English 131  010
Rhetoric and Composition
Department of English, SFASU

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Class hours 9:30-10:45 T R

Course 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.”

In English 131, students study and practice the writing process and the skills of writing with a focus on analytical reading and writing. Students read and write a range of essay types, including expressive, explicatory, analytical, and persuasive. Essay assignments address rhetorical analysis and critical responses to close readings of text. Students in English 131 are required to write a minimum of four formal essays (totaling at least 20 pages) and at least one in-class timed essay.

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:

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

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)

**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). 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 all essays and take all 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 10 points 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.

**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/.

The following schedule is tentative. No due dates will be moved up, and I’ll try to keep changes to a minimum. The “assignments” file on D2L is always the authoritative source for assignments and due dates. Check here often. Daily work will be announced in class and listed on the “Assignments” file.

Reading homework will be announced on a weekly basis. Changes may be necessary as the course proceeds. I will notify you of any change in writing. All assignments and PDF files will be posted in D2L.

Assignments
The assignments and grades for this course will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily work (In-class participation homework, quizzes, timed writings)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Narrative (2-3 pages)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complaint Letter</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Song Analysis (3-4 pages)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis of Commercial</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persuasive Essay</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50</td>
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Total Points Possible 1000

Your running points/grade will be available on D2L (http://d2l.sfasu.edu); please advise me ASAP if you see anything that seems amiss. The final course grade will depend on the points earned.

More information on written assignments will be forthcoming. Essays will be graded on grammar and mechanics, substance (quality and accuracy of ideas) as well as expression (tone, style, syntax). Exams may include M/C, short answer, and essay formats.
Grade Criteria:
Overall, your grade will be based on a total of 1000 points. As such, to figure your grade out at any point in the semester, simply add up the number of points that you have and divide that by the number of points possible. This will give you an overall percentage.

Points to Letter Grade
A: 900-1000: 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: 800-899: 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: 700-799: 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: 600-699: 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: 0-599: 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.

**ENG 131 Schedule Spring 2018**

*Please note this schedule is subject to change.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1, January 22(^{nd})</th>
<th>Course Introduction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2, January 29(^{th})</td>
<td>Literary Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week, Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3, February 5(^{th})</td>
<td>Literary Narrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4, February 12(^{th})</td>
<td>Literary Narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5, February 19(^{th})</td>
<td>Complaint Letter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6, February 26(^{th})</td>
<td>Complaint Letter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7, March 5(^{th})</td>
<td>Song Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8, March 12(^{th})</td>
<td>Song Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9, March 19(^{th})</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10, March 26(^{th})</td>
<td>Song Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11, April 2\textsuperscript{nd}</td>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12, April 9\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13, April 16\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14, April 23\textsuperscript{rd}</td>
<td>Persuasive Essay</td>
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<td>Week 15, April 30\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Persuasive Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16, May 7\textsuperscript{th}</td>
<td>Persuasive Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 17 Finals Week</td>
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</tbody>
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UNIT 1 – Expressive Writing – Narrative

Week 1 (1-22)
Syllabus, Course Introduction and Objectives
Introduction; motives for writing

Week 1 (1-24)
Discuss “Finding Nouns, Verbs, and Subjects” BLUE BOOK pages 1-3
Discussion of reading; writing narratives; methods of development.
Invention and Drafting.

Week 2 (1-29)
Discuss “Subject – Verb agreement” BLUE BOOK pages 3-6
Literacy Narrative continued

Week 2 (1-31)
Continue “Subject – Verb agreement” BLUE BOOK pages 3-6
Literacy Narrative How to peer edit a draft.

Week 3 (2-5)
Literacy Narrative Peer Editing

Week 3 (2-7)
Discuss “Pronouns” BLUE BOOK pages 7-12

UNIT 2 – Complaint Letter

Week 4 (2-12)
Essay 1 is due in class and on D2L by the time class begins.
Continue Pronoun Discussion. BLUE BOOK pages 7-12

Week 4 (2-14)
Discuss “Periods” and “Commas” BLUE BOOK pages 25-30
Ethos, Pathos, Logos
Complaint Letter

Week 5 (2-19)
Continue “Periods” and “Commas” BLUE BOOK pages 25-30
Complaint Letter

Week 5 (2-21)
Discuss “Semicolons” BLUE BOOK pages 30-31
Discuss “Apostrophes” BLUE BOOK pages 36-40
Complaint Letter

Week 6 (2-26)
Discuss Capitalization BLUE BOOK pages 49-55
Complaint Letter Peer Editing
Week 6 (2-28)
Continue Capitalization BLUE BOOK pages 49-55
Complaint Letter Final Copy Due

UNIT 3 – Analysis
Week 7 (3-5)
Discuss “Writing Numbers” BLUE BOOK pages 57-60
MEAL Plan writing
Rhetorical Analysis Song

Week 7 (3-7)
Discuss “Parentheses and Brackets” BLUE BOOK pages 34-35
Discuss “Hyphens” BLUE BOOK pages 40-45
Song Analysis

Week 8 (3-12)
Discuss “Dashes,” “Elipses,” “Exclamation Points,” and “Question Marks” BLUE BOOK pages 45-48
Song Analysis

Week 8 (3-14)
Logical Fallacies
Song Analysis

SPRING BREAK