

**ESOL 1312: Research and Critical Writing for Speakers
of English as a Second Language
CRN: 20569 / Semester/Year: Spring 2024**

Attendance is mandatory.

INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM

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| Instructor Luz M. Garcia | Email lmgarcia@utep.edu | Office Location: Graham Hall 306 Zoom Virtual Office Hours Mondays and Tuesdays 1:30-5:30 Make an appointment by sending me an email first. |
| Librarian Jennifer Urban-Flores | Email jurbanflores@utep.edu | Office Location Library |
| ESOL LAB Activities & Tutoring Request an appointment by email | Email Esol.lab@utep.edu | Location: Liberal Arts 238 |

**The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.*

Course description

Students in this class conduct reading, writing, and research activities that promote critical and analytical thinking by exploring specific issues or topics through genre-based assignments, group discussions, and in-class presentations. Through these tasks, students improve their understanding of text genres, discourse communities, academic written discourse (including analysis, evaluation, and argumentation), as well as basic research procedures and college-level writing conventions. Major assignments include a genre analysis paper, a research proposal, a review of literature, a research project report, and an in-class project presentation. Students also engage in journal writing, generate progress reports, and take an in-class essay writing exam to demonstrate their competency in both academic discourse and standard written English

Hybrid course delivery

This section of ESOL 1312 is delivered in a hybrid format, with some class sessions held in the classroom and other instructional sessions or components conducted on-line. Hybrid 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 attend all sessions and it is crucial to devote the necessary computer time to the class (see attendance policy below).

Objectives

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

- Understand the relationships that exist among genres, texts, writers, readers, and context.
Different genres, text types, and types of arguments are discussed and analyzed, individually and in groups, focusing on both implicit and explicit information, in order to conduct a rhetorical analysis of texts (audience, goals, claims, language, images, format, etc.).
- Analyze and evaluate arguments in various texts and compose argumentative/persuasive essays.
Academic texts and logical argumentation constitute the focus of the analyses, although some examples of non-academic arguments may also be used to illustrate the nature of argumentation across genres and discourse communities. Text and discourse features to be identified and used include claims, warrants, supporting information, and counterarguments.

- Collect, evaluate, and summarize information from various sources relevant to a particular topic.
In order to prepare a feasible research proposal, and to gain knowledge about the topic selected, students will read, summarize, and evaluate texts from various sources and will synthesize this information in a review paper (using APA citation style).
- Conduct a research project to explore specific aspects or issues related to a particular topic.
Research guiding questions will be investigated mainly through secondary sources (library research), although some primary data may be obtained (if feasible). Projects will be explored objectively and thoughtfully, and the resulting reports (written/oral) will be composed following academic conventions relevant to college writing.

Why Get Involved?

Whether you are a new, transfer, or returning student, being involved is one of the most important aspects of your college education. Not only will you increase your likelihood of graduation, but you will also strengthen your skills and develop your **Edge Advantage**, which will assist you in finding meaningful employment and pursuing graduate studies. Through the **Edge Experiences**, UTEP provides you with great opportunities to explore your potential, take risks, and try out new things and ideas.

Here are some other reasons to get involved:

- It will make your college experience a valuable and enjoyable one.
- You will be part of the campus community and make new friends.
- You will build better relationships with other students, staff, and faculty.
- You will build a support network.
- It will enhance your interpersonal and leadership skills that are necessary for driving change.
- You will fulfill your civic and social awareness and responsibilities.

How Do I Get Involved?

- As a college student, determining how to invest your time and energy will have a great impact on your college experience. To determine what sparks your interest, consider the following questions:
- What activities have you been involved with in the past that you have enjoyed? Some examples include student organizations, part-time employment, academic competitions, and community service.
- What are some new things you want to do while you are in college? For example, meet new friends, step out of your shell, and build leadership skills.
- What are your strengths? These may include listening to others, making others feel included, maintaining an active social media presence, and meeting people of different cultures and backgrounds.

Learning Modules

- This course is designed using a modular format—that is, each week is “packaged” as a single module so that all the materials, and lecture notes are in one area for a given week.

Grading

The final course grade is calculated as follows. All work should be submitted in a Microsoft Word document, or it will miss the grade. No pdf files or shared document links are allowed.

Late Penalties & WiFi Connection

When submitting work using a WiFi connection, double-check to ensure that the document has loaded correctly. Submit work ahead of the deadline to avoid late penalties. I won't close the submission link but if it's late (12:00 am is late), there will be 10 points subtracted for each day it is late, and you are required to notify me by e-mail (no blackboard messages) that your assignment was submitted late.

