<u>ONLINE</u> **ESOL 1311: Expository Composition for
Speakers of English as a Second Language**
CRN: 11163 / Semester/Year: Fall 2020

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Office hours: Virtually via Zoom: M and T 6-7 PM   Synchronous Class Meetings: Mondays
Mountain Standard Time   via Zoom (see blackboard)

Important comment: in light of our current pandemic situation, please read the COVID-19
Accommodations and Precautions below.

COVID-19 Accommodations and PRECAUTIONS
You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are
experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a
positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who
should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot
report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP
screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are
permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or
exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon
as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of
encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face
covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering,
you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or
leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19
guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section
1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course focuses on the development of composition skills and strategies in problem-based discourse.
The main goal is to help students recognize various rhetorical patterns relevant to problem discovery,
description, and definition, as well as those relevant to analytical and evaluative writing in both printed
and multimodal texts. Students use writing to further develop their critical thinking abilities and continue
developing their academic and language skills through class discussions, planning techniques, guided and
timed writing practices, and purposeful feedback and revisions. The concept of genre is also introduced
through various readings and writing activities as well as in-class discussions.

Optional materials:
   - Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2015). *A writer's reference (with resources for multilingual writers
      and ESL)*, 8th Edition. Bedford/St. Martins.
   - Any current monolingual collegiate dictionary such as Merriam-Webster's, Oxford, or Longman.

OBJECTIVES
At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of genre and discourse communities as a conceptual framework to evaluate
   and compose texts.

- Conduct a rhetorical analysis of a multimedia text (e.g., website) and identify (con)textual variables related to purpose, audience, messages, style/register, and language usage.
- Identify and describe problems presented in texts (causes, effects, intervening factors) as well as strategies for solution.
- Analyze and evaluate claims and arguments related to specific problems or situations, and adopt a position regarding such problems or situations.
- Collect and synthesize information from multiple sources in order to compose well-argued proposals, describing possible alternatives or solutions to specific problems or situations.
- Employ effective strategies to develop well-organized, logical, and coherent problem-solution texts.

ONLINE COURSE DELIVERY
This section of ESOL 1311 is delivered in an <u>online</u> format, with instructional sessions or components conducted on-line. Online classes demand that students develop good organizational and time-management skills, that they interact with instructors and classmates via computer-mediated communication as needed or required, and that students develop the ability to work independently. As with any other class, it is important to devote the necessary computer time to the class.

BLACKBOARD COLLABORATE SESSIONS
<u>This class requires that you participate in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions once a week.</u> See blackboard for details on dates. The purpose of these sessions are for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in small discussions.

Students are expected to participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS
Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. You will need:

- ✓ A computer, webcam and microphone
- ✓ A working UTEP email account
- ✓ Stable internet access
- ✓ Access to Blackboard (Bb). This tool will be used for most handouts, messages and announcements. Accordingly, all work will only be transmitted and submitted online.
- ✓ A Blackboard-friendly browser—Google Chrome & Mozilla Firefox are the best. Software including: MS Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) **for free** via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about <u>Microsoft Office 365</u> and follow the instructions.
- ✓ Respondus Lockdown Browser (free download from Blackboard)

IMPORTANT: Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course. If your browser is not equipped to navigate the new Blackboard environment, then you may contact the technology "help" desk. You will also need to check the functionality of your sound drivers and flash and java plugins for participation in Collaborate sessions. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.
If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP <u>Help Desk (helpdesk@utep.edu) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of</u>

students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- o Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.

- o Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

- o 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.

MAJOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

The following is an overview of assignments for this course. Specific guidelines, instructions, and recommendations for each assignment will be provided in class and/or through Blackboard by the instructor. The focus of this course will be on all stages involved in the writing process.

WEBSITE ANALYSIS REPORT: Students select the website of a nonprofit organization that works on a particular social, political, or cultural domain, analyze it rhetorically (audience, goals, organization, message, format, etc.), and write up a report based on their analysis.

OPINION ESSAY: Working with the same problem already identified (see above), students locate a relevant argumentative or opinion text, evaluate the claims being made, and adopt a position about such claims. Alternative views from other sources may be included.

PROPOSAL ESSAY: Working with the same problem, students research various solutions attempted and results previously obtained (successful or not). Then, they propose and/or defend a specific solution that might be feasible to implement in the future, supporting their proposal with facts, and commenting on the necessary conditions for implementation.

ORAL REPORTS: Students will deliver a 10-15 minute oral presentation on the problem (or a specific aspect of it) explored through the aforementioned assignments. This also includes any other oral activities assigned by the instructor.

WRITING EXAMS (2): These timed writing exams (one before and one after the mid-term point) will focus on problem definition, a brief response to an essay-type question, and/or evaluative/argumentative writing (taking a position on a given statement). Students are required to take these exams with Respondus Monitor Lockdown browser.

HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENTS: In addition to the assignments described above, the course may include a variety of homework assignments and other writing tasks such as journal writing, position/opinion papers, quick in-progress reports, etc.

