



# Oregon State University Writing Intensive Curriculum

## College of Liberal Arts: Social Science ~ Writing Profile

*CLA Social Science WIC classes require an average of 8,525 words (34 pages) of writing per student, including drafts, final papers, and informal assignments. Requirements for individual courses range from 5,000 to 16,000 words.*

### Informal Writing Assignments

- ◆ Freewrites to generate class discussion topics ... an ‘x-ray’ of any persistent writing problems a student might have” (PS 459)
- ◆ Daily responses to homework or reading (directed freewrites)
- ◆ Lab observations
- ◆ Observation log
- ◆ E-mail correspondence with peers/professor
- ◆ Journal
- ◆ Vita
- ◆ Self-monitoring exercise  
“... an assessment technique often employed by clinical psychologists in research and/or in practice” (PSY 480)
- ◆ Conversation starter
- ◆ Impromptu in-class writing: diagnostic, raise a question, respond to lecture
- ◆ Paragraph revision exercises  
“Students read a poorly written paragraph about research results, and then in class, they immediately begin to write an improved draft and then discuss it with other students.” (SOC 416)

### Feedback to Students on their Writing

- ◆ Instructor’s written response (with or without a grade)
- ◆ Conferences with instructor
- ◆ Peer review (in groups or with partners), review sheets
- ◆ Circulated drafts
- ◆ Drafts read aloud to class
- ◆ E-mail response to drafts
- ◆ Writing-Editing teams
- ◆ Writing Center consultations

### WIC classes Reviewed by the Baccalaureate Core Committee

**ANTH 370**  
Family, Gender, Generation

**PS 419**  
Topics in American Politics

**PS 429**  
Topics in Judicial Politics

**PS 459**  
Topics in Int’l Relations

**PSY 430**  
Animal Behavior

**PSY 440**  
Cognition Research

**PSY 470**  
Psychometrics and  
Psychological Testing

**PSY 480**  
Case Study Methods

**SOC 416**  
Conducting Social Research

### Formal Writing Assignments

- ◆ Microthemes (short narrative responses to directed questions)
- ◆ Literature review
- ◆ Research paper/project/report
- ◆ Proposal for paper/research
- ◆ Publishable scholarly article
- ◆ Cumulative project (proposal, lit. review, drafts, final)
- ◆ Op-Ed article  
Editorial “on a complex and often hotly disputed issue within the confines set by most newspapers . . . comprehensible, informative, authoritative, and persuasive... could be published, in the student’s hometown.” (PS 459)
- ◆ Newsletter write-up  
“Explain to an audience what the main points of the research were . . . you must also ‘sell’ your research... illustrating why the research was done and why we should care about the results.” (SOC416)
- ◆ Annotated bibliography
- ◆ Book review or analysis
- ◆ Public opinion survey paper
- ◆ Political analysis
- ◆ Think Piece

### Writing as a Process

- ◆ Departmental Writing Guide (SOC)
- ◆ Online Departmental Writing Guide (ANTH, PS)
- ◆ Published articles as models
- ◆ Professor writes with class as model
- ◆ Revision/multiple revision of drafts