Rhetoric and Writing Studies RWS 1302
In fall 2020, all sections of RWS 1302 are 100% online

Course Information:
Instructor: Dr. Maria Isela Maier
Email: mmaier@utep.edu (use Blackboard Course Messages for class correspondence)
CRN/Term: CRN:15047/Fall 2020 Online
Online Office Hours: Office hours will be held online via Blackboard Collaborate on Mondays and Wednesday, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. 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!

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 fall 2020, 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.
First-Year Composition Program  

Fall 2020  
Dr. Maier

- 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

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**Rhetoric & Composition 1 (RWS 1302) Course Description**

**Rhetoric & Composition 2 (RWS 1302)** aims to develop your critical thinking skills in order to facilitate effective communication in all educational, professional, and social contexts. This effective communication is based on awareness of and appreciation for discourse communities as well as knowledge specific to subject matter, genre, rhetorical strategy, and writing process. The class presents an approach to communication that helps students determine the most effective strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts. In addition, because communication is central to being an active and engaged member of society, the course also provides a space for informed advocacy.

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**Required Texts & Materials**

THE FIRST-YEAR COMPOSITION HANDBOOK

19th Edition
An e-book available through the UTEP Bookstore

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Course Assignments and Grading

Course Assignments

(This syllabus only provides an overview of assignments for the class--specific assignment sheets and activities will be posted on Blackboard):

**Topic Proposal for Semester:** Students will write a proposal to identify the subject/issue/topic they will be working with for the semester. This will be submitted to, approved, and graded by the instructor. **20 pts.**

**Genre Analysis Outline:** Students will complete an outline in addition to several activities to prepare them for the Genre Analysis Essay assignment: Genre selection, genre analysis/evaluation, genre matrix and genre analysis peer review. **40 pts.**

**Genre Analysis:** Students will identify two texts on the same subject, but in different genres, to write a comparative analysis. **100 pts.**

**Research Proposal Outline:** As part of this assignment you must generate 3-4 research questions and begin to find sources for the Literature Review/Research Report. Students will complete several activities for Literature Review (stasis theory, research questions for approval, preliminary research questions, primary research activity and organizing research by questions). **40 points.**

**Literature Review / Primary Research Report:** Students will conduct primary and secondary research on a social, political, or ethical issue to become well-informed experts on the issue. Students will then write a literature review of these sources to summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas of the research sources. **200 pts.**

**Advanced Visual Argument Outline Activities:** Students will submit an outline to show the persuasive purpose and argumentative structure for the project. In addition, students will engage in activities such as writing a proposal and progress report, conduct peer review and an evaluation.
Advanced Visual Argument: 200 pts.
Option 2: Open Education Resource

Class Presentation: Students will present their documentaries to the class. 50 pts.

E-Portfolio Website: Students will create, design, and maintain an academic profile in the form of an e-portfolio website. Students will also be engaged in activities geared to revising and composing materials for the website.
Option 2: Extended Professional E-Portfolio 150 pts.

Participation: Because this is an online course, participation online is mandatory. The activities included in this category ensure that students learn the material and help them to compose effective projects. This score will include homework, drafts, discussion postings, peer reviews, and other work the instructor assigns. These points will be determined and distributed by the instructor. 200 pts.

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 or below = F  

Online Course Delivery

Course Delivery:
In fall 2020, RWS 1302 will be held fully online. 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 acclimatize 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 1302.

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. Late work will not be accepted, however, if you feel that you need extra time to work on an assignment, please contact me at least a week before the assignment is due so we can discuss an alternative deadline.

**Participation:**

individual participation policy Because this is a fully online class, online participation is mandatory. The activities included in this category ensure that students learn the material and help them to complete effective projects. Participation includes homework, drafts, discussion postings, peer reviews, and other work the instructor assigns. Points will be determined and distributed by the instructor.

**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 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).

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**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 Face-to-Face Classes:**
Students are entitled to a single week of unexplained absences without penalty (for example, 3 classes missed in a three-times-a-week class, 2 classes missed in twice-a-week class, 1 class missed in a once-a-week class).

After 2 total weeks of absence (not necessarily consecutive classes) the student’s grade is lowered by a full letter (A becomes B, etc.).

After 3 total weeks of absence (not necessarily consecutive), the student is automatically dropped from class.
Missing a scheduled conference with the instructor constitutes an absence.

For Hybrid courses
The attendance policy for hybrid courses aligns with the structure for face-to-face courses with each missed weekly class meeting constituting absence from a week of class.

