English 132.512
Research and Argument
Department of English and Creative Writing
SFASU

Professor: S. Rene’ Jones
Office Phone: 468-2025
E-mail: jonessr@sfasu.edu
Office: L243
Meeting Times and Location: Online
Office Hours: TR 10-12:25
Virtual Office Hours by appointment

Description:
“Research and Argumentation” (3 credits; fully online) meets online for 15 regular weeks during the semester, and also meets for the final week of the semester for a 2-hour final examination online. 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 which 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 8-10 hours of work each week to prepare for and participate in this course.

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 132:
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.

**Required Texts and Materials:**

*Lumberjacks Write* fourth edition (there is a digital copy in the course)

**Internet connection and a computer**

**Recommended to have a usb/jump/flash drive**

**Course Requirements:**
All students will be graded on their ability to (1) Achieve the goal of that assignment (2) Efficiently and effectively communicate (3) Properly format the work and (4) Avoid stigmatized grammatical and syntactical errors. Each assignment will vary, but these four factors will always determine part, or all, of your grade.

Assignments
The assignments and grades for this course will be weighted as follows:
Quizzes/Daily grades, etc… 05%
Essay 1 comparative rhetorical analysis 15%
Essay 2 rhetorical analysis w/synthesis 20%
Summary Papers 15%
Annotated Bib 15%
Essay 3 Synthesis/Research 25%
Final Exam 05%

More information on written assignments will be forthcoming. Essays will be graded both on substance (quality and accuracy of ideas), expression (tone, style, syntax), grammar, sentence structure, and ability to follow instructions.

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 for online courses will be assumed by the student engaging with the course and the assignments in a timely manner.**
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 and other activities for which a student is registered.

**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 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.

**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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp).

*We will go over plagiarism in class; however, it is your responsibility to make sure that the work that you turn in is, in fact, your own work and not taken from someone else. Depending on the severity of the instance, you could be given a 0 for the assignment or even expelled from college. If you have any doubt about what you are incorporating from someone else, come and see me for help.*

**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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
Tentative Course Calendar: (subject to change as needed)

Week 1
Welcome to class, introductions to class syllabus/schedule.
Review over things that you learned in 131 English or should already know. If you do not have
an understanding of them when they are brought up, please let me know (by email) so that I can
enlighten you; these things will be very important as we move into our semester of writing and
researching.

Week 2
Assign Essay 1…Lecture/refresher over in-text citations and works cited pages.
Plagiarism lecture: What happens if I plagiarize all or part of an essay/paper?

Week 3
Lecture over editing, proofreading tips and tricks, global revision.
Rough draft of Essay 1 due in class for peer review

Week 4
Essay 1 due on D2L…. begin lecture over research.
Assign Essay 2, explain summary papers, and explain the process for this analysis

Week 5
Talk about research tips and techniques. What is an acceptable source? How to tell if something
is a scholarly source?
Rough Draft of Essay 2 due in class for peer review

Week 6 Winter Break Woodville

Week 7
Primary sources and secondary sources
Documenting sources

Week 8
Last minute questions taken about essay 2
Essay 2 due on D2L

Week 9 (I am on Spring Break for SFA here but will be available by email)
Assign Essay 3 and its components
Discuss topics for the essay

Week 10
Lecture about Research Papers
Continue lecture on research;

Week 11:
Assign Annotated Bibliography; look at sample annotated bibliography and explain it
Writing an annotated bibliography lecture
find sources for annotated bibliography and summary papers

Week 12
The importance of following directions (what it could cost you grade-wise)
Answer questions over annotated bibliography and/or summary papers
Work on D2L assignments; annotated bibliography and summary papers due by tonight at 11:30 p.m.

Week 13
Answer questions over rough drafts, peer review on Wednesday.
Rough draft of Essay 3 due in class for peer review

Week 14 Spring Break Woodville

Week 15
Global revision lecture: how it can help you, the wonders of a word processor in global revision, word choices; Bring questions over your peer review

Last minute lecture over tips to make your essay be all it can be!
Work on D2L assignments: Essay 3 due on D2L

Week 16
Assign take home final exam
Work on take home final exam. It is due next week.

Final Exam Week

TBA: Take home final due