**LIBA 102 - - When Are You an Adult?**

Spring 2025

MWF, 11:00am – 11:50am

Lamar 315

**Dr. Marvin King**

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325 Deupree

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662-915-2054

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 10.30am – 12:30pm and by appointment on Zoom.

A note about emails and titles: While I am not overly concerned about titles, many faculty do insist upon being addressed by their rank, so it is worth the time and trouble to use a person’s correct name and title – Dr. King, Professor, or Professor King – are all fine, rather than just “Hey.” The subject line should indicate the class you are in as well. I teach several classes and have some responsibility/contact with hundreds of students each semester.

I try my hardest to respond to emails directly related to course matters within one working day during the workweek. I will likely not respond to unsolicited student emails after 5pm or on the weekends.

**KEY DATES - ADMINISTRATIVE**

January 20 – Last day to officially cancel registration & avoid responsibility for payment of tuition/fees

January 21 – Classes begin

February 3 – Refund period ends

February 10 – Mandatory drop date for non-attendance

March 7 – Deadline for withdrawal (no refunds)

**KEY DATES - GRADES**

Personal Response Paper 1 February 21

Personal Response Paper 2 April 4

Research Paper May 2

**SCHEDULE**

Daily schedule on Page 6.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

I will post all required readings on Blackboard.

**GENERAL LIBA COURSE DESCRIPTION**

LIBA 102 is a first-year writing course conducted within the context of a research area of a specific academic discipline designed to build on writing abilities learned in WRIT 100/101. The course works to develop critical thinking and research abilities appropriate for use in academic writing within a particular discipline. The course pays attention to developing argumentation, analysis of texts, and synthesis of information into thoughtful, coherent written projects. Students enrolled in LIBA 102 produce papers longer and more in depth than in WRIT 100/101. The course culminates in a final portfolio of the student’s work.

**CLASS DESCRIPTION**

This course examines what it means to be an adult in America. We often speak generically of the term adult (or adulthood), but what do those terms mean? Is it a state of mind or is it certain responsibilities? Are there certain life events that mean a child is now an adult, such as turning 16 and getting a driver’s license or turning 18 and being old enough to vote? Or, is it economic independence or a social/legal marker, such as marriage?

Over the course of the semester, students will write about various aspects of being an adult. At the end of this class, you will be able to meet the course objectives and be able to competently understand and explain what it means to be an adult in contemporary America.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Develop writing abilities learned in WRIT 100/101, including the understanding that writing is a process that develops over time through revision (Writing Process);

To write for specific purposes and for specific audiences (Purposes and Audience);

To respond critically to different points of view so that the student creates effective and sustained arguments (Exploration and Argumentation);

To become proficient at locating primary and secondary research from a variety of sources and at evaluation the reliability of sources (Research); and

To become effective researchers and writers of research papers as a member of an active writing, reading, and researching community, understanding that such writing should be free of serious grammatical and mechanical errors while following disciplinary writing conventions (Conventions and Mechanics).

**COURSE WORK**

In-Class Assignments 24%

Personal Response Paper 1 15%

Personal Response Paper 2 15%

Participation 20%

Research Paper 26%

**ASSESSMENTS**

**IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

Each Friday, we will have in-class writing assignments. If you are in class and complete the assignment with full effort, you will receive full credit. If you are not in class, you cannot complete the assignment and will not receive credit.

**PERSONAL RESPONSE PAPERS** (x2)

Each Response Paper counts 15% of your final grade.

In a two-page paper, discuss three of the following subjects in explaining what it means to be an adult: The law, tobacco usage, coming of age in medieval times, serving in the military, brain development. This is due: **February 21**.

In a two-page paper, discuss three of the following subjects in explaining what it means to be an adult: Driving, Criminal Justice, Gun ownership, jury duty, marriage and paying taxes. This is due **April 4**.

**RESEARCH PAPER**

Students will write about a five-page research paper due May 2. Your research paper counts **26%** of your final grade.

