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.

For this section of ENG 132, we will explore the idea of Personal Identity in Contemporary Society. Throughout this course, we will read, analyze, and write about matters pertaining to personal identity, considering how our personalities are formed, how we communicate our personalities to the world, and how culture affects the process of personality formation.

COURSE OUTCOMES

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.

English Program Learning Outcomes
This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in the course.

English 132 Learning Outcomes
ENG 132 learning outcomes are the goals that students must meet as part of the Freshman Composition core curriculum 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); a research essay is the culminating writing of this course; students will learn appropriate research methodologies, how to evaluate secondary sources, and to synthesize the ideas of others in their arguments.

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 persuasive, analytical, and argumentative methodologies. Students will write several essays; the culminating assignment will be an argumentative, research-based essay, and rubrics will assess such concerns as development and exploration, mechanical clarity, interpretation or expression of ideas, and effective use of research methodologies.
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 secondary sources, to determine the credibility and value of those sources, and to understand how argumentative methodologies bear responsibility and consequence.

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.

Credit Hour Justification
ENG 132 “Research and Argumentation” (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 eighteen pages of finished writing. Emphasis is placed on writing and research processes, including multiple drafts and short assignments that require generating, revising and editing writing. Students conduct more library and online research than what is required in ENG 131. Final exams typically include presentations of student writing and research. These activities average six hours of work outside of classroom hours.

REQUIRED TEXTS


[https://writingcommons.org/](https://writingcommons.org/): A free, comprehensive, peer-reviewed, award-winning Open Text for students and faculty in college-level courses that require writing and research.


**Texts on D2L.** These must be printed, read, and brought to class on days they are assigned OR be accessible to you in class via an electronic device (laptop, tablet, phone, etc.)

**Drafts** of your work; again, these must be printed and brought to class on days they are assigned OR be accessible to you via an electronic device (laptop, tablet, phone, etc.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
ASSIGNMENTS
For each assignment, detailed requirements will be posted on D2L under “Content” > “Assignments.”

**Essay 1 (3-5 pages): Personal Essay** – In this essay, you will write a narrative argument. A narrative argument relies on a concrete, personal story to make an implicit (not explicit) argument, which is both truthful and representative of a larger issue. You may choose to adapt any of the approaches presented in class or in the chapter by Miller and Paola, “The Tradition of the Personal Essay” (Telling It Slant, 89-105).

**Essay 2 (3-5 pages): Literary Analysis** – An essay addressing Mark Spraag’s Where Rivers Change Direction.

**Formal Research Proposal (600-900 words) and Annotated Bibliography (80-100 words per entry/7-10 entries) for Essay 3:** By the time you begin working on the proposal and annotated bibliography, you should have a clear idea of how what topic discussed in class thus far you intend to analyze for your final paper. This assignment is geared toward the research that will help you formulate and defend a strong thesis in Essay 3.

**7-10 Source Annotations (100–200 words each):** Research for this course should be continuous and conducted in the spirit of inquiry. Provide summary and evaluative statements for each annotation. The bibliography should be formatted according to MLA standards.

**Essay 3 (2400-3000 words): Capstone Essay** – An argument based on any of the topics we have discussed in class thus far that should reflect on the theme of our class. You must approach a topic different than you considered for your other papers, though the topics may be related. Compose a sustained and supported argument that incorporates multiple argumentative strategies and 7-10 academic sources.

Save all drafts in a reliable location and back everything up! Computers crash, so back documents up on a cloud drive (A subscription to Microsoft OneDrive is provided free with Microsoft Office 365 to all students at SFA), email documents to yourself, or save them to a flash drive. Don't delete or throw away ANYTHING until after the end of the semester.

**Final Presentation**
For this project, you will create a formal presentation about the issue your research project revolves around that is intended to be presented to fellow SFA college students. During our final exam period, you will give this presentation in 8-10 minutes.

**Weekly Quizzes:** On a weekly basis, you will be quizzed over course material. These quizzes may be multiple choice or open-ended questions. These questions will engage you with that week’s readings and/or viewings, and they may occur at random during the week.

