Instructor: Avee Chaudhuri  
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Office: Ferguson 275  
Office Hours: TR 12:30 - 2:00 PM, W 11:00 AM -1:00 PM  
All other times by appointment.

Meeting Times and Location: TR 9:30 - 10:45 AM, HSTC 318

Course Description:

Continued study and application of the writing process and the skills of writing with a focus on the forms of argumentative writing and on research methods, such as gathering, evaluating, summarizing, synthesizing and citing source information. Prerequisite: C in English 131. Must earn a C or higher to be admitted to any English 200-level course.

Students will produce a minimum 18 pages of final-draft-quality academic prose.

English 132 Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Locate, evaluate, and employ a variety of sources, accurately and ethically, in a multi-step, persuasive essay (Critical Thinking);
- Appraise and utilize a variety of standardized genre, discipline, medium, and occasion situation-specific conventions (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).

Assumptions for English 132
Students entering English 132 should
• be able to formulate a thesis statement.
• understand the meaning and relationship of claim, evidence, and analysis.
• know and apply the concepts of the rhetorical situation (speaker, audience, purpose, message, context) and the rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos).
• understand what makes a unified and coherent paragraph and be able to write one.
• produce mechanically sound essays with only minor grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.
• understand what constitutes plagiarism
• be proficient in MLA basics: page formatting, quotation, citation, and Works Cited lists.

**Major Writing Assignments, Professionalism and Grade Policies:**

Your final course grade is based on your performance on major writing assignments and how much you contribute to the class in terms of thoughtfulness and engagement (i.e. Professionalism).

**Major Writing Assignments**

Note: All major assignments will be described in depth in a corresponding module on the courses’s D2L page.

- Summary and Response I (10%)
- Summary and Response II (10%)
- Classical Argument Essay (20%)
- Annotated Bibliography (10%)
- Final Research Project (25%)

**Professionalism**

I assess professionalism in a variety of ways: quizzes, in-class writing, homework, engagement in class discussion, and both scheduling and attending a mandatory personal conference with your instructor.

- Quizzes, in-class writing, class discussion (20%)
- Successful completion of personal conference (5%)

**Grade and Revision Policies**

Your final letter grade will correspond to the following, conventional scale.

A: 90 - 100
B: 80 - 89
C: 70 - 79
D: 60 - 69
Opportunities for revision will be decided on a case-by-case basis. To be frank, I rarely allow revisions given the amount of time that is allotted for you to work on each major assignment.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory. You may have five unexcused absences this semester. **After you’ve reached five, every additional unexcused absence will lower your final course grade by one letter.** Information about the university’s excused absence policy may be found at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-and-excused-absence-6.7.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class-attendance-and-excused-absence-6.7.pdf).

Students should be punctual. If you are more than five minutes late to class, I will count you as late. Two late arrivals to class equal an absence. So if you’re frequently late to class, it will certainly affect your final course grade.

**Mental Absences**

Simply being present in class does not prevent you from being marked as absent. I will mark you as absent should I observe any of the following behavior/actions.

- Sleeping during a class meeting.
- Doing work for another course.
- Violating the course technology policy (below)
- Leaving the classroom before I dismiss class (unless it’s an emergency).
- Failing to complete/perform assigned in-class work.

**Late Work and Missing Class Time:**

I take off 5% for every day (not every class meeting) that an essay is past due, including weekends and holidays. I do not accept late homework or daily work. There will be so many of these assignments during the semester that missing a few will not “make or break” your final course grade. Students who expect to miss class the day that an assignment is due should plan accordingly and **submit the assignment ahead of time.**

**Technology Policy:**

To put it bluntly, no phones, unless you have my consent.

Feel free to use tablets and computers to take notes but be forewarned: I tend to wander through the aisles. If you are looking at Facebook, shopping on Amazon, etc., I will ask you to put away your device.
E-mail Etiquette:

E-mails should be written in a professional tone. E-mails are my preferred method of communication for brief, specific questions.

Office Hours:

Students seeking a more expansive and involved discussion should come to office hours. For example, if you miss a week of class, I would insist that you come to my office so we can have an in-depth conversation about what you’ve missed.

In general, students who come to office hours ahead of major writing assignments tend to submit better work. While attending office hours is certainly not mandatory, it is recommended.

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

It is especially imperative that students treat one another and their instructor with respect. While not a discussion-based class per se, English 132 nevertheless involves a great deal of discussion, often on topics that might be deemed controversial. There will invariably be disagreements, but one of the objectives of this class is to learn how to constructively and logically disagree with those whose opinions differ from our own. In other words, we need to be willing to listen and on occasion learn from one another. To facilitate this, comport yourself in a polite and respectful manner. I have a zero tolerance for ad hominem attacks, hateful speech and belligerence in general.

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/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf.

I take plagiarism very seriously. Don’t do it. A plagiarized assignment will receive zero points. A second instance of plagiarism will result in a failing course grade, and I will also contact the appropriate dean’s office, which may result in the guilty student’s dismissal from the university.

**Withheld 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.

See the university’s complete course grade policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/5.5_course-grades.pdf.

**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/.

**Academic Resources:**

The AARC is located in Steen Library, on the first floor, and offers tutoring, workshops and other services designed to improve your reading, writing and research skills. I recommend visiting at least once this semester, preferably during the first few weeks of class. This service is free. For more information, go to https://library.sfasu.edu/aarc.
Disclaimer and Course Schedule:

Disclaimer

I reserve the right to amend any of the above policies, so long as they don’t violate the letter and spirit of University policy, or the US or Texas State Constitution. You will be given ample forewarning of any changes as well as a revised syllabus for your file and reference.

Course Schedule

While I hoped to have a detailed course schedule uploaded to D2L at the beginning of the semester, experience has taught me to hold off for a few weeks and get my bearings first. Every section of 132 is different. We may have to revisit some basic elements of composition. Alternatively, we may be ready to jump into research. A detailed course schedule will eventually be uploaded. That’s all I can say for now.

A Final Note:

If you’re having any problems with the course, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. This isn’t supposed to be easy, and I find that students who are willing to open a dialogue about their discomfort and apprehensions are far more successful than those who choose to suffer in silence. Despite my aloof veneer, I care deeply about your success in this class.