Each paper must follow this format:

1. Title

2. Times New Roman, 12-point font

3. 1.5 spacing

4. Use of subheadings as you transition from one subject to the next

5. Opening sentences and transitions

6. Examples with explanation

7. No cover page

**PARTICIPATION**

Participation counts **20%** of your final grade. Engaging in class discussion, assisting your peers, and completing the assigned readings will be the basis of your participation grade. Each Monday, we will discuss a different aspect of adulthood. Each Wednesday, students will need to describe and summarize an article they have found on that topic or a closely-related topic. Students will need to post the article they are going to discuss on Blackboard no later than **5pm** on Tuesday. Students cannot use the same article that another student has already laid claim to. Successfully completing these steps will be the key to a high participation grade:

1. Identify article and post it on Blackboard
2. Write a two-paragraph summary of your article.
3. Email to marvin@olemiss.edu your summary **before** class begins on Wednesday.
4. Summarize your chosen article for the class.
5. Actively participate in discussions on the articles summaries.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. If a student is attending UM with a scholarship that requires occasional course absences or is otherwise representing the University (e.g., ASB, athletics, band, moot court), the following exception applies - students will not be penalized for required absences alone, if the student presents to the instructor by the end of the course an official letter from the scholarship-issuing program declaring the required absences for the entire semester.



0-4 absences: no penalty

5-6 absences: final course grade lowered by one letter grade (+/- grading scale)

7-8 absences: final course grade lowered by two letter grades

9-10 absences: final course grade lowered by three letter grades

11+ absences: failure

Students who plan to miss 20% or more of the course should consider enrolling in the course during another semester.

UM requires all students to have a verified attendance at least once during the first two weeks of the semester for each course.  If attendance is not verified, then a student will be dropped from the course and any financial aid will be adjusted accordingly.  Please see http://olemiss.edu/gotoclass for more information. This requirement is independent from the attendance policy stated previously in this syllabus.

**MAKE-UP POLICY**

I allow make-up work only if you obtain a UM approved excuse. In lieu of a UM approved excuse, any student failing to turn in their assignment, or take their quiz or test, will receive a zero on that exam. For instance, if you do not feel well and you visit the Student Health Center, it is insufficient to send me a note stating you visited the doctor or a copy of your prescription. I require a note from a health professional stating your illness prevented you from completing your assignment (however, I do not need to know the exact nature of your illness).

Do not ask for an exception to this policy unless you bring a UM approved excuse. Missing class or an assignment because you are sick or not feeling well does not constitute a UM approved excuse. A UM approved excuse needs to be a written notice from another professor, department (i.e., Athletics, Band, Mock Trial, etc..) or from [UMatter](https://umatter.olemiss.edu/). If you miss class for any reason other than one for which you can obtain a UM-approved excuse do not ask me for the class notes. For instance, if you are not feeling well and you visit the Student Health Center, it is not sufficient to bring me a note stating you visited the doctor or a copy of your prescription.

**GRADING SCALE**

A: 93-100 A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89 B: 83-86 B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79 C: 73-76 C-70-72

D: <70

F: < 60

Please do not ask me to calculate your grade for you. The Political Science Department maintains a "C" policy. Students must make at least a grade of C or better for the course to count towards the major. If you think an error has occurred in the calculation of your grade, it is your responsibility to provide me copies of your work. To that end, it is prudent to save all your coursework until you receive your final grade report. All graded assignments will be graded within ten days of submission.

**DISABILITY SERVICES**

If you have a documented disability, as recognized by Student Disability Services, please contact Student Disability Services at 234 Martindale Center, 662-915-7128. Course requirements will not be waived but reasonable accommodations may be provided as appropriate. Please consult <https://sds.olemiss.edu/> for more information on student disability services.

**ACADEMIC ETHICS**

If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, just ask. If you think something might be wrong, it probably is. No matter, just ask for clarification. Please reference the [UM M Book](https://communications.olemiss.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/10/MBook.pdf) for all policies regarding academic honesty, ethics, and plagiarism. Punishment for violations of academic ethics will range from loss of a letter grade on the assignment to failure in the class. The decision will be made by the faculty member in consultation with the department chair. Appeals can be made to the UM Academic Discipline Committee.

**STUDENT PRIVACY POLICY**

The University of Mississippi protects the privacy of all students, including online and distance learning students, through adherence to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) through compliance with other institutional policies and procedures governing the management and security of protected information of faculty, staff, and students, and by outlining the expectations of privacy for the university community as regards to electronic information. [Student Privacy Policy](https://secure4.olemiss.edu/umpolicyopen/ShowDetails.jsp?istatPara=1&policyObjidPara=11873531)

**UM Resources**

[Center for Student Success](https://cssfye.olemiss.edu/student-support-programs/consultations-and-coaching/): Need extra help with your classes, but not sure where to start? This is a great starting point.

