

Rhetoric and Writing Studies RWS 1301

CRN: 24440

Meeting Times/Days: MW 3-4:20

Place: UGLC 230

Instructor Information: Marco Rodriguez

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Office and Hours: Hudspeth Hall 211

MW: 12noon – 3pm; TR: 10 – 1:30pm, And available 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. 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

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will:

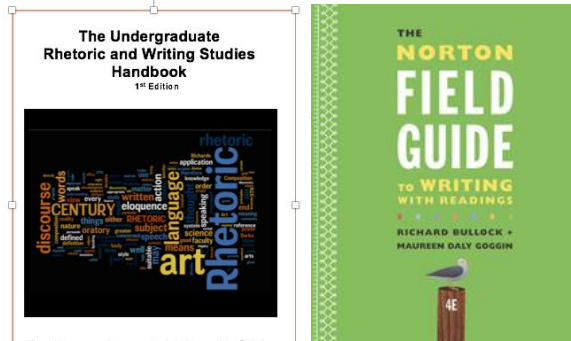
- Understand a theory of discourse communities.
- Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other's work.
- Draw on existing knowledge bases to create "new" or "transformed" knowledge.
- Develop a knowledge of genres as they are defined and stabilized within 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 & Materials



ISBN-13:9780393264371

Bullock, R., Daly Goggin, M. (2016). The Norton Field Guide to Writing 4e 978-0-393-26437-1

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.

Additional readings may also be posted on Blackboard.

In the next section, I provide an overview of the assignments we'll cover in this course. Specific assignment guidelines can be found in the Handbook. I'll also post further instructions on our Blackboard course content.

Course Assignments



Assignment #1:

E-portfolio Website/Blog (100 points)

Maintain a reflection blog and develop an E-Portfolio



Assignment #2:

Discourse Community Ethnography / Map

(100 points)



Assignment #3: Choosing a Topic for the Semester (50 points)



Assignment #4:**Rhetorical Analysis** (100 points)

Option 2: Website Analysis paper (100 points)

**Assignment #5 Annotated Bibliography** (100 points)**Assignment #6 Community Problem Report**
(100 pts)

Option 1: Community Problem Report

**Assignment #7 Visual Argument** (150 points)

Option 1: Brochure

Option 2: Infograph(ic)

Option 3: Public Service Announcement

**Assignment #8 Visual Argument Presentation**
(50 points)**Participation in Class and Online.**

Rhetorical Journal/Blogs; 10 total (100 points)

Assignment Reflection 5 total (50 points)

Choosing a topic (50 points)

Peer Review 5 total (100 points)

Rhetorical Journal/Blogs: Students will write a response on their blogging website that should be at least 250 words. These blogs will be about the readings assigned this semester and blog prompts are listed in the calendar.

Assignment Reflections: Students will write a reflective response over their grade for each major assignment. This will range from what they expected to earn for that assignment to how they can improve.

Peer Review: Students will bring in drafts of their projects for peer review. Students will first work with each other reviewing their drafts and then they will work with their instructor on their work. This means that students **MUST** come to class prepared to class for peer review sessions to be effective. Students not prepared for peer review will be asked to leave and will not receive attendance/participation points.

Extra Credit: Students have the option of earning extra credit by visiting the University Writing Center and turning in the appropriate document. Each visit to the writing center is worth **ten (10)** extra credit points. **HOWEVER!** Only **one (1)** visit per assignment will be counted. While it is encouraged to visit the writing center as many times as you see fit, only the first visit per assignment will receive credit. You can visit the writing center online at www.uwc.utep.edu

Students have the option of earning extra credit if they attend **any** live performance. Rhetoric is not just written words but spoken words as well. A **250 word analysis** of the performance must be

submitted (with proof of attendance) to receive **ten (10)** extra credit points.

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

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

University and Instructor Policies

This course is designed to engage you through discussions in class and Bb. I hope you actively participate in this course because I have found it is the best way to engage you in learning.

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](#) 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

BE SURE TO TURN IN THE CORRECT DRAFT! Throughout the semester, you will turn in your work through blackboard. Keep in mind that you MUST submit the appropriate draft EVEN IF THE DUE DATE HAS NOT YET PASSED! Keep in mind that haste makes waste.

Due Dates for Major Assignments: All major assignments will be due on Sunday before midnight.

Late Work: It is important to submit work before deadlines for full credit and feedback. Major projects submitted to Blackboard will be due on or before Saturday before midnight. The submission link to turn in said assignments will open one (1) week prior to the due date. Generally, late work will NOT be accepted. However, you can appeal for your work to be accepted but keep in mind that appealing does not mean it will be accepted. Successful appeals may have additional requirements or points reduced.

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.
- 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).

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).

Since this class meets twice a week, **if you are absent from more than four classes (= two weeks), you may be dropped from the course.** Missing a scheduled conference with the instructor constitutes an absence.

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. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs. Visit the [Office of Dean of Students](#) page for more information on Academic integrity.

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.

Important Dates for this Semester:

| SPRING 2018 | |
|--|-----------|
| Registration Add/Drop | TBA |
| Class schedule/Bills mailed to students who registered | TBA |
| New Year's Day-University CLOSED | 1 JAN |
| Tuition payment deadline for students who registered early | TBA |
| Late registration prior to classes | 11-12 JAN |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - University CLOSED | 15 JAN |
| Classes begin | 16 JAN |
| Late Registration - Continued | 16-19 JAN |
| Census Day | 31 JAN |
| Graduation application deadline for degree conferral (Fee \$35.00, after this date \$50.00) | 16 FEB |
| Spring Break - (NO CLASSES) | 12-16 MAR |
| Freshmen mid-terms grades due to the Registrar's Office | 22 MAR |
| Mid-term grades e-mail to Freshmen via UTEP e-mail address | 26 MAR |
| Course Drop Deadline | 29 MAR |
| Cesar Chavez Day Observance (NO CLASSES) | 30 MAR |
| Deadline to submit candidates' names for Commencement Program | 13 APR |
| Spring Study Day (NO CLASSES) | 30 MAR |
| Dissertation Defense Deadline | 20 APR |
| Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University | 3 MAY |
| Dissertation Submission Deadline | 4 MAY |
| Dead Day | 4 MAY |
| Final Exams | 7-11 MAY |

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|---|--------|
| Last day to accept late graduation applications (Name will not appear in Commencement Program) | 11 MAY |
| Spring Commencement | 12 MAY |
| Thesis Defense/Thesis Submission Deadline | 15 MAY |
| Final grades due to the Registrar's Office | 16 MAY |
| Final grades officially available to students online | 21 MAY |