

**COMM2030 – Research for the Humanities and
Social Sciences**
Fall 2013 - 3 credit hours
Section 001: M/W, 3:30-4:45 PM
Room J132

Instructor Contact Information:

Name: Dr. Laura Beth Daws **Email:** ldaws@spsu.edu (**the best way to reach me!**)

Website: educate.spsu.edu/ldaws **Twitter:** @lbdaws * **Office phone:** 678-915-7208
(voice only)

Cell (voice/text & preferred phone number): 678-250-DAWS (3297).

NOTE: this is a Google Voice number that I will respond to regularly on weekdays from 8 am-5 pm. Voicemails and texts received before/after that will be handled on the next business day.

Office Hours: J318. M/W 2:30-3:30; 4:45-6. T/R: 10-11.

Please come by anytime my door is open if you have questions, concerns or just to say "hi!" If you need advising or have a more serious issue for which you need my undivided attention, though, please schedule an appointment with me. That way, you get priority in my schedule!

Required Textbook: Lunsford, A. A. (2013). *The everyday writer, 5th ed.* Boston, MA: Bedford.

Additional readings: You can expect additional readings in the form of websites, online articles and journal articles to be supplied throughout the semester via Desire2Learn.

Course Description as stated in the SPSU Catalog:

Prerequisite: ENGL 1102. This course develops the methods and skills needed to conduct research in the social sciences, history, international studies, and other humanities disciplines. Students will be expected to produce documents that demonstrate an understanding of the following topics: research design and development, literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, effective use of primary and secondary source data, and proper use of discipline-specific style guides.

Learning Outcomes/Course Objectives:

After completing COMM2030, students should be able to:

- Design and develop advanced research projects in the humanities and social sciences
- Gather, analyze and assess primary and secondary data sources
- Produce comprehensive literature reviews
- Present research results in a format and style appropriate to an academic discipline
- Use appropriate, discipline-specific style guides, including APA, MLA and CMS

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is expected each class period. If you must miss class due to an excused absence (illness with doctor's note, death in the immediate family, car accident, etc.), you may turn in your work late with no penalty (see more details under "Late Work" below). Under no circumstances, excused or unexcused, may you make up the in-class participation points.

I start class on time every day. If you arrive to class late or leave early more than 3 times, each subsequent tardy or early leave from class will result in a 5 point deduction from your participation grade.

Late Work:

Don't say I didn't warn you: I'm a stickler for turning things in on time. **I do not accept work after 11:59 pm on the date that it is due**, except in the case of a documented excused absence (illness, death in the family, car accident with accident report, etc.). If you have an excused absence, I will accept your work via email by the beginning of **the next class period**.

Written assignments are due at the beginning of class, and all assignments must be typed. I do not accept hand-written assignments, with the exception of in-class writing assignments. Most assignments should be submitted to me via the dropbox feature in D2L. Anything submitted to D2L after the class has started is subject to a 10% grade penalty.

SPSU Honor Code:

As a member of the Southern Polytechnic State University community of scholars, I understand that my actions are not only a reflection on myself, but also a reflection on the University and the larger body of scholars of which it is a part. Acting unethically, no matter how minor the offense, will be detrimental to my academic progress and self-image. It will also adversely affect all students, faculty, staff, the reputation of this University, and the value of the degrees it awards. Whether on campus or online, I understand that it is not only my personal responsibility, but also a duty to the entire SPSU community that I act in a manner consistent with the highest level of academic integrity. Therefore, I promise that as a member of the Southern Polytechnic State University community, I will not participate in any form of academic misconduct. I also understand that it is my responsibility to hold others to these same standards by addressing actions that deviate from the University-wide commitment to working, living, and learning in an environment conducive to a quality education. Thus, I affirm and adopt this honor code of Southern Polytechnic State University.

In Case Of Emergency, Weather Crises, Impending Apocalypse, Zombie Attacks, etc.

If you haven't done so already, please sign up for Hornet Alert by going to www.spsu.edu/hornetalert. This is SPSU's way of communicating with you in the event of a crisis/emergency that impacts campus (such as class cancellations due to weather). If I have to miss class unexpectedly (it RARELY happens), I will alert you via Desire2Learn – so it's not a bad idea to check in there before class starts. Oh, and in case of a zombie apocalypse... aim for their heads.

