

## Rhetoric and Writing Studies RWS 1301

CRN: 24545

In spring 2021, all sections of RWS 1301 are 100% online

### Instructor Information:

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### Online Office Hours:

Office hours will be held online via Blackboard Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays 2-5. I will post a recurring link on our Blackboard page that you can use for this class. I am also available at other days and times by appointment. Don't hesitate to reach out! You can join at this link: <https://utep-edu.zoom.us/j/82740125721?pwd=YUdRZVJDYURRVnN2RDZBWi9Pd0Q5QT09>

### Program Overview

At UTEP, the First-Year Composition (FYC) program in the English department offers two first-year courses that are typically taken as a sequence, RWS 1301—Rhetoric and Composition I and RWS 1302—Rhetoric and Composition II. These courses are intended to help students develop their rhetorical and writing knowledge and skills within these five knowledge domains: writing process knowledge, subject matter knowledge, rhetorical knowledge, genre knowledge, and discourse community knowledge. Therefore, we teach writing as a complex activity through which students are given guidance and often collaborate. Drawing on the rich scholarship of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, we have designed our courses to help students address the challenges of 21st century composing. In these courses, students are empowered to determine the most effective strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts.

In spring 2021, all sections of RWS 1301 and 1302 will be taught online. Regardless of the delivery system, the FYC program reminds students that the primary purpose of these classes are the learning and practice of writing. The Conference on College Composition and Communication together with the Council of Writing Program Administrators state:

*Writing classes teach writing: Principally, writing classes foreground writing itself as a complex, distributed activity premised upon sociality and community formation, processes and materials, flexibility, and ethical communication. Writing classes may involve participants in purposeful interpersonal interactions (discussions and conversations), writing-related activities (peer review, studying features in model texts), and interpreting texts (making meaning individually or together with others); however, the activity of writing itself continues to be central to what a writing class sponsors.*

CCCC and CWPA Joint Statement in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

### *RWS 1301 & 1302 Learning Outcomes*

At the end of these FYC courses, students will be able to:

#### Critical thinking and reading

- Think, read, and write analytically and reflectively
- Address specific, immediate rhetorical situations and their effects on individuals and communities
- Read a diverse range of texts and apply these texts to different audiences, contexts, and situations.

#### Composing practices

- Read and compose in several genres to understand how genre conversations shape and are shaped by readers' and writers' practices and purposes
- Develop composing processes appropriate to writing style, audience, and assignment
- Use composing processes and tools as a means to discover and reconsider ideas, generate writing, and make meaning
- Engage with a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other's work
- Develop writing projects through multiple drafts by learning flexible strategies for reading, drafting, reviewing, collaborating, revising, rewriting, rereading, and editing
- Give, receive, and act on productive feedback from peers and instructors to work in progress

#### Research

- Learn to formulate research questions, methods for research, and analyze and synthesize material
- Develop 21st century technological literacies and modalities needed for researching and composing
- Locate and evaluate primary and secondary materials, such as: journal articles and essays, books, scholarly and professionally established and maintained databases and archives, and informal electronic networks and internet sources.
- Learn writing strategies for integrating source material into your own prose (quoted, paraphrased, and summarized material)
- Apply research to various genres and cite sources in American Psychological Association Style (APA) or Modern Language Association Style (MLA)

#### Assessment

- Use reflective learning strategies to self-assess and understand one's processes and products
- Collaborate
- Integrate and act on critical feedback from peers and instructors
- Understand and examine critically the reasons behind writing conventions in fields and disciplines

### *Rhetoric & Composition 1 (RWS 1301) Course Description*

**Rhetoric & Composition 1 (RWS 1301)** is designed to help you reach your academic and professional goals. Course assignments invite you to explore civic, cultural, political, or social concerns through topics that appeal to your sense of civic responsibility as a member of various communities. By engaging with your course topic through various genres, RWS 1301 encourages you to cultivate rhetorical skills while gaining domain knowledge in an area of special interest to you. The goals of RWS 1301 at UTEP are largely based on the [Writing Program Administrators' Outcomes](#).

