Rhetoric and Composition
English 1301.078

Name: Dr. Gary H. Mayer

Email: gmayer@sfasu.edu

Phone: 468-5533

Office: Ferguson 178

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m., Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m., and by appointment

Department: English and Creative Writing

Class meeting time and place: 2 to 2:50 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in Ferguson 483

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 who do not qualify for English 1303H. Prerequisite: acceptable THEA score or at least a C in INRW 0399. Must earn a C or higher to be admitted to English 1302.

Credit hour Justification:

English 1301, “Rhetoric and Composition” (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 two-hour final examination. Students have weekly topical, nonfiction reading assignments of 25 pages or more and are expected to write/provide responses to these readings; in addition, students will write four essays in various genres (for a total of 15 or more written pages per semester) that engage the topics of the readings. These activities average at
minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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

1. 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);
2. 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);
3. 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);
4. Recognize the collaborative and special aspects of the writing process by producing collaborative work and/or feedback for peers and selectively using peer feedback in their own work (Teamwork);
5. Demonstrate knowledge of organizational and linguistic structures—including grammar, punctuation, and spelling—through practice in composing and revising (Communication);
6. 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).

**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 of these six objectives.
By enrolling in English 1301, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the *COMMUNICATION* component area.

The following indicates (a) the core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB0 and (b) how the required core objectives will be addressed:

**Core Objective:** Critical Thinking Skills

Definition: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

How the Core Objective Will Be Addressed: This will be addressed in all four essays that will be completed for this class. DATES TBA.

**Core Objective:** Communication Skills

Definition: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

How the Core Objective Will be Addressed: This will be addressed in all four essays that will be completed for this class. DATES TBA.

**Core Objective:** Teamwork

Definition: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

How the Core Objective Will Be Addressed: This will be addressed on those calendar days designated for “Peer Response” activities. DATES TBA.

**Core Objective:** Personal Responsibility

Definition: To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
How the Core Objective Will Be Met: This will be addressed in all four essays that will be completed for this class. DATES TBA.

Texts and Materials:

Two books are required for this course:


Materials:

1. Spiral-bound notebook
2. Notebook paper
3. Folder in which you will keep current drafts of your writing
4. Access to a computer, printer, and Brightspace
5. Pens, pencils, etc.

Course Calendar:

Essay Schedule Summary:

Weeks 1-4: Narrative Essay  
Weeks 5-7: Analysis Essay  
Weeks 8-10: Synthesis Essay  
Weeks 11-13: Argumentative Essay

Grading Policy:

Four essays = 60%  
Miscellaneous writing exercises, quizzes, other assignments = 20%  
Participation = 10%  
Final examination = 10%
Grading Scale:

90% - 100% = A  
80% - 89% = B  
70% - 79% = C  
60% - 69% = D  
0% - 59% = F  

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend, be on time, and participate. Each student is allowed three unexcused absences. Following, 5 points will be deducted from the final course grade for each unexcused absence. Three unexcused tardies count as one absence. If your absence is excused, you must let me know the period you return to class. If your tardy is excused, you must let me know at the end of the class period. Anyone who comes in 15 minutes or longer late will be counted absent.

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.

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, or 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 on 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/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1pdf.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5):**

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/.

**Mental Health and Wellness:**

SFA 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:**
SFA Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
936.468.2401

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic**
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room 2-2
936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources:**
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8843
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741