

Rhetoric and Writing Studies RWS 1301

Meeting Times/Days: 12:30 pm – 1:20 pm | **Place:** UGLC 234

CRN: 14389

Fall Term 2018 | The University of Texas at El Paso | Department of English

Instructor: Bibhushana Poudyal

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Office and Hours: MW 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, University's Writing Center (UWC) 227

Course Description

The goal of RWS 1301 is to develop students' critical thinking skills in order to facilitate effective communication in educational, professional, and social contexts. Effective communication is based on an awareness of and appreciation for discourse communities as well as knowledge specific to subject matter, genre, rhetorical strategy, and writing process. It is designed to prepare you for the writing you will do throughout your university experience as well as in professional and civic environments. This course offers you a curriculum that empowers you to determine the most effective rhetorical strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will:

- Understand a theory of discourse communities.
- Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other's work.

- Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge.
- Develop a knowledge of genres as they are defined and stabilized within discourse communities.
- Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts.
- Develop procedural knowledge of the writing task in its various phases.
- Engage reflection about their own learning.

This course is also designed to promote your overall success, inside and outside the classroom. Our coursework will help you to improve in key areas such as Communication, Confidence, Critical Thinking, Leadership, Problem Solving, Social Responsibility and Teamwork. To find out more about the university’s plan to improve student engagement and learning, visit the [UTEP Edge](#).

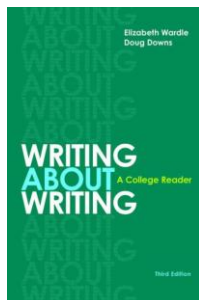
Required Texts & Materials



Fourzan, J (2018). *The first-year composition handbook, 18th ed.*

(An e-book available through the bookstore or through the publisher Follet/VitalSource.)

ISBN: 978-0-692-75953-0



Wardle, E. and Downs, D. (2016). *Writing about writing: A college reader, 3rd ed.* Bedford/St. Martins.

ISBN-13: 9781319032760

Additional readings may also be posted on Blackboard.

The next section is an overview of the assignments we'll cover in this course. Specific assignment guidelines can be found in the Handbook. I'll also post further instructions on our Blackboard course content.

Course Assignments

Assignment #1: E-portfolio Website/Blog (100 points) **[Due: Sep 10 & Dec 14]**

Maintain a reflection blog and develop an E-Portfolio

Assignment #2: Discourse Community Map (100 points) **[Due: Sep 17]**

Group Discourse Community

Assignment #3: Choosing a Topic for the Semester (participation points) **[Sep 17]**

Assignment #4: Website Rhetorical Analysis (100 points) **[Due: Oct 8]**

Assignment #5 Annotated Bibliography (100 points) **[Due: Oct 22]**

Assignment #6 Global Issues Report (100 pts) **[Due: Nov 19]**

Assignment #7 Visual Argument (100 points) **[Due: Dec 3]**

Infograph(ic)

Assignment #8 Visual Argument Presentation (50 points) **[On Dec Nov 26, 28, & 30]**

Participation in Class and Online (350 points in total):

Peer Review(s)

Attendance

Discussion Board/Reflection Blog

Grade Distribution (Students can earn a total of 1000 points for the course):

1000-900 = A 899-800 = B 799 -700 = C 699-600 = D 599 and below = F

University and Instructor Policies:

This course is designed to engage you through discussions in class and Bb. I hope you actively participate in this course because I have found it is the best way to engage you in learning.

Course Delivery:

This course uses extensively the online learning platform Blackboard. All of the supplementary material for the class will be delivered via Blackboard. It is strongly recommended that you have access to the Internet from home and are comfortable using a computer. If home access is not possible, arrangements can be made to use a computer regularly on campus in order to complete the work. Student computer labs such as ATLAS (<http://issweb.utep.edu/>) are often available until midnight, but schedules do vary. A great deal of work will be done online, and not having access to a computer will affect your ability to turn in assignments on time.

Submitting Work:

All works will be submitted through our Bb course shell. Since Bb comment and grade function works best with Microsoft Word, please submit all assignments in Microsoft Word following APA format unless directed otherwise. Microsoft Word is available to students at all campus computers and through the Cloud.