[Student Success Workshops](https://cssfye.olemiss.edu/academic-success-workshops/): Great workshops (many available as recorded Zoom sessions you can watch on your own schedule) from the Center for Student Success. I highly recommend the Time Management workshop

[Tutoring Services](https://cssfye.olemiss.edu/tutoring-resources-and-help-sessions/): Need a tutor for a specific class? Here is a comprehensive list of known tutoring services offered across campus.

[Writing Center](https://writingcenter.olemiss.edu/): Free writing consultation services for UM students with peer consultants working alongside UM students on projects in all disciplines at any stage of the composition process. The Writing Center can provide access to one-on-one consultations, group workshops, and other writing focused resources. These services are delivered face to face and on anv online platform. We work to help UM students cultivate individualized strategies for becoming independent, effective, and confident writers

[Speaking Center](https://speakingcenter.olemiss.edu/): The Speaking Center offers free public speaking consultation services for UM students.

[Counseling Center](https://counseling.olemiss.edu): The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students with many types of life stressors which interrupt day-to-day functioning. They offer individual counseling, couple’s counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. There is no fee for currently enrolled University students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential.

Title IX: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the [appropriate resources here](https://umsafe.olemiss.edu/what-is-title-ix/).

**MISCELLANEOUS**

* Email is the best way to reach me. Emails sent after 5pm may not be returned until the next workday. All work must be submitted through Blackboard, unless specifically required.
* This syllabus is a guide for the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus, but I will do my best to adhere to this syllabus.
* Use your olemiss.edu email address and please be accessible via Blackboard.
* Materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection under Title 17 of the United States Code. Under certain Fair Use circumstances specified by law, copies may be made for private study, scholarship, or research. Electronic copies should not be shared with unauthorized users. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability as well as disciplinary action under UM policies.

**SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, January 22 - Welcome to the Class!

Friday, January 24 - What does it mean to be an adult?

Monday, January 27 - What does it mean to be an adult?

Wednesday, January 29 - Adulting Over Time

Friday, January 31 - Writing Day

Monday, February 3 - Adulting in Comparative Perspective

Wednesday, February 5 - Adulting in Comparative Perspective

Friday, February 7 - Writing Day

Monday, February 10 - Child Psychology

Wednesday, February 12 - Child Psychology

Friday, February 14 - Writing Day

Monday, February 17 - The Law & Federalism

Wednesday, February 19 - The Law & Federalism

Friday, February 21 - Writing Day

**Personal Response Paper 1 Due no later than 11:00am - Submit on Blackboard**

Monday, February 24 - Voting, Jury Duty & Political Participation

Wednesday, February 26 - Voting, Jury Duty & Political Participation

Friday, February 28 - Writing Day

Monday, March 3 - Military Service and Driving

Wednesday, March 5 - Military Service and Driving

Friday, March 7 - Writing Day

**Monday, March 10 – Spring Break**

**Wednesday, March 12 – Spring Break**

**Friday, March 14 – Spring Break**

Monday, March 17 - Criminal Justice

Wednesday, March 19 - Criminal Justice

Friday, March 21 - Writing Day

Monday, March 24 - Gun Ownership

Wednesday, March 26 - Gun Ownership

Friday, March 28 - Writing Day

Monday, March 31 - Consent/Marriage/Family

Wednesday, April 2 - Consent/Marriage/Family

Friday, April 4 - Writing Day

**Personal Response Paper 2 Due no later than 11:00am - Submit on Blackboard**

Monday, April 7 - Financial Independence/Taxes

Wednesday, April 9 - Financial Independence/Taxes

Friday, April 11 - Writing Day/Discuss Final Research Paper

Monday, April 14 - Insurance and Budgeting

Wednesday, April 16 - Insurance and Budgeting/Writing Day

Friday, April 18 – Good Friday

Monday, April 21 - Housing, Saving, and Investing

Wednesday, April 23 - Housing, Saving, and Investing/Writing Day

Friday, April 25 – No Class

Monday, April 28 – Personal Statement/Resume

Wednesday, April 30 - Personal Statement/Resume

Friday, May 2 - Writing Day

**Research Paper due no later than 11:00am – Submit on Blackboard.**