English 131 Composition and Rhetoric

English 131.003 Fall 2017 Syllabus

Instructor: Mrs. Annaliese Chaudhuri

Meeting time: MWF 8-8:50, Ferguson Building 171

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Office: Liberal Arts North 255

Office hours: Mon/Wed 12 PM - 1:30 PM, Tues/Thurs 2 PM – 3 PM, or by appointment

Required Materials:

*Lumberjacks Write* (Provided by the English department)

Bring writing materials to class every day so you can take notes or do in-class writing assignments. Not bringing something to write with will lower your participation grade.

Various handouts/readings will be distributed in class or posted on D2L on our course page throughout the semester. These will need to be brought to class if and when you are instructed to do so. You may be required to print reading materials posted to D2L for reference in class discussion.

Recommended Materials:

A flash drive or access to an online drive (such as Google Drive) for making backup copies of your assignments. Creating safety nets ahead of time will help you reduce stress in the long run.

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. Prerequisite: acceptable THEA score or at least a C in English 099. Must earn a grade of C or higher to be admitted to English 132.

This is a writing-intensive course. There are a number of major written assignments through which you will produce a minimum of 15 pages of final-draft-quality writing.

Student Learning Outcomes for ENG 131:
At the completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Identify and analyze texts with the goal of examining the rhetorical structure, veracity of claims, sufficient use of accurate and credible evidence, as well as possible use in creative, analytical, and persuasive components (Critical Thinking);
• Participate in productive class and group discussion and examination of texts, in order to analyze and synthesize a variety of texts, via a multi-step drafting process (Critical Thinking);
• Understand the role of personal responsibility in the inevitable choices involved in the composition process, in the evaluation of one’s own writing and the writing of other students, in the ethical use of ideas and information, and in the critical evaluation of all assigned texts (Personal Responsibility);
• Recognize the collaborative and social aspects of the writing process by producing collaborative work and/or feedback for peers and selectively using peer feedback in their own work (Teamwork);
• Demonstrate knowledge of organizational and linguistic structures – including grammar, punctuation, and spelling – through practice in composing and revising (Communication);
• Compose texts in response to a variety of situations and contexts calling for purposeful shifts in voice, tone, level of formality, design, medium, and/or structure (Communication).

**English 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.

**Course Policies:**

**Attendance/tardiness**

Attendance is an important part of succeeding in a college classroom, and students who attend class on time and every day are more likely to understand material learned in class. Attendance will be taken every day at the beginning of class. If students are more than five minutes late, they will be counted as tardy. Three tardies will count as a full absence. Participation is also a part of attendance, so students who do not participate in class discussions or group work are absent. Rude or disruptive behavior or sleeping in class will also affect attendance grades. These behaviors affect whether or not a student is fully participating in the class, and are a distraction to classmates and to me.

**Participation**

**Attending class does not equate to class participation.** In order to earn class participation credit, you have to participate in class discussion. There will be assigned reading and questions to help you feel more prepared for what you might want to choose to contribute during class. Taking notes on your readings, highlighting, etc. can help you a lot.
with making sure that you can contribute. Asking questions that pertain to discussion is also an appropriate way to be part of class discussion.

**Late work/revision policies**

- Late work can only be accepted with an **approved excuse such as a death in the family, an illness, or a university approved event**. Excuses must be given in hard copy and be dated. If you are making up work due to any of the aforementioned types of absences, these assignments are should be completed in a timely manner.

- If you know you are going to be absent ahead of time, you should turn in your assignments ahead of time. This is especially important if the absence doesn't meet the criteria for an “approved excuse” mentioned previously.

- Homework assignments cannot be turned in late without an approved excuse/evidence for an excused absence. Essays can be turned in late, but for unexcused absences, five points per day will be deducted from an essay that was not submitted in class the day it was due.

- Students may revise their first and second essays (but not the third or fourth essays), as many times as they wish until the last day of class before finals week begins. I will use whichever grade is higher as the final grade on an essay. For example, if a student revises their first essay and scores a 60% initially and then scores an 80% on their revision, I will use the higher grade. Conversely, if a student scored 60% initially, but scored a 30% on their revision, the higher of the two grades would still be used. Essays that are turned in late cannot be revised (unless in the case of an excused absence).

**Advice for succeeding in English 131**

- Attend class every day and take notes, use the AARC often, and regularly visit my office hours for help. My office hours are a time that is set aside so students can get extra help, so use that time to your advantage.

- Don’t let electronic devices (phones, earbuds/headphones, tablets, laptops, etc.) distract you in class, or let them become a distraction to me or other students in class.

**Grading Breakdown**

- Participation (in-class writing, homework, quizzes, etc.) **15 %**
- Personal Narrative Essay **20%**
- Analysis Essay **20%**
- Synthesis Essay **20%**
- Persuasive Essay **25 %**
**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):** Academic integrity is the 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. 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.

Documented proof of cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Withheld Grades Policy (A-54)** The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2012), “Semester Grades Policy” (A-54): 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 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/.