

**University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
College of General Studies
English Department**

Course Title:	Building Research Projects
Codification:	INGL 3270
Credits:	Three
Contact Hours:	3 credits per semester/ 3 class hours
Prerequisites:	INGL 3161/62 or INGL 3101-02

Course Description:

This English for Academic Purposes course is designed for second year students. This class offers the Basic English population an option for completing an English elective and/or General Education bachelor's program elective component. This course initiates students in formal academic writing and introduces essential research competencies. Readings for this course are on interdisciplinary topics. This course strengthens a critical response and reasoned point of view as a basis for argument in order to prepare them for discourses inside and outside of academia.

Course Objectives:

Consistent with the English Department's general objectives, the student will demonstrate through a wide variety of forms of evaluation and on the basis of the standards for the different levels established by the English Department that they are making progress in their ability to:

- Examine and analyze interdisciplinary readings based on research
- Assess information and deduct ideas from readings and electronic sources
- Use effective organizational strategies for their writings such as: taking notes, outlining and summarizing
- Determine the credibility of a source when using academic/scholarly texts
- Evaluate and use pertinent information from a variety of sources such as databases, catalogs, library books, periodicals and media holdings.
- Distinguish and effectively use primary and secondary sources
- Plan, draft and revise a research proposal and research paper
- Elaborate research questions and develop argumentative thesis statements
- Develop an annotated bibliography

- Demonstrate the ability to access and use the needed information effectively, efficiently, ethically, and legally.

Course Outline and Time Distribution

I.	Introduction to Academic Writing and Research	6 hours
	a. What is the value of conducting research?	
	b. Research Ethics	
II.	Developing Critical Approaches to Reading Research	6 hours
	a. Identify a topic and relevant information	
	b. Annotate and summarize	
III.	Define and Elaborate a Research Question	3 hours
	a. Define the scope of your research question	
IV.	Writing Effective Thesis Statement	3 hours
	a. Build an argument based on an angle or perspective	
V.	Assess Sources Critically and Plagiarism	9 hours
	a. Evaluating Sources	
	b. Managing Information	
VI.	Writing Models	9 hours
	a. Argumentative Essay	
	b. Comparative Essay	
VII.	Formatting, Citation	9 hours
	a. MLA and APA formatting	

Instructional Strategies

This course is based upon collaborative discussion among students and teacher; therefore, oral participation is required. A variety of learning and assessment experiences are used to create an interactive environment to promote reflection, critical thinking and collaboration. Some of the strategies employed by professors in this course include: lectures, discussion, workshops and group projects. Professors can also use the following resources: films, audio recordings, and library trips.

Evaluation Strategies

The evaluation strategies will vary among the professors, but will primarily consist of written assignments, research projects, and research paper.

A.	Written Essays	20%
B.	Critical Review	20%
C.	Annotated Bibliography	20%
D.	Research Proposal and Project (5 to 7 page long)	20%
E.	Class Participation	20%

Law 51 and Law 238: In accordance with the recommendation of the Dean of Students Office (Division for Persons with Disabilities), students who are receiving services from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OAPI) must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester in order to make arrangements for reasonable accommodations and for any necessary auxiliary equipment. Other students with special needs who require any kind of assistance or reasonable accommodations should also contact me. Alternative evaluation methods will be provided to students with identified and certified special needs.

Academic Integrity Policy: The University of Puerto Rico promotes the highest standards of academic and scientific integrity. Article 6.2 of the UPR Students General Bylaws (Board of Trustees Certification 13, 2009-1010) states that academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: fraudulent actions; obtaining grades or academic degrees by false or fraudulent simulations; copying the whole or part of the academic work of another person; plagiarizing totally or partially the work of another person; copying all or part of another person's answers to the questions of an oral or written exam by taking or getting someone else to take the exam on his/her behalf; as well as enabling and facilitating another person to perform the aforementioned behavior. Any of these behaviors will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the disciplinary procedure laid down in the UPR Students General Bylaws.

English Department Attendance Policy:

Six contact hours of absences may lower average one whole letter grade. Five late arrivals are equivalent to one absence.

Grading System

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F 0-59

Bibliography

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Bryman, A. (2015). *Social research methods*. Oxford university press.

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- Corbin, J., & Strauss, A. (2014). *Basics of qualitative research: Techniques and procedures for developing grounded theory*. Sage publications.
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- Neuman, W. L. (2005). *Social research methods: Quantitative and qualitative approaches* (Vol. 13, pp. 26-28). Boston, MA: Allyn and bacon.
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- Salkind, N. J., & Rainwater, T. (2003). *Exploring research*. Upper Saddle River. NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Smith, J.A. (Ed.) (2007). *Qualitative psychology: A practical guide to research methods*. Sage.

Taylor, S.J., Bogdan, R., & DeVault, M. (2015). Introduction to qualitative research methods: A guidebook and resource. John Wiley & Sons.

VanderMey, R., Meyer, V., Van Rys, J., & Sebranek, P. (2014). The College Writer: A Guide to Thinking, Writing, and Researching, Brief. Cengage Learning.

Online Resources

Research

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

<https://www.library.cornell.edu/research>

<https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/PlanResearchPaper.html>

<https://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/>

<https://www.esc.edu/online-writing-center/resources/research/>

Dictionary

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Libraries

<https://www.loc.gov/>

<http://biblioteca.uprrp.edu/>