**GRADING**
To pass this course, students must do the following: (1) complete all assigned writing to the appropriate Dropbox folder on D2L on time; and (2) submit only writing produced for English 132 during the current semester (no recycled writing). These are the minimum requirements for passing the course. Your course grade will be determined as follows:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
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<td>Essay 1 (Personal Essay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review 1</td>
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<td>Essay 2 (Literary Analysis)</td>
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<td>Peer Review 2</td>
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<td>Essay 3 (Capstone Essay)</td>
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<td>Proposal and Annotated Bibliography</td>
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* $A = 900–1000$ / $B = 800–899$ / $C = 700–799$ / $D = 600–699$ / $F = Below 600$ points

**A:** Writing that demonstrates unusual competence. Thesis statement is clear and specific. Content is both unified and coherent. Sufficient details are provided to develop thesis statement. Grammatical/mechanical or documentation errors are minimal, with no patterns of serious error. Sentence patterns are varied. Diction is tight, fresh, and appropriate to audience and purpose. The “A” essay is imaginative. The writing is thoughtful and avoids the obvious, thus providing insight that is often personal and illuminating. The “A” essay invites rereading.

**B:** Writing that demonstrates competence. Content is unified and generally coherent. Key ideas are supported with details. Essay may contain grammatical/mechanical and documentation errors, but those errors do not detract from the essay’s content. Sentence patterns are sufficiently varied to keep reader interested. Diction is generally concise, accurate, and appropriate to audience and purpose. The “B” essay offers substantial information with few distractions.

**C:** Writing that suggests competence, but with a tendency to depend upon the self-evident and the cliché. Content may be ineffectively organized, with weak or missing transitions. Grammar/mechanical and documentation errors may be repeated or frequent. Development is thin: generalizations are not developed with appropriate details. Diction is limited in range, occasionally marred by repetition, redundancy, imprecision. Sentences may be choppy, monotonous. The “C” essay lacks both imagination and an awareness of choices that affect style.

**D:** Writing that suggests incompetence. Thesis statement may be unclear or missing. Content is disorganized. Essay fails to provide the reader with clear direction and focus, and transitions between ideas are missing. Ideas are left undeveloped. Generalizations are not supported. Grammatical or sentence structure errors may distort the intended meaning. Mechanical and documentation errors may be prevalent. Diction is limited in range and may be inappropriate. Evidence of proofreading is scanty. The “D” essay often gives the impression of having been conceived and written in haste. The “D” essay is not thoughtful and does not invite reading, much less rereading.

**F:** Writing that demonstrates incompetence. Essay lacks thesis statements, unity. Writing is marginally coherent. Few ideas are developed or supported. Grammar, spelling, and sentence structure are weak. In short, the ideas, organization and style fall far below what is acceptable in college writing.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** Students are only allowed **six unexcused** absences a MWF class. Any additional absences will result in automatic **failure** of the course.

Valid excuses are limited to health, religious observation, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events. Students must provide written documentation 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 when the nature of the work missed permits. However, no absences beyond the nine will be permitted, whether unexcused or excused. Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, students are still responsible for all course content and assignments. Note also that you must turn in all major assignments (four formal essays and two presentations) to pass the course.

I take attendance at the beginning of class; arriving more than **ten** minutes after class begins will result in your being marked absent.

**Course Citizenship:** Eating, sleeping, or reading other materials during class are not acceptable. All cell phones must be turned off prior to coming to class, and no text messaging or web surfing will be tolerated. Laptops and cell phones should
not be used unless I indicate that you may use them for a particular activity. Although students with disciplinary problems tend to be few and far between at the college level, if behavioral disruptions persist within a single class meeting (or, for that matter, across multiple meetings), the student in question will be asked to leave the class with a lowered participation grade and an absence for the day.

