

# RWS 1301

CRN #14028

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## ABOUT RWS 1301

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.

RWS 1301 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.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 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.
- Use information ethically and legally with appropriate citations.

## COURSE MATERIALS

- **Bullock, R., & Daly Goggin, M. (2019). *The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.)**
- **Bossie, R., & LaPrade, P. (2019). *The first-year composition handbook*, 19<sup>th</sup> ed.**
  - An e-book available through the UTEP Bookstore.
- Cloud service or flash drive to save your coursework files; Google Drive and Dropbox are two excellent free services for saving work. (Please keep all of your essays until final grades are posted for the fall session.)
- Regular access to a computer, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

RWS 1301 is graded on a scale of 0-1000. The course assignments are outlined below. Please note that specific instructions will be given via Blackboard and *The Guide*.

1. **Fifteen Weekly Discussions (15 pts each, totaling 225 pts.)**
2. **Five Activities (25 pts. each, totaling 125 pts.)**
  - Discourse Community Ethnography Proposal
  - APA formatting and citing sources
  - Rhetorical Appeals and analysis
  - Stasis Theory Exercise
  - E-Portfolio Design
3. **Six Projects (650 pts.)**
  - e-Portfolio, 100 pts.
  - Discourse Community Ethnography, 100 pts.
  - Rhetorical Analysis, 100 pts.
  - Annotated Bibliography, 100 pts.
  - Community Problem Report, 100 pts.
  - Visual Argument, 150 pts.

### Grade Distribution

*(You can earn a total of 1000 points for the course)*

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

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

**Modules:** This is not a “do at your own pace” online class. Every week, there is a learning module with assignments. Each module opens on Monday morning at midnight and ends the following Sunday night at midnight. Please be sure to check Blackboard regularly.

**Late work:** Generally, online courses are great for people who have very busy schedules and cannot attend traditional face to face classes. I do not normally accept late work for this reason; I’m busy, you’re busy, be mindful of due dates. However, I do understand that life happens and because of this, any student can appeal for their work to be accepted by emailing me their appeal. Successful appeals are subject to penalties and/or additional requirements.

**Citations and Formatting:** In this class, we use APA format. This means all major assignments (not activities) must have a cover page, abstract, running head, and references page.

**Class conduct:** We will have weekly discussion in this class. As you discuss topics and issues with your peers, do be mindful that there is in fact a living, breathing human being on the other end of the computer (in short: be nice to one another). That said, sometimes people come across as harsher in text, so be mindful of that as well.

**Extra Credit:** You can earn extra credit by visiting the Writing Center tutoring service. Each visit counts for 10 points towards your final grade. To receive credit, email pictures your UWC visit sheets to me or forward your online tutoring confirmation email. The UTEP University Writing Center (UWC) is located in Library Room 227.

The UWC also offers online tutoring. Visit <https://www.utep.edu/uwc/> for additional information.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic Dishonesty is **NEVER** tolerated by UTEP or the First-Year Composition Program. All cases are reported to the Dean of Students for Academic Sanctions. These sanctions may include expulsion. All work submitted must be original; students may not submit graded work from another course.

Forms of academic dishonesty include: Collusion—lending your work to another person to submit as his or her own; Fabrication—deliberately creating false information on a works cited page, and Plagiarism—the presentation of another person's work as your own, whether you mean to or not (i.e. copying parts of or whole papers off the Internet). See the Dean of Students website at <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for more information.

**Copyright and Fair Use:** The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

**ADA:** The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability and need an accommodation, please contact the Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or [dss@utep.edu](mailto:dss@utep.edu). The DSSO is located in Room 106, Union East Bldg. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor any DSS accommodation letters and instructions.

## CALENDAR

This calendar is subject to change. Your instructor will notify you of any changes. Note that activities, assignments and discussions are always due by 11:30 PM the last day of the module.

**Week 1: Hit the Ground Running** (August 26-September 1)

**Week 2: Intro to Discourse Communities** (September 2-8)

- *Activity:* Ethnography Proposal

**Week 3: Complicating Discourse Communities** (September 9-15)

- *Activity:* APA format and citing sources

**Week 4: Intro to Rhetoric** (September 16-22)

- *Assignment Due:* Discourse Community Ethnography

**Week 5: Complicating Rhetoric** (September 23-29)

**Week 6: Logical Fallacies** (September 30-October 6)

- *Assignment:* Rhetorical Analysis

**Week 7: Community Problems** (October 7-13)

- *Activity:* Community Problem Proposal

**Week 8: Researching** (October 14-20)

**Week 9: Writing Process** (October 21-27)

- *Assignment:* Annotated Bibliography

**Week 10: Stasis Theory** (October 28-November 3)

- *Activity:* Stasis Worksheet

**Week 11: Authority** (November 4-10)

**Week 12: Visual Rhetoric** (November 11-17)

- *Activity:* e-Portfolio Design
- *Assignment:* Community Problem Report

**Week 13: Writing Beyond College** (November 18-24)

**Week 14: The Future of Writing** (November 25-December 1)

**Week 15: Visual Arguments** (December 2-8)

- *Assignment:* Visual Argument

**Week 16: Finals Week** (December 9-13)

- *Assignment:* e-Portfolio