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| Genre analysis: | 10% | Grades are assigned on this scale: |
| Literature review: | 10% | A 90-100% |
| Research Proposal & Paper: | 20% | B 80-89% |
| Oral Reports: | 10% | C 70-79% |
| Homework/Class Activities | 10% | D 60-69% |

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| In-class writing exam 1: | 5% | F | 0-59% |
| In-class writing exam 2: | 5% | | |
| ESOL Lab | 5% | | |
| 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.

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.

- **Genre analysis** - Students will select two texts (on the same general topic) reflecting different genre characteristics and write a comparative essay focusing on rhetorical features.
- **Literature review** - Students will conduct secondary (library) research on a social, political, cultural, or ethical issue to become well-informed about the issue in question. Students will then write a literature review to summarize, evaluate, and synthesize the main arguments and ideas found in these sources.
- **Research proposal** - Students will write a research proposal that will focus on a specific aspect of the general topic investigated (see above). This may include the research question(s) to be explored, the thesis statement to guide the research, working outline or mapping of areas to be investigated or developed, annotated bibliography, etc.
- **Research report** – Students will develop a research project that includes a written report with a summary of the relevant literature and a thorough discussion of the main issues related to the topic selected. The report may include visual information, such as graphs, diagrams, or tables. Students may complement their report with other texts (e.g., mini-poster, brochure, video, pod-cast) in which different aspects of the topic may be highlighted and different purposes achieved (persuasion, quick information delivery, awareness-raising, etc.)
- **Project presentation** – Students will create an oral presentation to be delivered in class in order to share the information learned throughout the course of their research.
- **Homework and other 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, brief analytical reports, quick in-progress reports, etc.
- **Writing Exams (2):** This timed writing exams will focus on argumentative writing and APA documenting style. Students are required to take this exam with Respondus Monitor Lockdown browser.

FINAL EXAM

Students are required to take a departmental final writing exam, which will be during final exams week on Monday from 7-9:45 AM, MST. Students will need to be ready with Respondus Monitor Lockdown Browser to take their exams online. *Students may not request to have this exam another day or time. If they miss it, they will miss their final exam grade.* The exam essay will focus on expository prose (argumentative or evaluative) and will be rated in relation to organization and development, text and paragraph structure, academic language usage, and grammar and mechanics.

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 (located in Liberal Arts 238). The lab offers writing tutoring, computer-assisted language learning (CALL) activities, conversation practice, and a reading improvement program. These activities provide extended opportunities to review the topics covered in class and to engage in individual practice. Attending ESOL lab sessions constitutes an important and required part of the course. Lab attendance should be ongoing throughout the semester. By the middle of the semester, you need to have completed at least 4 hours. You may attend the lab as much as you would like, but only 2 hours per week will count toward the requirement. In some cases, your instructor may assign an activity in the lab. The rest of the time you can choose your own activity.

Failure to complete the 8 hours will significantly lower the course grade. The class instructor will monitor students' attendance and work and assign a grade for weekly lab assignments. ESOL lab absences count the same as classroom absences.

Some Important ESOL Lab Policies*

- Students should follow all lab rules and procedures.
- All students must bring their own headphones when working in the lab. The lab does not provide headphones.
- Only ESOL course-related work is allowed in the lab. Any activity unrelated to class may lead to suspension of lab privileges and/or failing the course.
- Food, drinks, chewing gum, and chatting or loud conversations are not allowed in the lab.
- Any disruptions or violation of lab rules will be reported to appropriate university authorities.

NOTE* The above is a partial list of ESOL lab rules and policies. An orientation to review additional rules and regulations is provided at the beginning of the semester. Rules and policies established for all UTEP computer labs also apply to the ESOL lab. It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all relevant policies and regulations.

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 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.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Some course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system.

- ✓ *A laptop/tablet/iPad is required to be used in class sessions throughout the semester. Students can check out a laptop for free on the 3rd floor of the library.* For more information about it, here is the link:
https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/tscenter/tsc_eqcheckout.html
- ✓ All assignments during class and outside of class will be submitted electronically.
- ✓ A working UTEP email account
- ✓ Stable internet access
- ✓ Access to Blackboard (Bb).
- ✓ A Blackboard-friendly browser—Google Chrome & Mozilla Firefox are the best.
- ✓ MS Office: you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and more) **for free** via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Your assignments must be submitted in a Microsoft Word or they will miss the grade. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the steps to download the software:
https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/ServiceCatalog/SOFTWARE_PAGES/soft_microsoftoffice365.html
and follow the instructions.

TEST PROCTORING SOFTWARE

Two course assessments (1 exam 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.