**Assignment Submission:** All written work will be submitted electronically via D2L. Assignments are due by class time on their due date. All files must be formatted in either .doc,.docx (compatible with Microsoft Word), or PDF. I will not accept Mac Pages or Google Docs, for example. I will return your drafts via D2L.

**Late Work:** I will accept major essays for a 10% per day penalty. I will not accept any daily work (quizzes, cumulative module assessment tests, etc.) after the day and time it is due. You should save your work in multiple places; I highly recommend using online storage such as OneDrive (this one is included as a free-of-charge option in the university’s downloadable subscription of Microsoft Office 365), which is a free service you may use to back up your files. If you opt to use the Online version of Word, your work is automatically saved and backed up, so you will never lose your data in a computer crash.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Adhering to academic integrity standards at all times by producing your own work and successfully attributing others’ ideas to them is a necessary aspect of university communication. 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) falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assignment; 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 include, but are not limited to: (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 the Internet or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author due credit.

Any appeals on academic integrity cases must be made within thirty days after the first class day of the next long semester. Students should appeal to the instructor first then to the chair if the situation is not resolved. Further appeals can be made to the dean and provost if necessary.


**TITLE IX STATEMENT**

Stephen F. Austin State University strives to provide an educational and work environment that affirms the rights and dignity of each individual. It is the policy of the university, in accordance with federal and state law, to prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship and veteran status. Additionally, Stephen F. Austin State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Unlawful discrimination based on sex includes discrimination defined as sexual harassment.

The [Discrimination Complaints policy (2.11)](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies) and the [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Violence, Harassment, and Misconduct policy (2.13)](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies) outline the university's commitment and detail the procedures used to prevent, respond, and investigate complaints. It is the responsibility of the university president to ensure that SFA and all its constituencies comply with the provisions of this policy and with all federal and state laws, executive orders and regulations regarding non-discrimination.

The university prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct because such behavior violates the university's institutional values, adversely impacts the university's community interest, and interferes with the university's mission. The university also prohibits retaliation against any person who, in good faith, reports or discloses a violation of this policy, files a complaint,
and/or otherwise participates in an investigation, proceeding, complaint or remediation under this policy. Once the university becomes aware of an incident of sexual misconduct, the university will promptly and effectively respond in a manner designed to eliminate the misconduct, prevent its recurrence and address its effects.

Stephen F. Austin State University is dedicated to providing an environment of non-discrimination and equal opportunity in its programs and employment opportunities. The Title IX office supports the University's commitment by offering training, programs and processes that promote an inclusive, diverse and supportive environment consistent with the SFA Way.

To fulfill its mission, the Title IX office:

- Coordinates the delivery of detailed educational programs and training concerning discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, interpersonal violence, and stalking;
- Recommends, develops, interprets and implements policies and procedures in support of non-discrimination;
- Oversees investigations into complaints of discrimination, harassment and sexual violence by promptly organizing an impartial administrative review and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that might be identified during the review of such complaints;
- Serves as the university's designated office responsible for coordinating the University's compliance with state and federal law, including, but not limited to:
  - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972,
  - Violence Against Women Act,
  - Campus SAVE Act.
- Works with the Office of the General Counsel to investigate and respond to external complaints (e.g. EEOC, OCR).

The many terms and definitions that surround sexual misconduct issues can be confusing and may create unintended barrier to reporting incidents of sexual misconduct.

It is important to remember, only those options clearly identified as confidential assistance can keep your information private. Generally, any person not identified as a confidential reporter is required to report an incident that is reported to them. This requirement is intended to protect members of the campus community, visitors and guests from criminal and discriminatory behavior.

The Academic Assistance and Resource Center: The AARC offer free writing tutoring, which is available on a walk-in and appointment basis. They also offer online writing tutoring services and workshops about writing-related topics. For more information, go to http://library.sfasu.edu/aarc/, visit them on the first floor of the Steen Library, or call them at 936-468-4108.

Witheld 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.

ACCOMODATIONS

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, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify your instructors and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations, and no accommodations can be made except through the ODS. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.