You will use writing to inquire into different rhetorical situations, and you will create different types and genres of composition (not limited to academic essays). The curriculum consists of these 5 modules.

#### **MODULE 1 – Taking Inventory**

- Exploring texts
- Experimenting with multimedia
- Collaborative project on studying texts, authorship, and the idea of composition

#### **MODULE 2 – Autoethnographic Study of Self and Language Experiences**

- Language and literacy – relationship to home and language
- Looking back on your linguistic identities
- How do linguistic and cultural experiences affect your ideas about what it means to write in college?

#### **MODULE 3 – Remixing the Self Study**

- Adapting to another audience—audience analysis
- Examining an alternative genre –genre analysis

- Composing in a new medium
- Rhetorical analysis

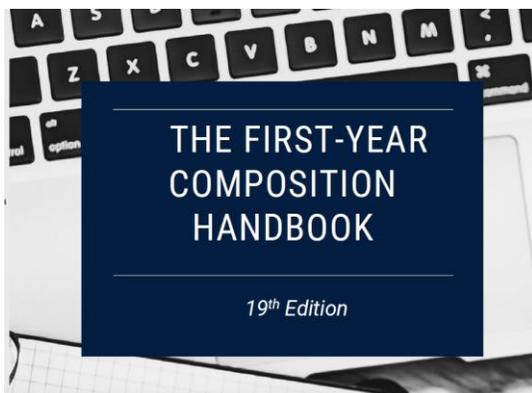
#### **MODULE 4 – Social Issue Investigation**

- Identifying an issue of personal and social concern
- Interrogating assumptions, biases, and representations through topic research
- Report with annotated bibliography for future study

#### **MODULE 5 – Visual argument**

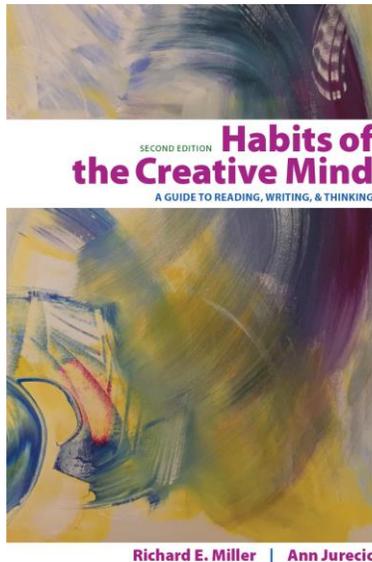
- Creating infographic, PSA, or alternative visual project
- Presentation of infographics and PSAs

### *Required Texts & Materials*



**Bossie, R., & LaPrade, P. (2019). *The First-Year Composition Handbook, 19<sup>th</sup> ed.***

An e-book available through the [UTEP Bookstore](#) and logging in [here](#).



Miller, R. E., & Jurecic, A. (2020). *Habits of the Creative Mind: A Guide to Reading, Writing, & Thinking* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)



Available at the [UTEP Bookstore](#) and logging in through [here](#).

Additional required readings may also be posted on Blackboard.

### *Course Assignments and Grading*

**Grade Distribution—Students 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

*Course Assignments (Detailed information can be found in the FYC handbook)*

**Major Assignments:** These will be our major writing projects throughout the semester. Each module will work toward completing a major assignment. The general format for this will be an introduction to the module/assignment, planning/mapping, and finally submitting a final paper based on the progress made throughout the module. **(550 points total)**

**Module 1:** (100 points)

**Digital Portrait:** Students will create a portrait based on their online habits.

**Module 2:** (100 points)

**Literary Narrative:** Students will create a narrative based on their experiences.

**Module 3:** (100 points)

**Rhetorical Analysis:** Students will analyze a source of their choice based on rhetorical situation and strategy.

**Module 4:** (100 points)

**Academic Paper:** Students will research and write an academic paper based on a topic discussed in class.

**Module 5:** (100 points)

**Visual Argument:** Students will create a visual multimedia argument centered around the research from their academic paper.

