

**Sample Syllabus: English 106: First-Year Composition w/Academic Focus**  
**Irwin Weiser**  
**DRAFT: November 2002**

- Week One:     **Class:** Course Introduction; Approaches to Academic Writing and Research  
                  **Computer Component:** Introduction to Course Technology; Begin a reading journal  
                  **Conferences:** Discussion of reading journal and academic interests
- Week Two:     **Class:** Conducting Academic Research  
                  **Computer Component:** Introduction to on-line research: Using Thor  
                  **Conferences:** Practice in using on-line research tools
- Week Three:   **Class:** Begin work on Paper 1: Summary of an academic article  
                  **Computer Component:** Finding resources in the Purdue Library holdings  
                  **Conferences:** Discussion of articles for summary
- Week Four:    **Class:** Revision, Editing, Proofreading and Submitting summary  
                  **Computer Component:** Shared-draft workshops; introduce use of electronic feedback and comments  
                  **Conferences:** Group work on drafts of summary
- Week Five:    **Class:** Begin work on Paper 2: Review of an academic article  
                  **Computer Component:** Using Periodical databases to locate articles  
                  **Conferences:** Return and discuss paper one
- Week Six:     **Class:** Revision, Editing, Proofreading and Submitting second paper; Introduce Paper 3, Explanatory Report  
                  **Computer Component:** Preliminary research on report topic or shared-draft workshops  
                  **Conferences:**
- Week Seven:   **Class:** Continued work on Explanatory Report, discussion of synthesizing sources  
                  **Computer Component:** On-line guides to citing and documenting sources; ethical use of sources and avoiding plagiarism in academic writing  
                  **Conferences:** Return and discuss paper two
- Week Eight:   **Class:** Revision, Editing, Proofreading, and Submitting third paper; Begin discussion of fourth paper: Proposal for a Research Paper (topic to relate to student's major or chosen profession) (4-6 pages)  
                  **Computer Component:** Shared-draft workshop  
                  **Conferences:** Discussion of potential research paper topics

- Week Nine: **Class:** Discussion of sample proposals (focus on content and organization of written proposals: review of literature, statement of problem, research questions, etc.)  
**Computer Component:** Locating appropriate on-line sources  
**Conferences:** Return and discuss paper three
- Week Ten: **Class:** Group discussion of Proposal drafts; Revision, Editing, Proofreading, and Submitting Proposals; Discuss Final Research Paper (8-12 pages); Begin Essay Exam unit<sup>1</sup>  
**Computer Component:** Research for Essay Exam  
**Conferences:** Discussion of progress-to-date
- Week Eleven: **Class:** Discuss material for Essay Exam  
**Computer Component:** Write and discuss sample essay exam questions  
**Conferences:** Return and discuss research proposals
- Week Twelve: **Class:** Discuss Essay Exam-taking strategies  
**Computer Component:** Write and submit essay exam (3-5 pages)  
**Conferences:** Discuss Research Paper progress
- Week Thirteen: **Class:** Discuss sample research papers  
**Computer Component:** Workshop on documentation and citation for Research Paper  
**Conferences:** Return and discuss Essay Exams; Discuss Research Paper progress
- Week Fourteen: **Class:** Continued discussion of final research paper  
**Computer Component:** Draft workshop for final research paper  
**Conferences:** Conferences on Research Paper
- Week Fifteen: **Class:** Edit, Proofread, and Submit Research Paper; Course Evaluation  
**Computer Component:** Final Preparation of Research Paper  
**Conferences:** Final Conferences on Research Paper

Final Exam Week:

No final examinations are given in composition classes. Students will be able to pick up their research papers at the end of the week during a brief final conference with their instructor.

**Evaluation of student learning will be based on the papers and other required written work they submit.**

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<sup>1</sup> Instructors may choose to substitute an additional out-of-class researched paper for the Essay Exam unit. Typical options include a report on a concept, issue, or problem related to the research paper or a review of a book central to their research.