English 131.751 Rhetoric and Composition  
Department of English and Creative Writing, SFASU

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Meeting Times and Location: MWF 12:20-1:10  
ZOOM

Office Hours: MWF 8:30-9:00, 10-11 & 12-12:20  
other times by appointment

Description:
ENG 131, Rhetoric and Composition – “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.”  

Additional Information:
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.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:
In any given semester, one or more of the following Core Curriculum Objectives for the English Foundational Component Area in Communication Writing may be assessed. These objectives are:

1. Critical Thinking: Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: Effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Teamwork: The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
4. Personal Responsibility: The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes for ENG 131:
ENG 131 learning outcomes are the goals that students must meet as part of the Freshman Composition requirements, which include:

1. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 1 skills. Students in compositions courses make application of these skills in the writing of personal, expository, and persuasive essays, which require students to make inquiries into and explorations of topics in creative, innovative, or analytical ways. Students are expected to complete readings, to engage in course and group discussions, and to analyze, interpret and synthesize their findings resultant from these critical engagements into well-developed essays. Written assignments will evidence the students’ command of these considerations: effective engagement of audience (pathos), logical development of ideas (logos), and effective use of examples, expertise, or insight (ethos).

2. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 2 skills. These skills include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Following instruction about group interaction, students will engage in oral communication through class discussions and group work (orally in face-to-face courses, electronically in online courses). Students will have occasion to respond to visual medium, as found in assigned readings, lectures, power-point presentations, or other media dependent upon course materials. Students learn processes for writing that help them to form coherent, well-developed, well-organized and unified discussions through a variety of writing methodologies, including personal, expository, and persuasive methodologies. Students will write at least four essays in composition courses, and rubrics will assess such concerns as development and exploration, mechanical clarity, and interpretation or expression of ideas.

3. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 3 skills. These skills include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Following instruction about peer review processes and small group work, students will perform peer mentorship on essay assignments and work together on group projects, which may include collaborative writing occasions, group presentations, or panel discussions. As peer review is the common teamwork experience, students will be required to share potentially diverse ideas with one another, to address those views in appropriate ways, and to help one another to finalize essays for submission.

4. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 4 skills. These skills include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. Students will have opportunity to examine numerous readings, including essays written by classmates, to examine the credibility and value of those readings, and to understand how expository methodologies bear responsibility and consequence.

**Required Texts and Materials:**
*Lumberjacks Write* (provided by the Department of English)
Stapler or paper/binder clips for essays/assignments
**highly recommended to have a jump/flash drive**

**Course Requirements**

**Assignments**
The assignments and grades for this course are weighted as follows:
Personal Narrative (2-3 pages)  15%
Group Project for Poster  10%
Rhetorical Analysis (4-5 pages)  20%
Album Cover  05%
Two Summary Papers (1-2 pgs. for argument paper) 10%
Argument/Persuasion (5-6 pages) 25%
Daily work (homework, quizzes, various writings) 10%
Final Exam  05%

More information on written assignments will be forthcoming. Essays will be graded on substance (quality and accuracy of ideas), expression (tone, style, syntax), grammar use, and sentence construction. Exams may include M/C, short answer, and essay formats.

**Grade Criteria:**

**Grading Standard:**

**A: 90-100:** Students earning the grade of an A on any assignment will have completed work that obviously demonstrates a more than average understanding of the course material and completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of an A is reserved for that work which expertly displays one’s ability to engage the ideas at hand, recognize and dialogue about the complications of such ideas, and translate such dialogue into clear, academic prose that is free of stigmatized errors.

**B: 80-89:** Students earning the grade of a B on any assignment will have completed work that demonstrates a more than average understanding of the course material and completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of a B is reserved for that work which adeptly displays one’s ability to engage the ideas at hand, recognize and dialogue about the complications of such ideas, and translate such dialogue into clear, academic prose that is free of stigmatized errors. However, the level of thought, while still above average, may fluctuate in terms of analytic abilities and expression.

**C: 70-79:** Students earning the grade of a C on any assignment will have completed work that demonstrates an average understanding of the course material and completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of a C is reserved for that work which displays one’s ability to engage the ideas at hand (more so through summary and response rather than analysis), recognize and dialogue about the complications of such ideas (however, the complications recognized will focus more on surface level issues rather than the greater whole), and translate such dialogue into clear, academic prose that is free of stigmatized errors. As can be seen from this description, the level of thought will be acceptable and display that a student has read the assignment, but his/her analytic abilities and level of expression will not be nearly as complicated nor developed. Instead, C work will display a student’s hold to traditional methods of expression (simpler construction of sentence and paragraph development) and a struggle to develop complex, critical thinking skills.
D: 60-69: Students earning the grade of a D on any assignment will have completed work that demonstrates a below average understanding of course material and a lack of completion of all aspects and requirements of the assignment. The grade of a D is reserved for that work which displays one’s struggle or refusal to engage the ideas at hand, simply summarizes the work under study with no actual recognition of or dialogue about the complications of such ideas, and the translation of ideas into writing is completed in such a convoluted manner that the audience will have difficulty following the conversation.