Classroom Policies:

- Part of my job is to help you learn how to communicate in a variety of contexts. You should treat every written communication to me as a chance to practice professional written communication skills, and I expect you to adhere to standard conventions of grammar, spelling and language when writing to me. **I will ask you to correct grammar, spelling and punctuation in your emails just like I would correct them in a written assignment.** This is a class in communication, after all, and I'd hate to know you left my class thinking it was acceptable to contact potential employers, bosses, or other professionals with sloppy emails!
- Come to class prepared to discuss our readings and be engaged in the classroom environment. Certain distractions - texting, using social media, surfing the internet, taking selfies (wish I was kidding about that one) - take away from your ability to be engaged in our class discussions, and are quite simply detrimental to your ability to learn as well as your classmates' ability to learn. We're all adults, so please act like a mature one in my class. Keep your own distractions to a minimum and your engagement in class to a maximum.
- I encourage the use of a laptop or tablet to take notes in this course. See the above note about distractions, and don't let your gadgets become problematic.
- Class discussions should facilitate an open exchange of ideas. Debates should be healthy, and each individual should be respectful of others' opinions. Hate speech, or racist, sexist, ageist, or homophobic comments are not allowed.
- I am happy to talk with you about any grade you earn in this course. However, please wait 24 hours before approaching me with questions about grades on speeches.
- **Plagiarism can result in failure of the course.** In this class, you are rewarded for correctly citing information, and severely punished for failing to credit where your ideas came from. If you are ever uncertain, ask me ahead of time.

ADA Procedures: Southern Polytechnic State University is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students in need of accommodations due to a disability should contact the ATTIC (Student Center 1st floor, extension 7361) for verification and determination of reasonable accommodations as soon as possible after admission to the University, or at the beginning of each semester. More information is available at <http://www.spsu.edu/attic/index.htm>.

Grades:

Grades will be posted to the gradebook in Desire2Learn for you to access and review at any time. However, please keep a record of all assignments in case there is a grade discrepancy.

Grade Scale: 900 points maximum. A=810-900 points. B= 720-809 points. C= 630-719 points. D= 540-629 points. F= 539 points and below.

Graded Assignments	MAX VALUE
In-class participation	125
Quizzes	100
“Tutorial” Papers (3 x 100 points)	300
Annotated Bibliography	50
Final Paper Outline	50
Final Paper	100
Presentation of final paper	75
Read & Reacts (4 x 25 points)	100

Short Description of Assignments

Detailed grading rubrics will be provided before assignments are due.

In-class participation: Class participation will be measured based on the quantity and quality of your comments, discussions and questions raised during our regular class meetings. In-class participation points also include occasional peer workshops in which you work together to improve your papers. You must be present in order to earn participation points! Most days, participation will be worth 5 points (but the participation points could be worth more, depending on the in-class activity). **Under no circumstances are you allowed to make up participation points.** To account for days when you are sick or have an unexpected absence, I will drop your three lowest participation grades at the end of the semester. If you end up attending every day - you get to keep all of those extra participation grades. (Don’t say I never offered you extra credit.)

Quizzes: Occasionally, to ensure you are keeping up with our course readings, you will be expected to complete quizzes over the readings. You will also be required to complete quizzes on the various style guides. These quizzes will be available on Desire2Learn.

“Tutorial” papers: Tutorials are 2-page papers on a big topic, so the challenge with them is two-fold: (1) successfully incorporate at least three sources using the appropriate style guide, and (2) clearly and concisely communicate a complicated idea. I expect these papers to be so challenging that many of you will need a second chance to write it in order to be successful. So, if you earn a 79% or below on the paper, you are **required to re-write it** in an attempt to earn a higher grade. If you earn an 80% or higher, you aren’t required to re-write it, but you may if you’d like to achieve a higher grade and demonstrate that you fully understand the problems with your first draft.

Annotated Bibliography: Your annotated bibliography will be comprised of at least 15 sources, formatting according to the style guide that fits your topic, and using sources that will go into your final paper.

Final Paper Outline: Once you’ve got your annotated bibliography, you are required to turn in a well-developed, full-sentence outline that sketches out your main points, thesis statement, and the incorporation of your sources.

Final Paper: This 10-12 page research paper will be due on the last class day.

Paper Presentations: In lieu of a final exam, your paper and presentation of your research will be the last thing we do in class. This will give you the chance to hone your oral communication skills and, following with our theme of clear communication of ideas, clearly communicate your ideas to an external audience.

Read & Reacts: To give you additional practice writing, you'll be asked to complete 4 different short (no more than 3 paragraphs) writing assignments as a discussion post on D2L. Each post will be worth 25 points. Failure to comment on your classmates' postings will result in a grade penalty on your next post.

