

Rhetoric and Writing Studies

RWS 1301 Syllabus

Fall 2019



Instructor: Carlos Hernandez, PhD

Time: MW 13:30– 14:50

Place: UGLC 234

Email: chernandez76@miners.utep.edu

Office/Hours: UNIVERSITY LIBRARY T 11:00- 16:00, and by appointment

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.

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.

COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, you will:

1. Understand a theory of discourse communities.
2. Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other's work.
3. Draw on existing knowledge bases to create "new" or "transformed" knowledge.
4. Develop a knowledge of genres as they are defined and stabilized within discourse communities.
5. Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts.
6. Develop procedural knowledge of the writing task in its various phases.
7. Engage reflection about their own learning.

What is rhetoric?

"Rhetoric is the study of **effective** speaking and writing. And the art of **persuasion**. And many other things."

"Rhetoric is the art of **ruling the minds** of men." (Plato)



Important Dates

Aug — 26th Fall classes begin
Sept — 11th Fall Census Day
Nov — 1st Fall Drop/
Withdrawal Deadline

Dec — 5th Last day of classes
Dec — 9-13th Fall Final Exams
Dec — 18th Grades are Due

Course Assignments

RWS 1301 is graded on a scale of 0-1000. The course assignments are outlined below. **Please note that specific instructions will be given via Blackboard, The First-Year Composition Handbook, and in class.**

Journals: You will reflect on readings and key concepts by responding to a discussion question before class in a 100-150 word response. These responses will serve as a springboard for our discussions of assigned readings. 150 points.

Activities: You will complete activities as assigned; these activities will serve as scaffolding for major assignments. 100 points.

Assignments: You will complete five major assignments: a) the rhetorical analysis, b) discourse community ethnography, c) community problem report, d) visual argument, and e) e-portfolio. 650 points.

Attendance and Participation: You will regularly attend and participate in class. This portion of your grade also includes occasional in-class activities that will be turned in through Blackboard. In-class peer review conferences will be held for each assignment. Being present for and participating in each session will constitute an important part of your grade. 100 points.

Course Materials

Bullock, R., Daly Goggin, M. (2019). The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings. (Fifth Edition). This book is available both through the UTEP bookstore and Amazon.com.

Bossie, R., & LaPrade, P. (2019). The first-year composition handbook, 19th ed. An e-book available through the UTEP Bookstore.

Please read the unabridged syllabus in our course Shell or in the digital measures webpage