Course Description: Study and application of the writing process and the skills of writing with a focus on analytical reading and writing. Essay assignments address rhetorical analysis and evaluation and critical responses to close readings of texts. Required of all students who do not qualify for English 133H or 235H. Prerequisite: Pass or exemption from THEA or a C in English 099. Must earn a grade of C or higher to be admitted to English 132.

Program Learning Outcomes: This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

*The course objectives meet the following Texas Exemplary Educational Objectives (EEOs):*
Communication EEO 1: To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
Communication EEO 2: To understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
Communication EEO 3: To understand and appropriately apply modes of expression, i.e., descriptive, expository, narrative, scientific, and self-expressive, in written, visual, and oral communication.
Communication EEO 4: To participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
Communication EEO 5: To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
Communication EEO 6: To develop the ability to research and write a documented paper and/or give an oral presentation.

Student Learning Outcomes: ENG 131 learning outcomes are the goals that students must meet in the first semester of the two-semester Freshman Composition core curriculum requirement. The learning outcomes for ENG 131 are as follows:

1. Experience in all phases of the writing process, including invention, drafting, revising and editing, and producing and presenting formal essays and other non-fiction prose genres.

2. Ability to identify the rhetorical situation of a given text or work, including the purpose of the speaker, the needs of the audience(s), the content of the message, and the context of delivery; also be able to apply the rhetorical situation as a model for constructing their own texts and communications.
3. Ability to analyze the rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos) of a given text or work and to use rhetorical appeals effectively in their own compositions.

4. Experience in composing expressive, explicatory, analytical, and persuasive essays in response to specific requirements and/or situations.

5. Skill in identifying and appropriately using the various forms (or modes) of composition, including narrative, classification, division, example, and compare/contrast, in written, visual, and oral communication.

6. Ability to participate effectively in collaborative problem-solving, critical thinking, analysis, presentation, and written response within various group scenarios and projects.

7. Increased proficiency in writing unified, clear, and coherent paragraphs consisting of well-organized and grammatically correct sentences, including a topic sentence and additional sentences that support and explain the topic in sufficient detail.

8. The ability to effectively combine and apply critical thinking, problem-solving, composition, grammar, and document design skills to develop effective expositions and arguments on a variety of topics across a range of disciplines.

Texts: Lumberjacks Write! English Composition Manual, SFASU, Nancy J. Fox, Sue Ann Whatley, and Elizabeth Tasker, eds., 2009


Course Requirements: In this composition course, you will write for different audiences, both academic and outside the classroom, and for different purposes. We will explore the rhetorical choices writers make based on particular writing situations, and work on shaping writing so that it accomplishes its purpose. In other words, we’ll ask “What do you want this piece of writing to do?” and then we’ll set out to do it.

Your first paper will be a short analysis that will introduce you to the process of the draft workshops & to the way I grade. Then you will work on three major projects that will culminate in three final written products, and you will turn in all work that leads up to your final products. For the first project, we will explore the genre “creative nonfiction,” and you will write a work of creative nonfiction for a popular magazine audience. For the second project you will write a more academically-oriented paper on a movie of your choice. For the third project, you will write a proposal to an outside audience to try to make a difference in some area that you care passionately about. An in-class final essay recognizes that there are still situations when you need to write off-the-cuff, and you need to be prepared for them.

This will be a workshop-style course in which we will share ideas and work in progress. We will be a community of writers where everyone works together to help each other succeed. You will be expected to work in small groups and participate in class discussions. I will be more of a coach, facilitator, and editor than a disseminator of “right answers.” Be sure to read the additional hand-out on draft workshops.
Major assignments will be one brief paper, 3 major projects (final product about 5 pages/1000 words), and an in-class final essay. Other requirements include class participation, in-class writing, critiques of student papers and other assignments as required. You must complete all the letter-graded assignments to pass the course. All major assignments must be submitted to turnitin.

Manuscript requirements: Your papers should be typed on white 8 ½ by 11" paper with adequate margins. Include your name, section #, my name, and date. Number all pages after the 1st page; staple. Do not turn anything in that has been torn from a spiral notebook.

Late Papers: will not be accepted except in cases of dire emergency. Contact me on or before the due date to discuss an alternate date.

Draft Workshops: Once during the semester, you will have copies of a draft of your paper passed out to the class and critiqued in a draft workshop. See additional hand-out for details.

Course Calendar: We will spend the 1st three weeks on the rhetorical analysis, the next three weeks on the creative nonfiction portfolio, the next four weeks on the academic analysis, and the last four weeks on the proposal. The last week will be spent on the final. See the daily schedule for details.

Grading Policy: The paper, major projects and final will be graded A, B, C, D, F, with pluses and minuses and many comments from me. Everything else, including class participation, will be graded 0, -, check, or +. The first two papers will each count 10%, the second two papers and the final will each count 20%, and everything else will count 20%.

Attendance Policy: You may have 3 absences without making any explanation to me. After your 4th absence, and any beyond that, you need to bring me documentation of your reason for absence plus a 1-page letter to me about your absence. You may be a budding Toni Morrison or Stephen King, but the point is that we will all be a community of writers helping each other in this class, and we need you. If you miss the equivalent of 3 weeks of classes, you will be dropped from the course. If this is before the midterm, you will need to drop, or you will receive an F. If this is after the midterm, you will receive an F. If this occurs, please do not return to class; plead for mercy in my office, or show up for the final. This only creates an awkward, embarrassing situation for everyone.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a
component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.