**Tentative Daily Schedule
(schedule is subject to change)**

Date	Topics Covered	Readings & Work Due before class
Aug 14	Syllabus/Course Overview/Pre-test	Read: Syllabus Quiz 1 due (pre-test; complete in class)
Aug 19	Module 1: Research Paper Basics Day 1 Importance of Context in Writing	Read: Ch. 1, 2 & 5
Aug 21	Day 2: Topic Selection	Read: Ch. 6 & 7 Read & React Post 1 Due
Aug 26	Day 3: Developing Research Questions, Cover Tutorial 1	Read: TBA Quiz 2 Due (covers Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 & additional reading)
Aug 28	<i>Guest lecture: Amy Coughenour – bibliographic instruction</i>	Read: TBA Read & React Response 1 Due
Sept 2	NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY	
Sept 4	Module 2: All About Sources/ Module 3: APA Day 1: Types of Sources	Read: Ch. 10 & 11; Tutorial 1 assignment on D2L Quiz 3 Due (covers Ch. 10 & 11)
Sept 9	Day 2: Overview of Source Citation /Parts of a Source	Read & React Post 2 Due
Sept 11	<i>Guest lecture: Amy Coughenour, Mechanics of APA</i>	Read: Chapter 18 Quiz 4 Due (APA format)
Sept 16	Day 3: Plagiarism	Tutorial 1 Due (APA format) Read: Chapter 53

Sept 18	Day 4: Research in Context Discuss issues with Tutorial 1	Read: psych article TBA Read & React Response 2 Due Quiz 5 Due (Chapter 53 & article)
Sept 23	Module 4: Editing & Peer Review Day 1: Peer Review of Tutorial 1	Read: Chapter 9-11
Sept 25	Cover Tutorial 2 Module 5: MLA Day 1: Mechanics of MLA <i>Guest Lecture: Amy Coughenhour</i>	Read: Chapters 49-52; Tutorial 2 assignment guide on D2L Tutorial 1 Re-writes Due
Sept 30	Day 2: Research in Context	Read: Language paper TBA Read & React Post 3 Due
Oct 2	Critical Thinking & Argument	Read: Chapters 12-14 Final Paper Topics Due Quiz 6 Due (MLA format)
Oct 7	Module 6: Quality of Sources Day 1: Evaluating sources	Read: Chapter 17 Tutorial 2 Due (MLA format)
Oct 9	Discuss issues with Tutorial 2 Peer Review of Tutorial 2	Read: TBA Read & React Response 3 Due
Oct 14	Day 2: Quality of sources	Read: TBA Quiz 7 Due
Oct 16	Module 7: Annotated Bibs & Lit Reviews Day 1: Structure of Research Paper; creating an annotated bib	Read: TBA Tutorial 2 Re-writes Due
Oct 21	Cover Tutorial 3 Day 2: From annotated bib to lit review Zotero discussion	Read: Tutorial 3 assignment guide on D2L Read & React Post 4 Due
Oct 23	Module 8: Turabian Day 1: Mechanics <i>Guest Lecture: Amy Coughenhour</i>	Read: Chapter 54
Oct 28	Day 2: Research in Context Visit to SPSU archives for research	Quiz 8 Due (Turabian) Read & React Response 4 Due
Oct 30	Day 3: Research in Context Discuss archival & historiographic research	Tutorial 3 Due (Turabian format)
Nov 4	Discuss issues with Tutorial 3 Peer review of Tutorial 3	
Nov 6	Module 9: Writing an Outline Basic outline structure Importance of Outlines	Annotated Bibliography Due Read:

Nov 11	Module 10: Your Writing Voice Day 1: Grammar, style & structure	Read: Chapters 25-30 Tutorial 3 Re-writes Due
Nov 13	Day 2: "voice" in writing	Read: Chapters 20-24 Quiz 9 Due (Chapters 20-30)
Nov 18	Research in Context (Guest Speaker)	
Nov 20	Peer Critique of Final Paper Outlines (in-class workshop)	Final Paper Outlines Due
Nov 25	Module 11: Presenting Your Work Academic conference-style presentations	Read: article on conference presentations
Nov 27	NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Dec 2	SIRs/ Post-tests/ First round of presentations	Quiz 10 Taken in Class

Final Papers are due during the university-scheduled final exam time. **Final Presentations** will take place during the university-scheduled final exam date/time, TBA