the student not being allowed to make up any missed work. Arriving late to class is unacceptable, both for this class and other classes you will take. Two late arrivals will equal one unexcused absence. No exceptions.

Assignment Policy:

All assignments turned in must be submitted in APA (6th edition) or MLA. Any late assignments will incur an automatic 10% deduction for every day it is late. Late assignments will not be accepted if more than 5 days late. If you are planning to miss class the day an assignment is due, please either email me the assignment or drop it off by my office (AC214) prior to the due date.

Student Expectations:

1. Regular classroom attendance and participation in group discussions.
2. Respectful attitude toward class members.
3. Completion of course assignments; Library Research, journal articles, scheduled tours
4. Participation in three Student Enrichment Activities to include: *Academic Advantage Lectures, Cultural Enhancement events, clubs, organizational meetings, concerts, Plays, study groups, community service, civic activities, "Relay for Life", and ONE athletic event.*
5. Completion of "Career Building/Resume/SEAT Portfolio" Project & PPT Presentation.
6. Check email and Bb announcements weekly for links to readings and class materials.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to be familiar with university policies regarding plagiarism, and/or academic dishonesty (please see the WKU Student Handbook for more details). This type of behavior ***WILL NOT*** be tolerated and will result in a zero for the assignment/quiz and/or failure for the course. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. **The definition of Plagiarism is "Copying another person's work (in any form, including images, web pages, textbooks, etc., without giving credit.)"** *Be "crystal clear" when indicating which words are yours and which words are the other person's by means of quotation marks. "As a rule of thumb, do not copy more than three consecutive words and **rephrase** any ideas into your own words."*

Cell Phone Policy

Due to recent advances in technology, cell phones, iPods, iPads, etc. **will not be allowed out during class time.** Any student with a cell phone in hand or on his or her desk during class time will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent for that day. This policy applies during student presentations as well as during lecture and discussion.

Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC)

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center

in Downing Student Union (DSU) located on the first floor, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Course Outline:

POINT SYSTEM: Course Credit: 3 contact hours

You are required to attend and participate in all classes and activities. This is the first strategy of academic success; any emergency absences should be explained to me. Again, if you have more than three unexcused absences, your grade will be dropped one full-letter grade.

ACTIVITY:				POINTS:	DUE DATE:
Library Skills Research Component – Computer Lab TPH 213				30	Wed. Aug. 31
Library Skills Research Paper Bb (Annotated Bibliography)				70	Due Date TBA
Helm/Cravens Library Tour; meet promptly 10:20@Java City				100	Wed. Sept. 7
Preston Health/Fitness Lab: Well-U plus 1 activity completion				50/50	Fri. Sept 23
Career Center Tour DSU 2001 and “My Plan” survey				50/50	Mon. Oct. 3
UC 175 Participation points and/or Bb Discussion Questions				100	Fall Semester
Journal Questions (10@20pts each)				200	Fall Semester
Career Building Portfolio with Presentation (Final Paper/PPT)				125	Nov 28, 30, Dec 2
(3) Student Enrichment Activities + SEAT Transcript				75	Nov 28, 30, Dec 2
California Critical Thinking Skills Test				100	TBA
1000-900	A	899-800	B	599-000=F	
799-700	C	699-600	D		

Note: Instructor reserves the option to make necessary changes to this schedule during the course of the Fall 2016 Semester.

RESOURCES:

Service learning: www.wku.edu/alive

Critical Thinking: www.criticalthinking.org

APA Style Tutorial: <http://flash1r.apa.org/apastyle/basics/index.htm>; *Owl Purdue (on-line lab)*

Study Tips: <http://www.studygs.net/schedule/>

Register to VOTE: <https://vrsws.sos.ky.gov/ovrweb> (Submit by Oct 11, 4pm)

WKU Writing Center: www.wku.edu/writingcenter; **AARC Tutoring:** www.wku.edu/tlc