RHET 105 - Writing and Research

Instructors:

This class is usually taught by graduate students from the department of English. The instructors vary every semester.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for RHET 105. Note that if you achieve 32-36 for your ACT English score (or scored equivalently on the SAT Critical Reading section), you’ll have earned the 4 hours of credit for RHET 105 and fulfilled the composition I requirement. If you have scored 4 or 5 on AP English Language & Composition or AP English Literature & Composition, you’ll also have earned the credit for RHET 105 and exemption from Composition I requirement.

When to Take It:

Since this course is counted as Freshman Composition I course, most students take it in their freshman year.

Class Content:

Rhetoric 105 is designed to develop students’ academic writing skills through writing practice, particularly with writing analytic and argumentative essays based on primary and secondary sources. Emphasis will be on invention, organization, drafting, and revising. Students will be organized into small groups to discuss the given topics and brainstorm ideas. Some of the classes will be used to review each others' draft papers, since peer reviewing is an important process in academic writing.

The current textbooks used are Writer's Help and Writing@U of I, both in e-book form. Writing@U of I features U of I professors from different fields talking about their experiences on writing academic journals. Writer's Help shows the students the standard formats for academic writings and guidelines for referencing secondary sources.

Work:

The class generally last 90 minutes, and there are two classes every week. Depending on the instructor's preference, you might write 3-6 essays throughout the semester. You'll start with essays about 2 pages long and gradually work your way up to 4-5 pages. Sometimes your essay might have to be a continuation of the previous essays you wrote. There's usually a final presentation which you collaborate with some of your fellow classmates. This means there's no "final exam" for this class.

There's also be short in-class writings every now and then, as one of course goals is to guarantee 7500 words of writing throughout the semester.

Life After:

After this class, you should be able to write academic papers in MLA format, which should be proven helpful if you would like to get into research later. If this class piques your interest in creative writing, the English Department has some classes you might be interested take to fulfill general education requirements.

This class is a prerequisite for most classes that satisfies the Advanced Composition requirement. Electrical Engineers get Advanced Comp credit from ECE 445 (Senior Design) or ECE 499 (Senior Thesis).