ENGLISH 1301: Rhetoric & Composition – Fall 2021

Instructor: Ms. Jerri Bourrous
ENG 1301.039
Online Instruction

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
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 to 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.

COURSE OUTCOMES
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.

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE CURRICULUM
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: 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.

By enrolling in ENGL 1301, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Communication Skills component area.

The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective will be addressed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Active reading assignments Writing assignments that teach process, analysis, reflection, and working with sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication</td>
<td>Writing and reading assignments that teach rhetorical awareness, including writing for different purposes, audiences, and contexts Small-group discussion activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>Peer writing groups Small-group work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Activities that teach the ethics of rhetoric and research</td>
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**ENGL 1301 STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze texts with the goal of examining the rhetorical structure, veracity of claims, sufficient use of accurate and credible evidence, as well as possible use in creative, analytical, and persuasive components (Critical Thinking);
- Participate in productive class and group discussion and examination of texts, in order to analyze and synthesize a variety of texts, via a multi-step drafting process (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 1301 “Rhetoric and Composition” (3 credits; fully online) meets online for fifteen weeks during the semester as well as during finals week. 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. Finals week is typically spent completing final edits of one or more of the essays. These activities average nine hours of work each week.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

**GRADES AND EVALUATION**
Assignments – each assignment is due by midnight on the due date. You must submit all major essays online to D2L. There will be a separate Dropbox folder in D2L for each major essay assignment. Further instructions for each assignment will be given at a later time. Late essays will be given -10 points for each day they are late; extensions may be granted if you have an excusable absence.

• **Personal Narrative essay** – This essay will be 800-1000 words in length, and it is due on September 3rd.
• **Rhetorical Analysis essay** –This essay will be 1200-1500 words in length, and it will be due on October 1st.
• **Literary Analysis essay** – This essay will focus on The Stepford Wives. Not having the book is not an excuse. Find a copy or download the digital version. This essay will be 1200-1500 words in length, and it will be due on November 5th.
• **Synthesis essay** – This essay will be 1500-1800 words in length, and it will be due on December 3rd.

Quizzes – There will be quizzes. You will have a week to complete them. I will not accept late quizzes; if it is turned in past the due date, you will receive a zero, unless you’ve made prior arrangements with me.

Weekly Work – There will be discussions and weekly work. I will not accept any late daily work unless you have an excused absence; without documentation, you will receive a zero.
Final Exam – Using the skills you've acquired over the course of the semester, you will write a final essay. Details and materials will be discussed as the date approaches.

Extra Credit – A substantial visit to the AARC will award you five extra points to one major essay grade. If you aren't on campus or don't feel comfortable meeting a tutor face-to-face, you may use the online feedback tool on their D2L page. You must show me proof of your visit or online interaction in order to receive credit (a screenshot will be sufficient). Utilization of the resources available to you are an important part of your education. Throughout the semester, there will be other opportunities to gain extra credit.

Breakdown of Grades:
Quizzes – 7.5%
Weekly Work – 7.5%
Personal Narrative – 10%
Rhetorical Analysis – 15%
Literary Analysis – 20%
Synthesis Essay – 25%
Final Exam – 15%

ALL ASSIGNMENTS must adhere to MLA guidelines, meaning 1-inch margins on all sides, appropriate headers, double-spaced, written in 12-point Times New Roman, with Works Cited (if required) attached. Each assignment must meet the assignment requirements for page length and source requirement. Failing to do so will result in a SIGNIFICANT drop in your grade. Individual assignment sheets will be provided with further details.

According to university policy, your final grade for the course will consist of a letter grade only. Here is a general description of each letter grade:

A – Student meets and exceeds the expectations for the assignment. Writing demonstrates an understanding of all the key concepts needed to effectively complete the essay. Few, if any, grammatical and/or syntactical errors.

B – Student meets the expectations for the assignment. Writing demonstrates an understanding of most of the key concepts needed to effectively complete the essay. Few grammatical and/or syntactical errors.

C – Student meets the expectations for the assignment. Writing demonstrates a basic understanding of some of the key concepts needed to effectively complete the essay. Several grammatical and/or syntactical errors.

D – Student does not meet at least one expectation for the assignment. Writing demonstrates little understanding of the key concepts needed to effectively complete the essay. Many grammatical and/or syntactical errors.

F – Student does not meet most or all expectations for the assignment. Writing demonstrates little to no understanding of most of the key concepts needed to effectively
complete the essay. Pages are missing or plagiarism may have occurred. Writing is incomprehensible with many grammatical and/or syntactical errors.

Grade evaluation may be discussed 48 hours after essays have been returned. I will not discuss it with you until the two-day window has passed.

**WITHHELD GRADES – 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.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

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. **If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in my class, my findings will be discussed with you to determine punishment. My advice: don't even bother trying it; I will find out, and your grades, at the very least, will suffer.**

To clarify, 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.

**ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

A recent policy from the Provost’s Office states, “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 that is available to help SFA students succeed."

Since we are only meeting on D2L, you will conduct yourselves in a respectful, professional manner. I don’t think I have to tell you this but be kind to your fellow students when you interact with them (and me).

**DISCRIMINATION/SEXUAL HARASSMENT**
At Stephen F. Austin State University, no faculty, staff, or student may discriminate against another on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability or disabled veteran status, and such acts will not be permitted in this class. For additional information, consult Human Resources for Policy E-46.

**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/.

**AARC**
The AARC provides a variety of free academic support programs for students at SFA. Their services include 1:1 appointments, walk-in tables, online tutoring (through Zoom), learning teams, and SI. They also provide academic skills workshops upon request. They are available in-person Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 7 pm on the first floor of the library. For more information, visit sfasu.edu/aarc. Their contact information is as follows: (936) 468-4108, email – aarc@sfasu.edu.

**MENTAL HEALTH**
SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

If you need to contact me, please e-mail me through your SFASU email address ONLY. It’s the quickest way for me to respond to you. Please put your class number and section in the email—1301.039—so that I may easily tell which class you are in.

I will be available on Zoom (the link will be on D2L) from 8:00 – 9:00 MWF and 3:00 – 4:00 TR. If you need to meet with me at another time, please let me know, and we’ll work something out.