The program recommends that the student contact the instructor to discuss the attendance policy and how it applies in cases in which it is not possible to attend a weekly class meeting, while continuing to maintain robust participation in class activities. [see also online courses]

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.

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 fall 2020 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 Fall 2020 Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24th</td>
<td>Fall classes begin</td>
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<td>Aug 24-28th</td>
<td>Late Registration Period</td>
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<td>Sept 7th</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday- University Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 9th</td>
<td>Fall Census Day</td>
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Note: This is the last day to register for classes.
### Course Schedule

**Weekly Schedule (Provisional--Subject to change)**

- **FYC= The First Year Composition Handbook; BB=Blackboard**

This calendar is to be used as an outline for the course. Specific assignment details will be posted to Blackboard through weekly homework sheets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Calendar</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 21st</td>
<td>20th Class Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 22nd</td>
<td>Midterm Fall 2020 Grades Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 30th</td>
<td>Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 13th</td>
<td>Deadline to submit candidates' names for commencement program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 26-27th</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday - University Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 3rd</td>
<td>Fall - last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 4th</td>
<td>Dead Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 7-11th</td>
<td>Fall Final Exams</td>
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| Week 1 | Aug 24 | Introduction to Class  
Syllabus Quiz on BB  
*Reading Discussion: Rhetorical Reading Strategies* | BB: Haas and Flower- Rhetorical Reading Strategies and the Construction of Meaning  
FYC: Topic Choice 183-184, |
|---|---|---|---|
| Week 2 | Aug 31 | Brainstorming Topics  
Semester Topic Proposal Due | |
| Week 3 | Sept 7 | *Reading Discussion: “Emerging Personal Media Genres”*  
Genre Examples and Rhetorical Analysis  
Genre Analysis Activities  
Genre Analysis Outline Due | BB: “Emerging Personal Media Genres”  
Luders et. al  
FYC: Revision 18-21 |
| Week 4 | Sept 14 | Peer Review activity  
Genre Analysis Final Due | Eli Review. “Feedback and Revision.”  
http://elireview.com/content/td/feedback/ |
| Week 5 | Sept 21 | Extended Professional E-portfolio:  
Peer Review activity | FYC: Extended Professional E-portfolio Assignment Guidelines 201 - 208  
FYC: Design Principles Guidelines 201-203 |
| Week 6 | Sept 28 | Begin Lit Review Research Report  
Develop Research Questions Activity  
Research Questions for Approval  
Extended Professional E-portfolio Due (first part) | FYC: Lit Review Assignment Guidelines 224-233  
FYC: Library Research 46-53  
Library Resources - BB access on side panel |
| Week 7 | Oct 5 | Conducting Interviews/Surveys  
Primary Research activity  
Lit Review Evaluation activity  
Lit review quiz | FYC: Primary and Secondary Research 43-46 and 54-60  
FYC 255-257 (Requesting an Interview)  
Library Resources - BB access on side panel |
| Week 8 | Oct 12 | Research References  
(APA/MLA resources, reference page/works cited) | BB-Photinos, Christine. “Synthesizing Your Research Findings.” |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9 Oct 19</th>
<th>Lit Review Rough Draft Due Peer Review</th>
<th>Library Resources - BB access on side panel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 Oct 26</td>
<td>Last Day to Drop Class 10/30 Advanced Visual (OER) Project Overview Reading Discussion: “Made not in Words” Reverse Storyboard due OER Concept video Proposal due Lit Review Final Due</td>
<td>Lit Review - Student Examples Integrating Primary Research FYC 264-270 Grammar and Punctuation resources FYC: Advanced Visual Assignment, Option #B (Open Education Resource Video-OER), 271-290 BB-Yancey. Made not Only in Words: Composition in a New Key (p. 297-315) OER proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12 Nov 9</td>
<td>Advance Visual Argument (OER) Progress report due Activity: OER evaluation Submit visual project draft by Sunday</td>
<td>Multimodal Composing Guides</td>
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<td>Week 13 Nov 16</td>
<td>OER Peer Review due</td>
<td>Purdue Owl: Media Ethics</td>
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<td>Week 14 Nov 23</td>
<td>Advance Visual Argument (OER) Presentations</td>
<td>Developing Presentation skills</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Advanced Visual Argument (OER) final draft due 12/3</td>
<td>FYC: Extended Professional E-portfolio Assignment Guidelines 201-208</td>
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<td>Nov 30</td>
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<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>Extended Professional E-portfolio Due</td>
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<td>Dec 7</td>
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