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OFFICE & HOURS:

# RWS 1301

## Music & Society

CRN: 14748  
TIME: TR 7:30-8:50am  
PLACE: UGLC 236

### Course Description

The goal of RWS 1301 is to develop students' critical thinking skills in order to facilitate effective communication in all educational, professional, and social contexts. This 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. Through these assignments, you will learn how to write to explore, to inform, to analyze, and to convince/problem solve. 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

Our theme is Music and Society. As a class, we'll be looking at the rhetorical strategies used in popular music and writing about popular music. We'll also discuss how rhetorical theories can be connected to the way music and music writing functions in United States society.

In this class, we'll try to understand some of the social, political and historical backgrounds certain songs clue us in to. We'll look at various pieces of popular music and popular music writing and analyze them through a rhetorical lens to understand their audiences, structures, rhetorical situations, and purposes within their respective contexts.

You will select a theme related to music, research that topic throughout the semester and write all of your assignments based on that topic.

## Learning Outcomes

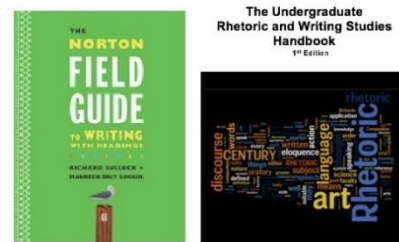
At the end of this course, students will:

- 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

- Bullock, R., Daly Goggin, M. (2016). The Norton Field Guide to Writing 4e/MLA'16 with Readings Ebook/Inquizitive Reg Card. ISBN: 978-0-393-63254-4.
- Biswas, M. and Crnkovic Padon D. eds. (2016). The Undergraduate Rhetoric and Writing Studies Handbook. (An e-book available through the bookstore or through the publisher Follet/VitalSource. ISBN: 978-0-393-63254-4
- Additional Readings on Blackboard.



## Required Materials

- Access to UTEP email and course Blackboard
- Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

## Course Assignments\*

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|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>E-portfolio Website/Blog assignment</b> [100 points]</li> <li>2. <b>Discourse Community Ethnography / Map</b> [100 points]</li> <li>3. <b>Choosing a Topic for the Semester</b> [20 points]</li> <li>4. <b>Rhetorical Analysis</b> [100 points]</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <b>Annotated Bibliography</b> [100 points]</li> <li>7. <b>Community Problem Report</b> (100 pts)</li> <li>8. <b>Visual Argument</b> (150 points) Option 2: Infographic</li> <li>9. <b>Visual Argument Presentation</b> [50 points]</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. <b>Participation In Class and Online</b> [180 points]</li> <li>11. <b>InQuizitive Quizzes</b> [100 points]</li> </ol> |
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\*For detailed guidelines and instructions on how to complete these assignments, refer to the RWS Student Handbook.

# 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 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

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 Policies

**Due Dates:** All major assignments will be due on Mondays at midnight.

**Late Work:** All late assignments will be docked 15 points per day they are late. A late work window will be open until Wednesdays at midnight.

**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.

## 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"		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If you send me an email, always include a greeting, your name, and which class you are in.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ I check my email daily, but allow a 48 hour period for replies.</li> <li>▪ Emails sent on weekends will be replied to on the next business day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When posting online, be polite and respectful.</li> <li>▪ Always refer to a writer's ideas – not the writer as a person.</li> </ul>

## 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).

### Attendance Policy

- You are allowed 3 “freebies” to miss this class, after that you will lose points.
- After 3 absences, your final grade will be docked a full letter grade.
- After 5 absences, you will receive an “F” for the course.
- Missing a scheduled conference with me will constitute as an absence.
- I do not drop students in this course.
- I am always available to discuss any concerns you have about your attendance or absences - just come see me during office hours or set up an appointment.

## 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](mailto: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 28	First day of class
September 4	<i>Labor Day Holiday - University Closed</i>
September 13	<i>Census Day</i>
October 25	Freshmen mid-term grades due
November 3	Withdraw course deadline
November 23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday - University Closed
December 7	Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University
December 8	Dead Day
December 11-15	Final Exams Check the UTEP finals week calendar for your course
December 19	Instructor Submits Final Grades

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.