**Visual Argument Presentation (50 points):** Students will give a presentation based on the visual argument they created.

**Scaffolding assignments:** These are assignments that will help us with our progress to completing the major projects and completing the class. As mentioned before, we will have preparation writings as we work on the projects in the modules. This can be outlines, proposals, or drafts. **50 points each x 5 assignments = 250 points total.**

**Weekly exercises/discussions:** Each week will have a discussion posts and/or an online class exercises that will need to be completed. These will range from reading an article and responding to a prompt, completing a mini-assignment, or even completing a test/quiz. These will be announced on throughout the

week and should be completed before the due date. Due dates will vary between assignments, so it is a good practice to visit Blackboard daily! **10 weeks at 20 points each, 200 points total.**

**Extra Credit:** Students have the option of earning extra credit by visiting the University Writing Center and turning in the appropriate documentation. 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](http://www.uwc.utep.edu)

Students have the option of earning extra credit if they attend a UTEP sponsored event or another approved event. Rhetoric is not just written words but spoken words as well. Even though we are going through a pandemic and UTEP is a restricted campus at this time, there are various web based lectures that can be delivered through new technologies and mediums. A 250 word analysis of the performance must be submitted (with proof of attendance) to receive ten (10) extra credit points.

### *Online Course Delivery*

#### **Course Delivery:**

In spring 2021, RWS 1301 will be held fully online. Some classes will meet synchronously, meaning that there will be virtual class sessions on video (Zoom, Blackboard Collaborate, or MS Teams), while others will meet asynchronously through Blackboard. The course is designed to engage students through discussions with your classmates and instructor through Blackboard (Bb), UTEP's Learning Management System (LMS). The course will rely extensively on Blackboard, though your individual instructor may supplement it by incorporating other platforms and various media. In order to succeed in the course, you will need to have regular use of the internet and a stable connection. Although you can use the Blackboard App on your phone, it is highly recommended that you compose your work for class, and perform class activities, via a computer. If you don't have a computer or reliable internet at home, the university can help you with resources: [Technology Support - UTEP](#). Please speak with your instructor immediately if you will need assistance. We want you to have the opportunity to succeed in class without concern about access. There are also computers available for you to use in the library on campus.

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. 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 [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

Students can prepare for the course by familiarizing themselves with the “Ready for Online Learning” guides to acclimate to online learning:

- Dispelling the Myths of Taking an Online Class
- Check Your Technology
- Communicating Effectively Online
- Managing Your Time Before It Manages You
- Online Teamwork
- Netiquette Guide for Online Courses

These guides are available on the navigation bar on the Blackboard shell for RWS 1301.

Students can also prepare by taking the Blackboard Student Orientation (<https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/cid/student-resources/blackboard-orientation.html>)

**Submitting Work:** All work will be submitted through the Bb course shell for this class. Since Bb comment and grade function works best with Microsoft Word, please submit all assignments in Microsoft Word following APA or MLA format unless directed otherwise. Be sure to name each submitted assignment with your name and the title of the assignment. (For example: jmartinez rhetanalysis draft; jmartinez rhetanalysis final).

**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. *If work is accepted late*, it will also be graded late and, as such, will be given back to you later than work turned in on time.

**Revisions:**

A student may revise any major assignment. A revised project will be accepted if it meets the following guidelines. Once their original project is graded and returned, they will need to meet with me through a virtual conference and visit the University Writing Center for feedback. The UWC can send me proof of attendance through email. **ANY PROJECTS NOT ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED FOR A GRADE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR REVISION.**

## Classroom Etiquette and Netiquette

- 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 (whether face-to-face or online), and to surface through discussion board postings. You are expected to demonstrate respect and courtesy for your peers and instructor when they express differing arguments, viewpoints, and/or experiences. Sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful speech will not be permitted. Angry displays, whether in writing, online postings, or in class discussions will be handled as disruptions to the wellbeing of the class and responded to as negative participation.
- As a general rule: always consider audience, in class and online. As Virginia Shea writes in *Netiquette*, the first, or “golden,” rule of online practice is to “Remember the human.” Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading your 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 your RWS classmates and instructor 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).