F: 0-59: Students earning the grade of a F on any assignment will either not have completed the assignment, will have completed the assignment but not followed the guidelines, or will have completed the assignment and demonstrated a complete misunderstanding of the course material. In this case, it will be obvious that the student has either not completed the required reading and/or given him/herself enough time to develop the work. The grade of a F is reserved for that work which does not engage the issues at hand, offers a base (not complete) summary of the work at hand with no critical engagement, and the translation of ideas into writing is either incomplete or the audience will be unable to follow the conversation. It is important to remember that a student can receive 0 out of 100 points. In the case that a student only partially completes an assignment or completes a work (in terms of page length, but not purpose) s/he may receive 0 points.

Attendance:
The attendance policy for this course is the official SFASU policy as stated at:

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class_attendance_excused_abs.asp.

In other words, regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. Valid excuses are limited to health, religious observation, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events. Students are responsible for providing written documentation for EVERY absence, from which a decision will be made regarding the absence’s excusability. Without written documentation, the absence will automatically be considered unexcused. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester when the nature of the work missed permits. However, no absences beyond the six that may be excused will be excused, and no student shall be allowed to pass the course whose unexcused absences exceed three (3)—this is not a correspondence course! Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, or in the case of a late add, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Note also that you must turn in essays and take both exams to pass the course.

**Note regarding make-up and late work: Make-up tests and quizzes (which will be given only in the case of excused absences) must be taken during my office hours on your own initiative within one week of the absence, and they will be more challenging than the original versions. Late essays will lose one letter grade per business day of lateness. I will not accept the submission of material via e-mail without prior approval.

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.

**Whispering and chatting in the classroom, while class is in progress, are not acceptable. Please do not embarrass yourself by doing so. Texting in classroom is not considered proper decorum; please do not text in class.**

**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.

**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/.

**Tentative Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1 August 26-30**
M- Introduction to each other and to the course. Go over D2L, syllabus, and weekly schedule. Talk about assignments that will be covered throughout the semester.
W- Assign first homework (find a meme). Short lecture about writing and what is acceptable in academic writing. MLA format: What is it? How do I do it correctly? Where can I find help?
F- No class

**Week 2 September 2-6 (C0 1, 2, 3, & 4)**
M: Talk about “Our World Around Us” and how it applies to the meme found. Look at handout and analyze its content.
Talk about homework, group work on memes (look at them critically), and talk about our responsibility with the memes and social media.
W- Organization, structure, mechanics, etc…
F- **Assign 1st essay: The Personal Narrative:** While this is a personal narrative essay, it will require you to think about your own responsibility with social media and sharing. It requires you to think critically and weight the consequences of your own actions.

**Week 3 September 9-14 (C01, 2, & 3)**
M- Introduction to the peer review process: what to look for and how to help your classmate while helping yourself. Lecture over the Rhetorical Triangle and Writing Processes.
W- Rough Draft of essay 1 is due in class for Peer Review.
F- After looking over your peer-reviewed paper, I will now answer individual questions about this assignment/your paper/suggestions made on your paper/etc...this is all part of the learning process where we learn from each other.

**Week 4 September 16-20 (CO 1)**
M- **Essay 1 is due** in class and on D2L (by the time that class begins). Lecture over rhetorical analysis and summary.
W- Music Day (practice run); Homework: think about your first music memory and anything that you can remember about that time.
F- Class discussion about your own possible song choice for the upcoming assignment

**Week 5 September 23-27 (CO 1-4)**
M- Work on Poster Project
W- Work on Poster Project
F- Work on Poster Project

**Week 6 September 30- October4 (CO 1 & 2)**
M- Begin **Essay 2 assignment**….go over the complete assignment with the class; group work on last homework assignment (on your music memory).
W- If we have time, we will have another music day to help you along the path to understanding
F- Plagiarism lecture as well as reminders about acceptable academic language, no use of 1st or
2nd person, no contractions, no exclamation marks, etc...

Week 7 October 7-11
M- Lecture on revising sentences (information begins on page 99 in handbook)
W- Lecture on Style vs Grammar (page 203 in handbook)
F- Lecture on Writing in the Disciplines (begins page 43)

Week 8 October 14-18
M- Rough Draft of Essay 2 due in class for Peer Review
W- Lecture on punctuation and mechanics (begins page 235 in handbook)
F- Essay 2 due in class and on D2L/Introduction to argument/persuasion papers and summary
papers.

Week 9 October 21-25 (CO 1-4)
M- Introduce Essay 3 and all of its components: assign reading homework, (from Lumberjacks
Write)
W- Discussion over readings and how they play into the argument/persuasion essay assignment.
F- Discussion over topics for this essay. We will banter about topics and help each other narrow
down our ideas.
Homework: Start looking for sources to use on your paper. Be ready to access those sources next
week as we move into working on works cited pages and entries. Bring your handbook to class.

Week 10 October 28-November1
M- Works Cited Pages! No, you may not use a website to do them for you!
W- Work in small groups creating works cited entries for the sources you have found so far.
F- No Class/Research Day

Week 11 November 4-8
M- Discussion and example for annotated bibliography, reminder about summary papers
W- Annotated Bibliography cont.…. 
F- Answer questions over annotated bibs and summary papers; Proofreading tips and tricks

Week 12 November 11-15
M-W-F Conferences

Week 13 November 18-22
M- Annotated Bibliography and Summary papers due in hardcopy and on D2L
W- Peer Review over rough draft of argument/persuasion paper
F- Answer questions over peer reviewed papers

Week 14 November 25-29
Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15 December 2-6
M- Second peer review over revised essay
W- Reserved
F: Essay 3 due here and on D2L/Assign take home final

Week 16
Final Exam Week