RWS 1301: RHETORIC AND WRITING STUDIES

SECTION #: 14039; DAYS: MONDAY AND TUESDAY @ 6:00-7:20 P.M.; UGLC 230

Instructor: Christine Endlich
Email: caendlich@utep.edu
Phone: 747-7073
Office: Worrell 110
Office Hours: Tuesday: 10:30 — 12:30 pm

Please make note of office hours and email and reach out to me if you need to. I look forward to helping you become better writers this semester!

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 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:
UNIVERSITY AND INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

COURSE DELIVERY:

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.

- 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.

Due Dates for Major Assignments: All major assignments will be due on Sundays at midnight.

Late Work: It is important to submit work before deadlines for full credit and feedback. I will not accept late work on any minor assignments. For major assignments, worth 100 points or more, I accept late work for 3 days after the assigned due dates with a penalty of: 90% = 1st day, 80% = 2nd day, 70% = 3rd day and there will be no feedback given. The modules will be open at the beginning of the week and will close after the due date and time. Make sure to plan ahead and get your work in on time.

Submitting Work: All work 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 initial, last name, and an abbreviation of the assignment. For example:
- jmartinez rhetanalysis draft
- jmartinez rhetanalysis final

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.
- 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. Students are
expected to sign in weekly 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 twice week, if you are absent from more than four classes or missing two weeks’ worth of assignments (= 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. Visit the Office of Dean of Students. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs.

----------------------------------

**ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. 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.

----------------------------------

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND 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

**Discourse Community Map and Activity System Analysis:**
In groups of 3-4, you will explore the six defining characteristics of discourse communities as proposed by Swales. You will examine how they relate to a fictional character, historical figure, or author of your choosing. 100 pts.

**Topic Proposal for Semester:** Students will write a proposal to identify the subject/issue/topic they will be working with for the semester. This will be submitted to, approved, and graded by the instructor for participation points.

**Rhetorical Analysis Paper:**
This assignment requires you to identify the rhetorical strategies of a text within your topic choice to better understand the purposes and motivations behind their arguments. 100 pts.

**Annotated Bibliography:**
You will cite and summarize 7-10 credible sources in preparation for your Global Issues Report. 100 pts.

**Global Issues Report:**
You will synthesize credible sources into an informative report on a significant global problem. 100 pts.

**Global Issues Presentation:**
Students will present their visual argument to the class. The instructor will grade this presentation. 50 pts.

**Public Service Announcement:**
You will collaborate on a group video project that concisely advocates for action on a significant social issue. 150 points

**Visual Argument Presentation:**
You will deliver an in-class group presentation in which you explain your Public Service Announcement and reflect on the process of making it. 50 points

**E-Portfolio Website/Blog:**
Students will create, design, and maintain an academic profile in the form of an e-portfolio website that includes reflections on their course work, major assignments and composing processes. 100 pts.

**Participation in Class and Online.** The activities included in this category ensure that students learn the material and help them to compose effective projects. This score will include, attendance, journals, homework, drafts, discussion postings, peer reviews, and other work the instructor assigns. These points will be determined and distributed by the instructor.

---

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS SEMESTER:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>First day of class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 26-30</td>
<td>Late registration period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>Labor Day-no class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 11</td>
<td>Census Day.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last day to register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drop students who have not come to class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Freshmen mid-term grades due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Drop Date-last day to drop student with a W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 28-29</td>
<td>Thanksgiving holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>Dead Day--Day between last class day and start of finals, no class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9-13</td>
<td>Final Exams. Check the UTEP finals week calendar for your course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Grades are posted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit [https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html](https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/Academic%20Calendars/academic-calendar.html) for important dates.

---

**WEEKLY CALENDAR:**

This calendar is subject to change. All major assignments will be submitted to Blackboard. Attend class and follow your weekly modules in Blackboard for exact due dates.

**Reading Key:** NFG = The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings, FYC HB= The First-Year Composition Handbook

---

**WEEK ONE AT A GLANCE: (AUG 26-SEPT 1)**

- Readings: NFG= pp. 3-17, 25-28 and FYC HB= Intro to RWS 1301 (91—96), Swales article on Discourse Communities
- Blog: "Introductions" (The first post is due Monday by 11:59 pm and the response to peers is due Tuesday by 11:59 pm)
- In-Class Journals
- Blog: Swales Article due Sunday by 11:59 pm

**WEEK TWO AT A GLANCE: (SEPT 2-SEPT 8)-SEPT. 2-LABOR DAY [UNIVERSITY CLOSED]**

- Readings: NFG= pp. 55-68 FYC HB= Assignment #2: Option B: Discourse Community Map and Activity System Analysis (125-132) & Kain and Wardle's Activity System article
- Blog: Kain & Wardle Article due (The first post is due Monday by 11:59 pm and the response to peers is due Tuesday by 11:59 pm)
- Discourse and Activity Theory Character (The first post due Tuesday by 11:59 pm and response to two peers is due before Wednesday's class)
- In-Class Journal
- Draft Discourse Community Assignment

