Research and Argument

ENG 132.485

Name: Carrie McComas
Email: cmccomas@palestineschools.org; carrie.mccomas@sfasu.edu
Phone: 903-731-8005 Ext. 2073
Office: PHS Room A001
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 3:40-5:00
Department: English and Creative Writing
Class meeting time and place: Daily M-F, PHS Room A001

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.

Student 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).

Credit Hour Justification
ENGL 132 “Research and Argumentation” (3 credits) typically meets three times each week in 50-minute segments or twice each week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students will read and study the principles of argumentation (both classical and contemporary), practice analysis of published arguments, and then apply these principles to their own individual arguments that grow out of their career fields and interests. In addition, students will learn best practices for research in order to inform themselves about the arguments they engage, and they will learn how to incorporate the needed evidence to support their claims/positions. The third component of the course requires students to understand that there are various methods of source documentation; in this course, they will engage the MLA documentation.
method and observe it in their written productions. Students will practice and (to some extent) master the writing process, producing multiple drafts of a summary analysis, annotated bibliography, a synthesis analysis and an extended argument of their own. These activities average at a minimum 6-8 hours of work outside class each week to prepare for and participate in this course.

Text and Materials
- Access to D2L
- Paper/writing utensil for class assignments
- No textbook required; the instructor will provide handouts as needed

Course Requirements
Four major essay assignments will be required for this course and must be submitted through D2L to receive credit. Emailed assignments will not be considered submitted. Quizzes will be administered over major concepts covered in class. Minor class work will also be assigned. These assignments are designed to aid students' understanding of the material and prepare for the major assignments. A final exam writing assignment will be administered according to the university exam schedule.

Course Calendar
Unit 1: Critical Reading for Research
  - Literary Analysis Essay
Unit 2: Synthesizing Research for Argument
  - Counterargument Essay
Unit 3: Research Application
  - Annotated Bibliography
  - Argumentative Essay

Grading Policy
Major Assignments: 60%
Quizzes: 15%
Minor Class Assignments: 15%
Final Exam: 10%

Late Work
Students are expected to turn in work on time. A 10-point penalty will be administered for each day an assignment is late (except drafts; see below), up to 5 days. Assignments will close and submissions will not be accepted 5 days after the due date.

*Drafts will be submitted for major essay assignments prior to the final submission date. Failure to submit a draft on time will result in a zero. Late drafts will not be reviewed. If you are absent, refer to the make-up work policy below.

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend class. However, when an absence is necessary, please communicate via email as soon as possible regarding the absence. For school-related absences, please let the instructor know in advance. Students must be in attendance 90% of the time in order remain in good standing for this course.
**Make-up Work:** Students are allotted the same number of days missed to complete make-up assignments. After the make-up window has expired, student work is subjected to the late work policy.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a 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.

**Plagiarism Policy:** There will be a 30-point penalty for the first minor instance and a grade of “0” on the assignment for the second minor instance. For the third minor instance, a conference will be held with the Wildcat University Counselor to discuss the student’s removal from the course. All instances of major plagiarism (Example: majority of the assignment is copied) which the instructor finds to be valid will result in a “0” for the assignment and submission of an academic dishonesty report.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Visit the SFA Academic Assistance and Resource Center (AARC)!**
The AARC provides a variety of free academic support programs for students at SFA. Our services include 1:1 appointments, walk-in tables, online tutoring (through Zoom), learning teams, and SI. We also provide academic skills workshops upon request.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, 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, and Room 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 Topics & Core Objectives

1/15-1/17: Course introduction and syllabus information
1/21-1/24: Introduction to Macbeth; Acts 1-2 (CT)
1/27-1/31: Continue Macbeth, Acts 3-5 (CT)
2/3-2/7: Introduction to literary analysis; analysis essay outline, draft, peer review groups (CS, T)
2/10-2/14: Introduction to counterargument (CT)
2/17-2/21: Article readings and discussions; summary (CT, CS)
2/24-2/28: Counterargument outline, draft, peer review groups (CS, T, EQS)
3/2-3/6: MLA Research – Formatting various types of sources (CT)
3/9-3/13: Spring Break
3/16-3/20: Methods of Research (CT)
3/23-3/27: Source credibility and evaluation (CT, PR)
3/30-4/3: Introduction to the annotated bibliography (CT)
4/6-4/8: Annotated bibliography (CT)
4/13-4/17: Introduction to the argumentative essay (CT, CS, EQS)
4/20-4/25: Continuing argumentation (CT, CS, EQS)
4/27-5/1: Argumentative essay draft and peer review groups (CS, T)
5/4-5/8: Final Exam (CT, CS)