

## **EN 102: Expository Writing - Research and Writing: Popular Culture and Media Literacy**

**Instructor: Fallynn (Fay) Brickler**

**Email: [fallynn.brickler@chaminade.edu](mailto:fallynn.brickler@chaminade.edu)**

**Office: Henry Hall 206**

**Office Hours: MW 11:30-1:30 or by appt**

### **Course Description:**

In this dynamic and engaging course, students will embark on a journey through the vibrant landscape of popular culture and media, honing their research and writing skills while exploring their personal interests. This course is designed to empower students to critically analyze and effectively communicate their insights about the multifaceted world of contemporary media and cultural phenomena.

### **Key Learning Objectives:**

- **Cultivate Research Skills:** Through hands-on exercises and assignments, students will develop essential research skills, including information gathering, source evaluation, and data synthesis. They will explore diverse research methodologies tailored to the study of popular culture and media, enabling them to investigate topics of personal interest with depth and precision.
- **Analyze and Interpret Popular Culture:** Students will examine a wide array of popular culture artifacts, such as films, television shows, music, social media trends, and digital content. They will learn to dissect and critically analyze these cultural products, considering their historical, sociocultural, and political contexts.
- **Integrate Interdisciplinary Approaches:** This course encourages interdisciplinary thinking by incorporating perspectives from fields such as sociology, psychology, anthropology, and gender studies. Students will learn how to draw on various academic disciplines to enhance their understanding of popular culture and media phenomena.
- **Develop Effective Writing Strategies:** Through a series of workshops, peer reviews, and individualized feedback, students will refine their writing skills, focusing on clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness. They will explore different writing styles and formats, including analytical essays, reviews, and opinion pieces, tailored to the realm of popular culture and media.
- **Explore Ethical Considerations:** Students will grapple with ethical issues related to research in popular culture and media, including issues of representation, cultural appropriation, and intellectual property. They will learn how to navigate these challenges responsibly and ethically in their own work.

- Cultivate Media Literacy and Critical Thinking: Through guided discussions and analyses, students will enhance their ability to critically engage with media content, discerning between fact and fiction, understanding bias, and evaluating the impact of media on society.
- Empower Personal Voice and Perspective: This course encourages students to embrace their unique interests and perspectives, fostering a sense of ownership over their research and writing projects. They will learn to articulate their ideas with confidence and authenticity, contributing to a richer discourse within the field of popular culture and media studies.

### **Materials:**

#### Films/TV

- *Black Mirror* (Selected episodes available for purchase ~\$3/episode on Amazon, free w/ subscription on Netflix)
- *Parasite* (2019) - rental ~\$3-4
- *Get Out* (2017) - free on Netflix and Hulu w/ subscription - rental \$3-4

#### Video Games (no purchase required)

- *Flappy Bird, Fruit Ninja, Subway Surfer, Clash of Clans, Temple Run*
- *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*
- *Fortnite*

#### Music and Social Media Trends (no purchase required)

- Bad Habit by Steve Lacey
- Drivers License by Olivia Rodrigo
- Adult Swim trend
- BeReal/Lapse
- AI portraits
- Vine, Musical.ly, TikTok
- KPop (BTS, Black Pink, etc.)

*Materials are subject to change. It is my goal to keep material expenses for this course under \$30.*

### **General Education Learning Outcomes:**

Writing: The students will build on their experience in EN 101 in order to write from sources, write critically and creatively as a process, and produce a research paper that allows them to be critical and creative voices for social justice.

Information Literacy: Students will define, identify, locate, evaluate, synthesize and present or demonstrate relevant information, especially as it relates to primary and secondary sources in the English Discipline.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, the student will

1. Locate, evaluate, and integrate sources into a research paper
2. Design and produce a successful research paper using correct citation format
3. Use writing as a critical and creative voice for social justice [Marianist value: Service, Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation]

### **Requirements:**

Participation (short response papers, reading quizzes, discussion participation etc.) = 15%  
Discussion Leader = 10%  
Research Proposal = 20%  
Annotated Bibliography = 20%  
Final Research Paper = 35%

\*English majors should save graded copies of their essays in all English classes, insofar as a subset of these essays will be required for the Senior Seminar portfolio in English 499.

