

Common Course Outline
ACLT 053
Advanced Academic Literacy
3 Contact Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

ACLT 053 – Advanced Academic Literacy provides advanced instruction in critical thinking, reading, and writing to support success in ENGL 101 and other 100-level courses. Using theme-based readings from a variety of genres, students analyze complex academic texts, critically respond to ideas and information in academic texts, and construct essays and other written responses that integrate ideas and information from academic texts.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: Placement into ENGL 052 and/or RDNG 052.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. use pre-reading strategies to facilitate understanding of texts;
2. read actively and critically, and effectively use textual annotation;
3. identify and deconstruct abstract ideas found in complex academic texts;
4. formulate and explain valid inferences based on information from texts;
5. write and evaluate arguments for validity and credibility;
6. synthesize ideas and information from multiple sources and varying points of view;
7. construct well-organized, unified, coherent essays and other written responses with a clear, purposeful thesis statement;
8. support ideas with adequate and varied evidence;
9. summarize, paraphrase and quote information from source materials;
10. create citations using information from source materials;
11. tailor language to address a specific audience;
12. detect and correct major grammatical and mechanical errors; and
13. develop strategies to effectively address the non-cognitive issues that could affect students' academic success.

Major Topics

- I. Academic literacy and academic discourse
- II. The reading-writing process
- III. Organizing information

- IV. Critical reading, writing, and thinking
- V. Reader response
- VI. Quoting, summarizing and paraphrasing
- VII. Documenting and citing sources
- VIII. Writing and evaluating arguments
- IX. Grammar, punctuation, spelling, and usage
- X. Audience awareness
- XI. Non-cognitive issues

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Students must achieve a minimum overall average of 70% in order to pass the course. Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. At least four essays, employing all stages of the writing process; each must demonstrate reading comprehension of multiple and varied academically appropriate sources.
2. Graded course writing that makes a convincing argument and demonstrates critical analysis and/or synthesis of content in academic texts; writing assignments must exceed a minimum of 4,000 words and be worth 80% of the final grade.
3. Active participation in class discussions and in-class activities based on assigned readings, including at least two of the following activities: peer review of written work or similar types of writing workshops; collaborative writing assignments; small group discussions; and formal or informal group presentations.
4. Assignments that offer additional support/scaffolding to develop critical reading and thinking skills.
5. A common end-of-semester portfolio assessment that includes:
 - a. Three (3) previously submitted essay assignments--revised as necessary
 - b. Self-reflection

Written Assignments: Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is primarily taught in a computerized environment.

ALP Students ONLY: Students enrolled in ALP are required to write 4 essays as noted on the ENGL 101 CCO. All of the scaffolded reading, writing, and critical thinking work assigned in ACLT 053 will connect directly with ENGL 101 content. Students will not write 4 additional essays in ACLT 053.