## *University and Program Policies*

### **FYC Class Attendance Policy**

According to UTEP’s [Curriculum and Classroom Policies](#):

The student is expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor can drop the student from the class with a grade of W before the course-drop deadline or with a grade of F after the course-drop deadline.

Please consult UTEP’s [Curriculum and Classroom Policies](#) for more information regarding Excused Absences for University-Recognized Activities, Absence for Religious Holy Days, and Military Leave

Attendance is mandatory for all freshman-level courses. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and workshops. The class discussions will help students learn to improve their writing, often through the discussion of a sample student project (sometimes the student’s, sometimes one written by a classmate).

In addition, the First-Year Composition Program has developed the following policies that should be adhered to strictly by all instructors:

#### For Online courses

In an online class, attendance is measured by participation in class activities. The attendance policy for online courses aligns with the structure for face-to-face courses, with each missed week of class activities constituting absence from a week of class.

The instructor can measure participation through various pathways, such as completion of scaffolded activities and discussion posts, and responding to other students' posts and feedback. We also recommend measuring course activity by using the Course Reports feature on Blackboard, particularly the Course Activity Overview.

When it becomes evident that it is not possible to participate in class, the program recommends that the student contact the instructor to discuss the attendance policy and how it applies, before resuming robust participation in class activities.

#### Drop Policy

If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact your instructor. Your instructor can help you with the drop process and you can contact the Registrar's Office. If you do not drop, you are at risk of being dropped by the instructor and possibly receiving an "F" for the course.

#### **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 Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) page for more information on Academic integrity.

#### **Accommodations**

UTEP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University.

Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Students are encouraged to visit CASS in room 106, Union East Building or contact them at 747-5148 or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu).

## 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.

**Please note that in spring 2021 the UWC will be operating fully online. Go to [University Writing Center - UTEP](#) to make an appointment with a writing center consultant.**

There are now two options students can take advantage of:

- 1) **Synchronous online assistance** – students can go to our website (utep.edu/uwc) and use the link to log into Blackboard Collaborate. No Appointment Needed! We will review your paper with you live online! Visit our website for current hours and availability of Synchronous Sessions.
- 2) **Email us your paper** – go to our website (utep.edu/uwc) and choose the Email option. You can email your paper to us any time. We will review it during our next open hours of operation and return it to you with suggested revisions. There may be up to a 72-hour turnaround for emailed papers, so plan ahead!

## 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 Spring 2021 Semester

<b>Jan 18th</b>	<i>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – University Closed</i>
<b>Jan 19th</b>	Spring classes begin
<b>Jan 19th–22nd</b>	<i>Late Registration (Fees are incurred)</i>
<b>Feb 3rd</b>	Spring Census Day <i>Note: This is the last day to register for classes. If payment is not received by this day, students will be dropped.</i>
<b>Feb 15th</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Class Day

Note: Students who were given a payment deadline extension will be dropped at 5:00 pm if payment arrangements have not been made.

<b>Feb 19th</b>	<i>Graduation application deadline for degree conferral</i>
<b>Mar 21st</b>	<i>Midterm Spring 2021 Grades Due</i>
<b>Mar 15-19th</b>	<i>Spring Break</i>
<b>Mar 26th</b>	<i>Cesar Chavez Holiday – no classes</i>
<b>Apr 1st</b>	Spring Drop/Withdrawal Deadline  Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.
<b>Apr 2nd</b>	<i>Spring Study Day</i>
<b>Apr 16th</b>	<i>Deadline to submit candidates' names for degree conferral</i>
<b>May 6th</b>	<i>Spring – Last day of classes</i>
<b>May 7th</b>	<i>Dead day</i>
<b>May 10-14th</b>	<i>Spring Final Exams</i>

### ***Course Schedule***

Your instructor will provide you with a course schedule specific to your class.