NOTE: Some modifications or adjustments may be made to the assignments described above according to the needs of students in each section.

ESOL LANGUAGE LAB
In addition to regular classroom sessions, students are required to complete **8 hours** in the ESOL lab. This semester the lab will be a "virtual" lab. You will NOT go to a physical location on campus. Our virtual lab will offer writing tutoring, computer-assisted language learning (CALL) activities, conversation practice, among other activities. You may also visit UTEP's online Writing Center to complete your ESOL lab hours. Even though you will not be going to a physical location, we will be providing you with opportunities to interact online with other classmates.

EXTRA CREDIT
You have the option of earning up to a maximum of 2% extra credit towards your final grade in this course. You can do this by completing extra credit assignments towards the end of the course or by participating in one or more research studies (approved by the ESOL Director) if they are offered to your class. Each assignment or study participation is worth 1% extra credit.

TEST PROCTORING SOFTWARE

Three course assessments (two exams during the semester and a final exam) will make use of Respondus Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first test.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The assessments will only be available at the times identified on Blackboard.
- A reliable Internet connection is essential to completing the exam. If you must go to a location to take the exam (such as the library), be sure to follow their health and safety requirements.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser will require that all internet tabs are closed prior to the start of the test.
- Respondus Monitor requires a webcam and microphone.
- You will be required to show the webcam your student ID prior to the start of the test.
- Your face should be completely visible during the test. Blocking the camera will disable the test.
- No notes or textbook materials are permitted during the test. Respondus Monitor requires you to take a video of your surrounding area (desk, chair, walls, etc.)
- You should not have conversations with other people and/or leave and return to the area during the test.

GRADING

The final course grade is calculated as follows:

Rhetorical analysis report:	5%	A	90-100%
Oral presentations:	10%	B	80-89%
In-class writing exams (2)	15%	C	70-79%
Evaluation essay:	15%	D	60-69%

Proposal essay:	10%		F	0-59%
Homework/assignments/	15%			
ESOL Lab	5%			
Final departmental writing exam:	25%			

In order to pass the course, a grade of *"C"* or higher must be obtained. If a lower grade is obtained, the course must be re-taken.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Active participation online is required. All online activities are designed to help students learn the material and acquire effective skills and strategies. Instructors may drop students from the class if their class performance shows lack of effort.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES
- Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations. Students who need accommodations, go to https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/ and if you want to contact staff at CASS, send them a message CASS@UTEP.EDU.
- Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

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Important Note: The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; modifications may be necessary and implemented as a result of students' needs and course development.

See the ESOL Course Sequence and helpful UTEP information next.

ESOL SEQUENCE OF COURSES:
Students enrolled in ESOL courses are required to take courses in sequence according to their placement into the program. The sequence of courses in the ESOL program is as follows:

Level 1)   ESOL 1910
Level 2)   ESOL 1610
Level 3)   ESOL 1406 & ESOL 1309 (both must be completed before enrolling in the next courses)
Level 4)   ESOL 1311 & ESOL 1310 (both must be completed before enrolling in the next course)
Level 5)   ESOL 1312
Level 6)   **ESOL 2303: Required of all majors in the College of Liberal Arts.**

Note 1: ESOL 1311 and ESOL 1312 are credit-bearing courses with credits that count toward graduation, as they are equivalent to ENGL 1311 and ENGL 1312 (required first year composition courses at UTEP).

Note 2: All ESOL courses must be passed with a "C" or better before enrolling in the next course. Students who receive a D or F must retake the course and pass with a C or better before enrolling in the next level.

ADDITIONAL HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Academic Advising Center – Academic Advising, 1st floor, 747-5290; http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=59454

- Department of Language and Linguistics – Liberal Arts 137, 747-5767; http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=44572

- Enrollment Services -Academic Services Building 101, 747-6186; http://webcontent.utep.edu/enrollmentservices/

- ESOL Program – Liberal Arts 114, 747-7038; http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=51677

- ESOL Lab and Tutoring Services – Liberal Arts 238; http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=51678

- ESOL Student Online Resources; http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=51679

- Financial Aid - Academic Services 204, 747-5204; http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=academics.utep.edu/finaid

- International Programs - Union East 203, 747-5664; http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=52367

- Office of Student Life - Union West 102, 747-5648; http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm

- Registration & Records -Academic Services 123, 747-5544; http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=40826

- Student Health Center - Union East 100, 747-5624; http://chs.utep.edu/health/

- Scholarships - Academic Services Building 202, 747-5478; http://ia.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=ia.utep.edu/scholarships

- University Counseling Center, Union West 202, 747-5302; http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/

- University Career Center, Union West 103, 747-5640; www.utep.edu/careers

- UTEP Library: 1900 Wiggins Way 747-5672; https://www.utep.edu/library/

- MLA & APA Documentation Style: https://owl.purdue.edu/

- Writing Center - University Library 227, 747-5112; http://academics.utep.edu/writingcenter/

- Student Development Center – Union West 106, 747-5670; http://sa.utep.edu/sdc/