Stephen F. Austin State University
English 131: Composition and Rhetoric
Fall 2019
Dr. Jason McIntosh
  Phone:
  Email: Jason.McIntosh@sfasu.edu
  Office: LAN 262
  Office Hours: MW 9:00 – 11:00; F 10:00 – 11:00

Course Description

**From the SFA Catalog:** 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.

**From Dr. McIntosh:** ENG 131 gives you time and space to explore your writing processes, practice revising and editing, and examine rhetorical concepts such as situation, audience, purpose, and genre. You will complete four major essays as well as a number of shorter reading and writing assignments. Our Monday meetings will involve discussion of assigned readings and an in-class writing activity. Our Wednesday meetings are for writing workshops.

**A Note about Revision**
I believe that learning how to heavily revise drafts is an important skill for all writers to practice. Revision in this class will be guided by self-assessment of drafts-in-progress as well as by peer and instructor feedback. Heavy revision goes deeper than surface-level edits and minor changes. It requires writers to acknowledge that our first drafts are not our best writing and that revision may require significant rewrites. Students who commit themselves to the hard work of heavy revision inevitably produce better essays and become stronger writers.

**Outcomes and Objectives for English 132**

**English 131 Student Learning Outcomes**
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).

**General Education Core Curriculum Objectives**

This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course

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<th>Critical Thinking Skills</th>
<th>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
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**Credit Hour Justification**

ENG 131 “Rhetoric and Composition” (3 credits) meets three times each week in fifty-minute segments or twice each week in seventy-five-minute segments for fifteen weeks, and meets during finals week according to the final exam schedule. Students complete weekly topical readings as well as writing and discussion activities related to those readings. Students write a
minimum of four essays with a total page count of at least fifteen pages of finished writing. Emphasis is placed on writing processes, including multiple drafts and short assignments that require generating, revising and editing writing. Final exams typically include presentations of student writing. These activities average six hours of work outside of classroom hours.

Assignments, Expectations, and Policies

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<tr>
<th>Major Assignments</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1: Narrative</td>
<td>Final Draft: 9/18</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2: Analysis</td>
<td>Final Draft: 10/9</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Essay 3: Synthesis</td>
<td>Final Draft: 11/6</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 4: Persuasion</td>
<td>Final Draft: 12/4</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>Every Monday as assigned</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Groups</td>
<td>Every Wednesday</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation: Commitment to heavy revision, turning in assignments on time, attending class, participating in class discussion activities.</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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Weekly Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Mondays</th>
<th>Reading Response due (dropbox before class) In-class discussion and writing activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>Writing Groups (Bring four copies of your current draft.) Finish Monday’s activities as needed</td>
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Class Materials
- Writer's Journal (spiral notebook, etc.)
- Folder for current drafts
- Course readings posted on Brightspace (Writing Spaces and Rhetoric and Composition: A Guide for the College Writer)
- Access to a computer, printer, and Brightspace

Reading Responses
We will read and discuss articles and essays as assigned throughout the semester. You are required to upload a copy of your reading response before class as well as bring one print copy to
class. We will review reading responses (and I will provide a handout) during the first two weeks of class. All readings are posted on Desire2Learn.

In-class Writing Activities
We will do a variety of in-class writing activities throughout the semester. These activities require your writer’s journal and a current draft. Bring both to each class meeting. I recommend keeping a folder or binder for all handouts and drafts.

Writing Groups
We will meet weekly in small groups to workshop our writing. You are expected to bring at least two pages of new or heavily revised writing to each of these meetings. You are also expected to bring a copy of your writing for each member of your group. We will do many in-class activities to help you generate ideas, get words on the page, draft, revise, and edit. These activities will help you write the two pages required each week.

How to Prepare for Peer Writing Groups
1. Participate in all in-class writing activities;
2. Complete 2-3 pages of new or heavily revised writing before your group meeting;
3. Bring one copy of your writing for each group member (usually five copies);
4. Prepare a brief author’s note. This is a paragraph that briefly answers the following:
   1. What is the history of the writing you are sharing?
   2. What do you like best about it?
   3. What do you like least about it?
   4. What questions about your writing do you want your readers to answer? -and/or-
      Give your readers specific instructions for how to respond.
5. Write a revision plan. After each writer has read and the group is finished talking, take a few notes in your journal about what was said or what you are thinking right now about your essay. Review these notes the next time you sit down to write.

Conferences
We will schedule one or two conferences during the semester. Conferences are a chance for us to talk one-on-one about your writing and progress in the course. All conferences will be held in my office (LAN 262).

Participation and Attendance
Our class meetings involve lots of active learning. Lectures are brief, and most of the class time involves reading, writing, and discussion activities. The participation grade includes class attendance, coming to class prepared (e.g. bringing rough drafts), and participating in the day’s activities. You can have three unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Four or five unexcused absences will negatively affect your participation percentage. You will fail the class at six or more unexcused absences.

Excused absences: All university-sponsored events are excused absences. I do not require doctor’s notes when you are sick. You can contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) if you would like to request an absence notification be sent to your instructors.
Other Information

- All major assignments should follow the MLA Style Guide.
- All major assignments should be formatted as follows: 12pt, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1" margins.
- Most academic genres do not allow the "I" voice; therefore, you should avoid its use. However, some academic genres require or allow the “I” voice. We’ll negotiate this later in the semester.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam;
- falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment;
- helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism.

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person;
- submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source;
- incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit.

Plagiarism in ENG 132: The writing you turn in or otherwise share with me and your group must be your own. You will not receive credit for any essay that contains plagiarized ideas or writing, and a Report of Academic Dishonesty may be submitted.

We will look at how to represent and give credit to the ideas and writing of others. Please let me know if at any point you do not know how to properly document your research.

Late Work

All work must be turned in on the day that it is due. Final due dates of the four major essays are listed above. These assignments must be turned in by 11:59 PM on the day that they are due. Reading responses, when assigned, are due in the drop box before class on Mondays. You may be asked to read or write with your reading responses. Bring a print copy to class, or be able to
access a copy on your phone. You are required to bring four copies of a current draft to **writing workshop** every Friday. Your participation grade will be negatively affected if you are regularly late with work or are not prepared for class.

**Withheld Grades**
At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, 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, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**ADA Notice**
It is the policy of Stephen F. Austin State University to comply with the fundamental principles of nondiscrimination and accommodation in academic programs set forth in the implementing regulations for Section504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA).

SFASU Disability Services:
   Human Services Building, Room 325  
   P.O. Box 6130, Nacogdoches, TX  75962-6130  
   Voice: (936) 468-3004, Fax: (936) 468-1368  
   Hours 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday