RWS 1301
Writing about Writing

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION: FATIMA MASOUD
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OFFICE & HOURS: WORRELL 106
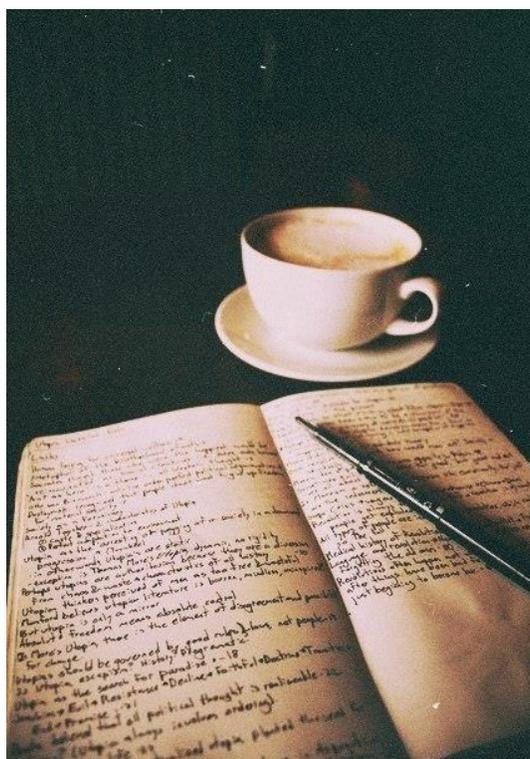MON & WED: 12:00-2:30PM

CRN: 15109
TIME: MW 4:30-5:50pm
PLACE: UGLC 236

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.

A NOTE ABOUT THIS SYLLABUS

This is an interactive PDF syllabus. If you have trouble reading this syllabus for any reason please let me know.

Semester Theme

How are your ideas about writing shaped by the world around you? How does writing influence our activites? How is meaning created in context? How are texts composed? How is our perception of "truth" affected by notions of "valid writing?" This semester, we'll engage with these questions by focusing on the "writing about writing" approach. We'll focus on issues writing researchers have faced as they engage with questions about compisition, discourse and literacy.

Our readings come directly from the *Writing About Writing* textbook, as well as some supplemental readings on our course blackboard.
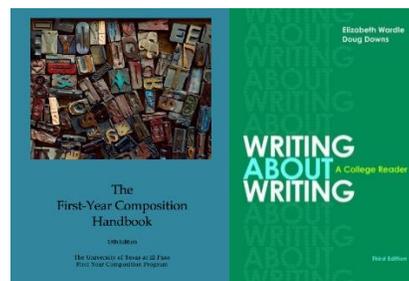
Learning Outcomes

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

- Fouzan, J. (2018). The first-year composition handbook, 18th ed. (An e-book available through the bookstore or the publisher, Follet/Vital Source. 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 be posted on Blackboard.

Required Materials

- Access to UTEP email and course Blackboard
- Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Laptop or tablet. Or, print out readings and worksheets.

Course Work and Major Assignments*

1. **E-portfolio Assignment** [100 points]
2. **Discourse Community Map & Activity System Analysis** [100 pts]
3. **Proposals & Drafts** [50 pts]
4. **Rhetorical Analysis** [100 pts]
5. **Annotated Bibliography** [100 pts]

6. **Global Issues Report** [100 pts]
7. **Visual Argument** [150 pts] Option 2: Public Service Announcement
8. **Visual Argument Presentation** [50 pts]

9. **Tickets and Exits to Class** [150 points]
10. **Workshops** [100 points]

*Assignment requirements and instructions are found in the First Year Composition Handbook (e-book).

Class & University Policies

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 assignments should be submitted via the course Blackboard. 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

Grade Distribution

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

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

Assignment and Grading Policies

Due Dates: All major assignments will be due on **Sundays** by 11:59pm.

Submit via Blackboard only. I do not accept email submissions.

Late Work: All late assignments will be docked 15% per day they are late.

Extension Policy: I do not grant extensions for any assignments unless it is a clearly documented medical emergency. Extensions are not guaranteed and they are granted on a case-by-case basis.

Grades: I will not discuss your grades in class. You must schedule an appointment.

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.
- No cellphone use during class, especially not to take pictures of slides.
- 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).

EMAIL POLICY & ONLINE "NETIQUETTE"		
• If you send me an email, always include a greeting, your name, and which class you are in.	• I check my email daily, but allow a 48 hour period for replies. • Emails sent on weekends will be replied to on the next business day.	• When posting online, be polite and respectful. • Always refer to a writer's ideas – not the writer as a person.

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.

Attendance Policy

- **Attendance is mandatory.**
- After 3 absences, your final grade will be docked a full letter grade.
- After 5 absences, you will receive an "F" for the course.
- **Any document used to excuse an absence (doctor's note, etc.) must be delivered to me within 1 week of the absence. After that, the absence will be unexcused and count to your 3 absence allotment.**
- Arriving to class unprepared counts as an absence. This includes not reading for class discussion.
- Missing a scheduled conference with me will constitute as an absence.
- Arriving 15 minutes late to class is a half absence. If you are late by 30 minutes or more, you will be marked absent.
- I reserve the right to drop students for lack of effort or frequent absences.
- If you're having trouble with absences, come see me during office hours.

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.

Important: If you are found to be cheating, colluding, plagiarizing, or taking credit for someone else's work in my class you will receive a "0" for the assignment in question and a "0" for the participation points in this course.

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.
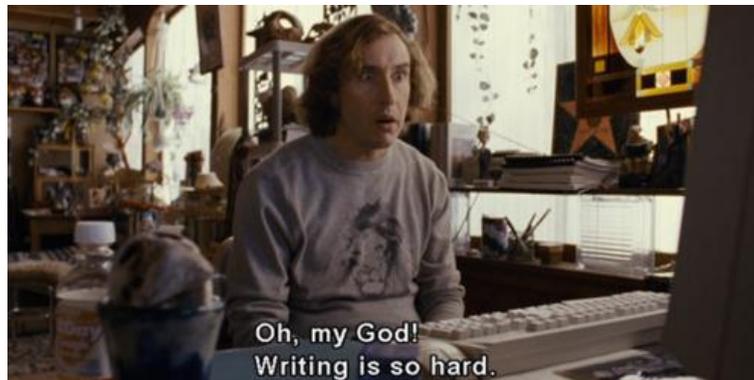
Military Students

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 Calendar

A course calendar for this class is available on Blackboard. There, you will find the due dates for all assignments and readings for this course.

I will give announcements and reminders in class about homework and assignments, but it is your responsibility to keep track of those dates, too.

Important Dates

Important Dates for this Semester:	
August 27	First day of class
August 27-30	Late registration
September 3	Labor Day Holiday No Class
September 12	Census Day
October 26	Freshmen mid-term grades available
November 2	Course Drop Deadline Last day to drop with a "W"
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Holiday No Class
December 6	Dead Day
December 10-14	Final Exams Check the UTEP Finals Week Calendar for your courses' specific exam dates
December 19	Final grades available

UTEP's Fall 2018 Academic Calendar

Final Note: Policies in this syllabus are all subject to change at instructor's discretion. I will notify you in writing if anything in this syllabus is updated.