Be sure to name each submitted assignment with your first name, and an abbreviation of the assignment.

For example: victoria rhetanalysis

Extra Points:

- Every major assignment that passes through University Writing Center consultant gets extra 3 points. All you need to do is bring a proof sheet that you will have to ask for after your session with consultant.

- You can resubmit your assignments after you receive your grades and comments. It will not be counted as late assignment. You are rather encouraged to rework on your assignments and resubmit it within one month of original deadline of assignment (For last two assignments, it will remain open till end of semester). But you need to inform me about it. You are recommended to bring your assignment to Writing Center each time for 3 extra points (the earlier Writing Center visit will not be counted while resubmitting).

Late Work:

- It is important to submit work before deadlines for full credit and feedback.
- If you submit within 7 days after deadline, you will lose 3 points. After 7 days, it will not be accepted. Yet, it is always better to lose few points than no points at all.
- The blackboard shells will automatically close after a month of deadline of particular assignment (For last two assignments, it will remain open till end of semester). This extended time is for the resubmission of your assignment and not for the first time submission.

Due Dates for Major Assignments:

All major assignments will be due on Mondays before class (unless directed otherwise)

Classroom Etiquette:

- Electronic devices can be very helpful in the classroom whether a smartphone, tablet, or computer. However, if their use does not contribute to the conversation or tasks in the classroom then I have the right to ask you to put it away or turn it off, even if it is a personal device.
- Debate, critical inquiry, and intellectual diversity are essential elements to higher education and a process of learning. There is the potential during this course for controversial and sensitive topics to be discussed during small group or whole class interaction, and to surface through our social media activity. You are expected to

demonstrate the utmost respect and courtesy for your peers with differing arguments, viewpoints, and/or experiences. Sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful speech will not be tolerated.

- As a general rule: always consider audience, in class and online. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings. When reacting to someone else's message (verbal or written), address the ideas, not the person and post only what anyone would comfortably state in a f2f situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

Attendance:

According to The University of Texas at El Paso's catalog: "The student is expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions and attendance is mandatory for all freshman-level courses (1XXX). It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. (For further information regarding excused absences refer to UTEP's Catalog Curriculum and Classroom Policies).

You are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and workshops. The class discussions will help you learn to improve your writing, often through the discussion of a sample student project (sometimes yours, sometimes one written by a classmate).

Since this class meets three times a week, if you are absent from more than six classes (= two weeks), you may be dropped from the course. Missing a scheduled conference with the instructor constitutes an absence.

Academic Integrity

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs. Visit the Office of Dean of Students page for more information on Academic integrity.

Accommodations:

Your success in this class is important. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we'll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to visit the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in room 106, Union East Building or contact them at 747-5148 or cass@utep.edu. If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met. There are also a range of resources on campus, including the Writing Center, Counseling Center, Military Student Success Center and Academic Advising Center.

University Writing Center:

UTEP's University Writing Center (UWC) offers free writing tutoring assistance for all UTEP students. The tutors are undergraduate and graduate students who can help with all parts of a writing assignment, including prewriting, organizing, revising, and editing. They can also help to understand any writing assignment and help work on

comprehending difficult textbook material. Note: To facilitate revision, I encourage you to visit the writing center at least 12 hours before the assignment is due.

Military Students:

If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active) please visit the **Military Student Success Center**. I also recognize the complexities of being a student veteran. If you are a student veteran, please inform me if you need special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran-related developments can complicate your academic life. If you make me aware of a complication, I will do everything I can to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you.

Important Dates for this Semester:

Aug. 27	First day of class
Aug. 27 - 30	Late Registration
Sept. 3	Labor Day Holiday
Sept. 12	Census Day – Drop students who have not come to class
Nov. 2	Drop Date, last day to drop a student with a W deadline
Nov. 22 - 23	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 6	Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University
Dec. 7	Dead Day, day between last class day and start of finals, no class
Dec. 10 - 14	Final Exams Check the UTEP finals week calendar for your course
Dec. 19	Instructor Submits Final Grades

[<https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html>]
