Rhetoric and Composition
ENGL 1301.021

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Office Hours: MW, 8:00-9:00; TR, 4:00-5:00; and by appointment
Department: English and Creative Writing
Class meeting time and place: Ferguson 184, MWF 11:00-11:50

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 ENGL 1303. Must earn a grade of C or higher to be admitted to ENGL 1302.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.

General Education: The Texas Core Curriculum
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.

The table below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course:

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<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will Be Assessed</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Critical Thinking Skills</strong></td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Each essay assignment is designed to develop multiple critical thinking skills, which are listed on each essay assignment. These skills will be evaluated on a per assignment basis.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communication Skills</strong></td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>The five essay assignments are designed to develop your written and oral communication skills, as each requires multiple essay drafts and collaboration in one-on-one, face-to-face peer evaluation sessions. The fifth essay assignment (the Banned Book Essay) develops visual communication skills through the creation of a poster, and further enhances oral communication skills through the creation of a podcast. Your ability to communicate effectively will be evaluated in accordance with the objectives for each assignment.</td>
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<td><strong>Teamwork</strong></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>Teamwork will be assessed through the peer evaluation of essays, small in-class group work, and the collaborative creation of the podcast and poster for the Banned Book Essay.</td>
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<td><strong>Personal Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Your ability to adhere to deadlines and generously help your peers improve their writing in small group-work sessions will be factored into your course participation grade. Your ability to accurately cite all sources used in your writing will be factored into each essay grade.</td>
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**Text and Materials**

I will provide all readings and other materials for this course, except for the banned book for the banned book essay. This will be a collaborative essay, and you will be assigned to a small group, which will choose a banned book from the lists provided in our course page in Brightspace (D2L). Your group will be responsible for getting the book from a library, or purchasing it.

**Course Requirements**

- The *Why College Essay*  
  Grade Weight: 5%  
  Due Date: 9/4/23
- Explaining a Concept Essay  
  Grade Weight: 15%  
  Due Date: 9/25/23
- Self-Symbol Essay  
  Grade Weight: 20%  
  Due Date: 10/18/23
- Cause-Effect Essay  
  Grade Weight: 20%  
  Due Date: 11/10/23
- Banned Book Essay  
  Grade Weight: 25%  
  Due Date: 12/13/23
- Homework and Groupwork Assignments  
  Grade Weight: 15%  
  Due Date: 100%
Course Calendar
Following are the blocks of time reserved for each essay unit. I will be posting a detailed unit schedule listing the readings, writing assignments, and class work for each class session on Brightspace.

- Explaining a Concept Essay 9/6/23-9/25/23
- Self-Symbol Essay 9/27/23-10/18/23
- Cause-Effect Essay 10/20/23-11/10/23
- Banned Book Essay 11/13/23-12/13/23

Grading Policy
The grade weights for all course components are listed above under *Course Requirements*.

All grades will be based on a 10-point scale (e.g. A = 90-100, B = 80-90, etc.).

Your essay grades and homework/groupwork grade will be posted on Bright Space; please let me know if you see anything that seems inaccurate.

Extraordinary class participation will help your grade if you are borderline (i.e. between grades). Disrespectfulness (talking out of turn, constant tardiness, leaving class early without permission, texting during class, etc.) will hurt your grade if you are borderline.

Attendance Policy
Regular and punctual attendance is expected for this class. Valid excuses are limited to health, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events. Students are responsible for promptly providing written documentation for EVERY absence. Note that whether the absence will be excused is at my discretion. Documentation delivered to me more than one class after an absence is not likely to be accepted. Without written documentation, the absence will automatically be considered unexcused. Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences to a maximum of three weeks of a semester *when the nature of the work missed permits*. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences. No student shall be allowed to pass the course whose unexcused absences exceed three (3). Whether an absence is excused or unexcused, or in the case of a late add, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments.

I *generally do not accept late papers*. I will accept a paper late only in extraordinary circumstances. Be prepared to present documentation if an emergency has occurred. All five graded essays will be submitted to a drop box in Brightspace.

I *will only allow you to make up homework in special circumstances* (as determined by me on an individual basis).

Groupwork cannot be made up.
If you know you must miss a class, please communicate with me before missing the class to arrange for making up daily work. If you return to class after an absence without having made any arrangements to make up missed work, you will receive a zero. Be aware that if missing class becomes habitual, I will be less likely to allow you to make up work.

Academic Integrity

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation.

*Cheating* includes, but is not limited to: (1) copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student; (2) possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test; (3) using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member; (4) substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test; (5) falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit; (6) using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

*Plagiarism* is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Please note: Using artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT in this class is permitted on a limited basis. I will inform you as to the assignments where AI may be utilized. When permitted, AI writing tools should be used with caution and proper citation, as the use of AI should always be properly attributed. Using AI writing tools without my permission or authorization, or failing to properly cite AI even where permitted, is considered plagiarism and is a violation of SFA’s rules on academic integrity.
Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic integrity, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; or providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual, or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades
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, 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
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
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet) • 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