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.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk (helpdesk@utep.edu) as they are trained specifically in assisting with the technological needs of 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.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

COMMUNICATION STATEMENT

I will be checking my Email around 8AM Mountain Standard Time every day but please allow me 7 hours to respond to you. If you send me a message prior to a quiz, discussion board, or assignment, I will not be able to respond or help you.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- During the fall or spring semester, if students have more than 3 absences, their final course grade will be lowered 1.5 points for every absence after the third one. Students with more than 3 absences may not pass the class, but **it is up to the students to drop the class. Instructors will NOT drop them.**

- Late arrivals and early departures will also carry penalties for purposes of dropping or lowering the course grade (two late arrivals equal one absence, two early departures equal one absence, and one late arrival plus one early departure equal one absence). It is the responsibility of each student who arrives late to notify the instructor at the end of the class period so his/her attendance can be recorded.
- The final course grade will be lowered by 2.5 points for every absence in summer courses.
- It is also important to keep in mind that students may also fail the class for lack of effort (e.g., not turning in major assignments on time). Exceptions due to medical emergencies or illness must be properly documented.

Exceptions to the above-stated attendance policies are only made under the following circumstances: (1) a medical emergency requiring hospitalization, (2) jury duty, or (3) official UTEP business such as athletics, debating team, or band. These circumstances must be properly documented (official proof). Documentary proof of official UTEP business or jury duty must be provided **ten calendar days before the fact**; documentation of hospitalization must be provided as soon as possible.

NOTE: Students who are sick and may be contagious should NOT come to class. If you do not have medical documentation that you are too sick to come to class, your two allowable unexcused absences can be used without penalty, and you may make up the classwork. It is therefore important that you do not miss class unless absolutely necessary, so you have the allowable absences available in case of illness.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND COUNSELING 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.

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 this course. They may not be further disseminated.

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 be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

USE OF AI TECHNOLOGIES

WHAT IS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TECHNOLOGY?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology refers to the development and implementation of computational systems that possess the ability to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. Ideally, these tasks enable individuals to engage in a wide range of activities including learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception,

language understanding, and decision-making. Within educational contexts, understanding what AI tools exist to support these activities and developing individuals' AI literacy (their ability to comprehend, critically evaluate, and apply AI output) is of essential importance.

EXAMPLES OF AI TOOLS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Generative AI Tools

Generative AI refers to a class of AI models and systems that has the ability to generate new content, data, or outputs that resemble and, in some cases, are indistinguishable from human-created content. These systems are designed to identify patterns and structures from existing data and then use that knowledge to create novel outputs.

Examples:

- ChatGPT is a conversational AI model developed by OpenAI, based on the GPT-3.5 architecture. It excels in natural language understanding and generation, allowing it to engage in dynamic and contextually-relevant conversations. Trained on diverse Internet text, ChatGPT can provide information, answer questions, and generate human-like responses across a wide range of topics.
- Grammarly is a writing assistance tool that helps users improve the quality and correctness of their written content. It employs advanced algorithms to identify and correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and style issues in real time, providing users with suggestions to enhance the clarity and coherence of their writing. Grammarly is available as a browser extension, desktop application, and mobile app, making it a versatile tool for individuals seeking to enhance their writing proficiency.
- DALL-E is an artificial intelligence model created by OpenAI that specializes in image generation. It is a variant of the GPT-3 architecture and is capable of creating unique and diverse images based on textual descriptions. DALL-E can generate images from textual prompts, demonstrating the ability to create imaginative and novel visuals by extrapolating from the patterns it learned during training.

USING AI IN THIS ESOL CLASS

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or Grammarly, can be beneficial for some class activities, and your instructor will inform you when it is applicable and permitted in this class and guide you as to its use. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may delay your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. Furthermore, inappropriate use of AI can delay your English language development, an important objective of this course.

AI cannot reproduce critical thought, reflection, or personal insights, and it is also important to remember that these technologies often “hallucinate” or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as ChatGPT or DALL-E, *is only allowed with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used*. Without permission, you will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology with the permission of your instructor, you must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.” Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>

Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. **Any direct use of AI generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).**

REMEMBER: You are responsible for any and all work that you put your name to, regardless of whether or not you used AI to complete it.

NOTE: The allowance of AI is dependent on the individual class and instructor. In some classes AI may be 100% prohibited.

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 1610

Level 2) ESOL 1406 & ESOL 1309 (both must be completed before enrolling in the next courses)

Level 3) ESOL 1311 & ESOL 1310 (both must be completed before enrolling in the next course)

Level 4) ESOL 1312

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 Latin-US and Linguistics – Graham Hall 203, 747-5767; <http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/college-of-liberal-arts/languages-linguistics/#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Latin%20US,language%2C%20literature%2C%20and%20culture>
- Enrollment Services -Academic Services Building 101, 747-6186; <http://webcontent.utep.edu/enrollmentservices/>
- 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/>