### **Policies:**

- You are required to notify me of any absence. You should reach out to your fellow classmates for questions regarding missed classes. Even if you are not in class, you are still required to keep up with Canvas posts/assignments.
- Excessive unexcused absences (more than 3) will impact your participation grade. More than 6 unexcused absences will earn a 0% for your participation grade.
- I do not respond to “I won’t be in class, are we doing anything important?” emails. They are acknowledged and recorded, but it is your responsibility to keep up with what you missed via your classmates.
- Major writing projects (research proposal, annotated bib, final essay) will have a 24 hour grace period.
- I am very lenient with extensions, just ask! If you need an extension, you must request it before the due date.
- Late assignments will earn a 10% deduction for each day they are late. Response papers will not be accepted late.
- Plagiarized or otherwise academically dishonest assignments will earn zero points.

- I have never had a technology policy (and I do not want to start now). Please use technology responsibly during class time. If I notice frequent inattentiveness due to texting/scrolling/etc., this policy may change.
- Policies subject to change, you will be notified of any changes to the syllabus via Canvas

### **Marianist Characteristics**

Chaminade is a Marianist Institution and uses the following characteristics as a guide:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith
2. Integral Quality Education
3. Educate in the Family Spirit
4. Service, Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation
5. Adaptation and Change

### **Disability Access**

If you need individual accommodations to meet course outcomes because of a documented disability, please speak with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from the Counseling Center by the end of week three of the class, in order for instructors to plan accordingly. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Kokua Ike Coordinator at (808) 739-8305 for further information ([ada@chaminade.edu](mailto:ada@chaminade.edu)).

### **Title IX Compliance**

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office for Compliance and Personnel Services.

### **Student Conduct**

Any community must have a set of rules and standards of conduct by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined so as to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in

the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values.

Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University's jurisdiction from the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website.

### **Diversity Statement**

Chaminade's Core belief statement states, "Students, both traditional and non-traditional, bring a variety of talents, traditions, cultures and abilities. This diversity brings a special opportunity to the Chaminade community, which can then nurture and guide each student to the fullest realization of potential." Consequently, this course encompasses readings that reflect and examine the diversity within popular culture and media studies .

### **Plagiarism Guidelines**

Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your own. The guidelines for plagiarism are in the Academic Catalog. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Complete or partial copying directly from a published or unpublished source without proper acknowledgment to the author. Minor changes in wording or syntax are not sufficient to avoid charges of plagiarism. Proper acknowledgement (citation) of the source is always mandatory.
2. Paraphrasing the work of another without proper acknowledgement.
3. Submitting as one's own original work (however freely given or purchased) the original exam, research paper, manuscript, report, computer file, or other assignment that has been prepared by another individual.

### **Credit Hour Policy**

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement.

In Class time: 2.5 hours / week x 15 weeks = Total 37.5 Hours

Readings/Materials Interaction: ~2.25 hours / week x 15 Weeks = Total ~34 Hours

Homework/Assignments: 4 hours / week x 16 weeks = Total 63.5 Hours

EN 102 (3 credits) requires 135 total hours of engagement (45 hours per credit). This course is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies in meeting the requirement of 135 total hours of engagement.

## **Course Schedule:**

### *Unit 1: Music and Social Media*

**Week 1:** Intro to Media Literacy, Listen to Bad Habit by Steve Lacey and Drivers License by Olivia Rodrigo.

**Week 2:** Recession Pop

**Week 3:** BeReal and Lapse, social media applications **Response Paper 1 Due**

**Week 4:** Writing a research plan, AI Portraits, social media ethics **Research Plan Draft Due**

### *Unit 2: Films and Television*

**Week 5:** Black Mirror **Research Plan Due**

**Week 6:** The research process intro, Get Out

**Week 7:** Parasite

**Week 8:** Annotated Bibliography draft due

**Week 9:** TBA

**Week 10:** Final Annotated Bibliography due, TBA

**Week 11:** Spring Break

### Unit 3: Video Games and Online Communities

**Week 12:** Reddit, Stan Culture, Online Communities

**Week 13:** Fortnite and The Last of Us

**Week 14:** Simulation games in the digital age: Animal Crossing: New Horizons and Sims

**Research Essay Intro paragraph due**

**Week 15:** App store classics: Flappy Bird, Fruit Ninja, Subway Surfer, Clash of Clans, Temple Run **Research Essay Draft Due**

**Week 16:** TBA

**Week 17:** Finals week, **Research Essay Due**