

Syllabus
WRTG 214: Writing Across Contexts
Pirates in the Writing Seas
Summer 2019
Nancy James, PhD

Catalog Description of Class: Writing (WRTG) 214: Arguing across Contexts meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00- 5:55 PM. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the work is asynchronous work on Blackboard. The course fulfills the second part of the written communication requirement for UAF students. The goal involves students learning to develop more sophisticated forms of arguments in preparation for fulfilling the writing demands of 300- and 400-level courses. This involved instruction and practice in written research-supported arguments for a variety of audiences, with an emphasis on rhetorical strategies across a variety of public and academic contexts.

Course Name Pirates in the Writing Seas

The symbol of piracy speaks powerfully in our postmodern era. This class covers the recent history of the invention and development of the computer industry, while studying the ethical issues that piracy raises. Both Bill Gates and Steve Jobs used the symbol of pirate as they led the computer revolution that created new rhetorical and communication techniques. As we focus our study on recent decades, we will also turn back to the master of rhetorical strategies, Aristotle, for wisdom on creating sophisticated and effective arguments. We will research internet piracy while studying advanced rhetorical techniques of writing and communication that the computer revolution helped develop.

Term and Year: Summer 2019

Full Name of Instructor: Nancy Carol James, PhD

Office Phone and UAF Email Address: Office is 8th Floor Gruening.
Email ncjames2@alaska.edu
Also, feel free to text my cell phone 571-236-8038

Office Hours, Building, and Location: Office hours from 4:30-6 PM and by appointment or before and after class times. Gruening 8th Floor, English Department.

Class Meeting Time and Location: Duckering 344.

Educational Philosophy: My philosophy of education is that learning is one of our greatest joys. To understand a new idea is to have a new perception and vista upon knowledge as well as upon ourselves. Every idea we have changes our mind and gives us the opportunity for greater freedom and achievement. My value in the classroom that we all experience joy and creativity while together we increase our knowledge and understanding.

Required Textbook and Resources: Textbooks can be ordered through UAF bookstore.

Crack99 by David Locke Hall. New York: Norton, 2015. ISBN 978-0-393-24954-5.

Movies and TV series on the pirate theme are helpful to our research. Some of these include the following ones, though there are many good ones available.

- Treasure Island (1950 and other versions)
- Pirates of The Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003)
- Hook (1991)
- The Princess Bride (1987) ...
- Captain Blood (1935)
- The Buccaneer (1958)
- The Goonies (1985)
- Pirates of Silicon Valley

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

1. Write in a consistent academic and readable writing style that connects one discipline with another.
2. Utilize printed library reference materials, proprietary databases, and Internet resources to locate source material;
3. Use borrowed information in a manner that complies with standard academic conventions pertaining to quotation, paraphrase, and summary;
4. Analyze, evaluate, organize, and manage the assertions of more than one source or author in order to support your own main point;
5. Develop and focus a research topic; and
6. Write a research question/proposal, a review of the literature, an abstract, an outline, a summary, a synthesis, and a unified, coherent, complete research paper in proper writing style such as APA, MLA, or Turabian.

The more the student puts into the course, the higher the student's outcome competencies will be.

Attendance Requirements: Students enrolled at the University should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and may file an unsatisfactory progress report. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course.

Additional Requirements: The instructor would like to know the reason behind every absence. After three absences, it is mandatory to meet with instructor to decide if the student is allowed to continue in the class or whether a withdrawal is in order.

Disability Statement: The Office of Disabilities Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and

course materials. Your instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHIT, 474-5455) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria: A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process.

Course Requirements: Grading Assignments and Points

a. ***Topic Selection and Annotated Bibliography:*** Each student is required to select a research topic based on his or her interest in this course related to our subject of computer piracy. In that regard, student will write an 6 to 8 item annotated bibliography that relates to your selected research topic of interest. Some examples of the research topics and annotated bibliography will be discussed in the class. Your selected topic must be approved by the course Instructor. **Total point value 100. Due date: July 10.**

b. ***Survey:*** Each student will develop a selected research topic related survey instrument and conduct, as a minimum, a survey of 5 people and then writes, as a minimum, a two-page report that interprets the survey results with tables, charts, figures or graphics. **Total point value of: 50. Due Date July 16.**

c. ***Research Project:*** Write a minimum of 6 -8 pages of research paper excluding the title page and reference page. The paper should be about 1500-2500 words. The course final paper will be prepared in either the American Psychological Association (APA) style, 6th Edition, or the MLA academic style. A rubric will be handed out in class for this paper. **Total point value of 300 points. Due Date: August 5.**

d. ***Bi-Weekly Reader's Response papers.*** Students will take the assigned readings and write a one-page response to the readings. 30 points a paper. **Total point value of 300 points.**

e. ***Discussion:*** Participating in discussions is important for maximum learning. To get full credit for discussions, students should offer ideas regularly in the class discussions. **Total point value of 100 points.**

f. ***Oral Presentation.*** The research project will be presented to the class in the form of an oral presentation. **Total point value of 100 points. Due Date: August 7.**

g. ***Journal***

18. Grading Schema/Scale:

A = 90-100%,	D = 60-69%
B = 80-89%,	F = 59 and below
C = 70-79%,	I = Incomplete

19. Other Rubrics will to be discussed in the class for more clarity.

Grading Weight (based on 1000 points possible)

Assignments	Possible Points	Earned Points
Topic Selection and Annotated Bibliography	50	
Survey Instrument/paper	100	
Oral presentation	100	
Research Paper	300	
Reader's Responses	300	
Attendance and participation	100	
Journal	50	
Total Points	1000	-----

Note: All assignments will have due dates and late penalties. Failure to submit assignments on time may result in the reduction of 10% of your grade following the due date.

20. ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Readings: Assigned readings are to be completed prior to the class session for which they are assigned.

CLASSROOM COURTESY: Exhibit courtesy to everyone in your class by being on time and staying for the entire class time. Turn cell phones off and do not use them during class. Use cell phone outside of the classroom during breaks. Limit your discussions to course content.

21. POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The University adheres to high standards of intellectual, moral, and ethical values. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be grounds for disciplinary action and at a minimum will result in a grade of zero /F on that project.

22. Format of Course deliverables

All course assignment must be submitted in the class. All course deliverables must be constructed in Times New Roman, 12pt font, double spaced, and submitted in Microsoft Word format. The use of APA format prescribed in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association 6th Edition is encouraged. The use of MLA is also acceptable formatting styles.

Tentative Schedule:

Welcome to the class! The key to success is your attentive class participation. Here is our planned schedule, though we may change this as the needs of the class change.

July 1. The art of readable writing with its clear communication techniques. Connecting with readers through rhetoric. Writing in active voice. Discussion of class expectations.

July 2: Read in *Crack99* Chapter One, pages 7-27. Write a 1-2 page response describing the CRACK99 website. Why do you think the author David Locke Hall emphasized the website?

July 3. Readable writing by using active voice. Discussion of our research topics. Assignment: Read *Crack99* Chapter 2 pg 29-48 and summarize it in a one page response. What does the phrase Fast Food mean in Hall's world? Second assignment is to write a 1 page paper on possible research topics. These assignments are due on July 8.

July 8 We will learn how to write an annotated bibliography. Library research. Research papers begin with a question and we will find some questions to write. What problem do you want to address in your paper?

July 9 Read *Crack99* Chapter 3 “Discordant Note.” 49-69. How does Hall use his Nepal experience (49) as a symbol for what is going on in the Crack 99 investigation? Assignment Topic Selection and Annotated Bibliography.

July 10. We will create a sample thesis statement. Looking at persuasive techniques in writing. Working on quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing. Topic selection and Annotated Bibliography Due.

July 11. Read *Crack99* Chapter 4, pg. 71-9. “Hacker, Cracker, Satellite Tracker.” What do you think about the cracking of the licensing authorizations called the cracked version? How do you react to the piracy actions of the Crack99 website?

July 15 Readable writing with sentence variety. What different perspective exists on your thesis or main topic? We will settle on the final writing thesis that will guide our research. We will create a survey and an interview on the research topic.

July 16 Read *Crack99* Chapter 7 “The Next War.” 147-169. React to the investigation. What do you think of the techniques involved with capturing the person running Crack99? Survey report due.

July 17. What is the difference in inductive and deductive writing? Why is it important? Other topics covered include critical thinking and author’s perspective, annotation, and journaling.

July 18 Read *Crack99* Chapter 9 “Pleasant Surprises” 189-206. What do you think about choosing a country in which to meet? Writing assignment is to write up the results of your class survey.

July 22. We will unite our journal ideas with ideas on your topic and create our own individual research. We will work in class with peers to share our writing and ideas. ASSIGNMENT: Write first draft of research paper.

July 23 Read *Crack99* Chapter 10 207-223. “Unpleasant Surprises.” Does this chapter meet your expectations or surprise you? Summarize what happens.

July 24. We will present draft of research paper in small groups and get ideas from the class. Bring in 5 copies of draft research paper to share with other students. We will look at complications to our thesis and see what ideas or solutions present themselves. Survey results due.

July 25. Read *Crack99* Chapter 11 “Dead or Alive.” 225-244. How do you react to the post-arrest activities?

July 29. We will add graphics and pictures. We will start putting the components of the paper together. Work in-class on research paper to have finished paper.

July 30 Read *Crack99* Chapter 12 pg. 245-271. “The Americans” What ethical issues do you see in this situation? Was this entrapment in your opinion?

July 31. Study different types of formatting such as APA and MLA. We will work on finishing research paper and editing skills.

August 1. Read *Crack99* Chapter 13 pages 273-291. Summarize your reaction to the ending of the piracy investigation and trial. Why did he call this “Slaying the Dragon”?

August 5. Final Research papers due. Oral Presentations begin.

August 6 :Blackboard discussion questions.

August 7. Oral Presentations Finished. Journals Due.

August 8 .Blackboard discussion questions.