**WEEK THREE AT A GLANCE: (SEPT 9-SEPT 15)**

This week we will focus on choosing a topic for the Semester, starting the E-Portfolio, and finishing the Discourse Community Map and Activity System Analysis Presentation

- In-Class Journals
- Topic Proposal Memo due Tuesday by 11:59 pm
- E-Portfolio and Bio due Wednesday by 11:59 pm
- Discourse Community Map and Activity System Analysis Presentation due before next Monday's class
WEEK FOUR AT A GLANCE: (SEPT 16-SEPT 22)
This week you will be presenting on the group’s Discourse Community Map and Activity System Analysis
- Discourse Community Map and Activity System Analysis Presentation due before Monday’s class
- DC Presentation activity due in class

WEEK FIVE AT A GLANCE: (SEPT 23-SEPT 29)
This week we focus on some rhetorical strategies, activities, and the Rhetorical Analysis Assignment
- Readings: NFG= pp. 98, 115-129 FYC HB= Assignment #4 Rhetorical Analysis: Option B (143-152) Documentation Style and Avoiding Plagiarism (77-94)
- Draft: Rhetorical Analysis due Sunday by 11:59 pm
- In-Class Journals

WEEK SIX AT A GLANCE: (SEPT 30-OCT 6)
This week will focus on peer review, feedback, and revision
- Reading: NFG= pp. 256-263 FYC HB= Chapter Two, Revision, Style, and Grammar (14-43)
- In-Class Journals
- Peer Review: Rhetorical Analysis due in class
- Rhetorical Analysis due on Sunday by 11:59 pm
- E-Portfolio: Upload Rhetorical Analysis and Reflection

WEEK SEVEN AT A GLANCE: (OCT 7-OCT 13)
This week we will focus on research questions for the Annotated Bibliography and the Global Issues Report. We will also have a Library visit in room 204 B to help with research and library navigation.
- In-Class Journal
- Draft: Annotated Bibliography 3 to 4 sources due Sunday by 11:59 pm
- Draft: First Section due Sunday by 11:59 pm

WEEK EIGHT AT A GLANCE: (OCT 14-OCT 20)
This week we will to continue to focus on the Annotated Bibliography, Global Issues Report, APA, and Plagiarism
- In-Class Journals
- Continue to Draft: Annotated Bibliography 4 to 7 sources
- Draft: Second Section of Global Issue Report due Sunday by 11:59 pm
Finish drafting your Annotated Bibliography and be prepared to peer review them next week.

WEEK NINE AT A GLANCE: (OCT 21-OCT 27)
This week we will focus on the introduction of Global Issues Presentation and the peer review and revision of the Annotated Bibliography.
- In-Class Journals
- Peer Review: Annotated Bibliography due in class
- Annotated Bibliography due on Sunday by 11:59 pm
- E-Portfolio: Upload Annotated Bibliography and Reflection
Finish your Global Issues Report and have it ready for next week’s peer review.

WEEK TEN AT A GLANCE: (OCT 28-NOV 3)
This week we will focus on the finishing up the Global Issues Report with peer review and revision.
- In-Class Journals
- Peer Review: Global Issues Report due in class
- Global Issues Report due on Sunday by 11:59 pm
- E-Portfolio: Upload Global Issues Report and Reflection
Finish your Global Issues Report Presentation and be prepared to present next week.

WEEK ELEVEN AT A GLANCE: (NOV 4-NOV 10)

This week you will be presenting on the Global Issues Presentations
- Global Issue Report Presentation due before Monday’s class
- GfR Presentation Activity due in class

WEEK TWELVE AT A GLANCE: (NOV 11-NOV 17)

This week we will discuss the Visual Argument Assignment: Public Service Announcement-and have an L-Movie Presentation
- Readings: NFG= 653-663, FYC HB= Assignment #7: Visual Argument (173-174)-Option B: Public Service Announcement (179-184), Assignment #8: Visual Argument Presentation (185-189)
- In-Class Journal
- Draft: Ideas for PSA
- Work on E-Portfolio/Blog

WEEK THIRTEEN AT A GLANCE: (NOV 18-NOV 24)

This week we will focus on Visual Rhetoric, Technology and Visual Argument Assignment Cont’d
- In-Class Journals
- PSA Storyboard due Sunday by 11:59 pm
- Finish E-Portfolio/Blog it is due next week

WEEK FOURTEEN AT A GLANCE: (NOV 25-DEC 1) *NOV. 28-29 — THANKSGIVING BREAK

This week we will revisit the E-Portfolio and have it peer reviewed
- Journal due in class
- Peer Review E-Portfolio/Blog
- E-Portfolio/Blog due Sunday by 11:59 pm
- Finish PSA and Presentation due before class next week

WEEK FIFTEEN AT A GLANCE: (DEC 2- DEC 8) *DEC 6TH - DEAD DAY

This week we will focus on the Presentations of Visual Argument / Course Evaluations
- PSA & Presentations Due before Monday’s class
- PSA Presentation Activity in class

WEEK SIXTEEN AT A GLANCE: (DEC 9- DEC 13) FINAL EXAMS WEEK -GRADES AVAILABLE ONLINE ON BB