

<b>Semester:</b>	Fall 2015
<b>Course Section &amp; CRN:</b>	RWS 1302, 18272
<b>Course Date/Time:</b>	Online
<b>Instructor:</b>	Paul LaPrade
<b>Email:</b>	Moodle Messages (If Moodle is down you can reach me at <a href="mailto:pdlaprade@utep.edu">pdlaprade@utep.edu</a> .)
<b>Office:</b>	Worrell 110
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MWF 11:40-12:20, MW 1:40-2:40, or by appointment

## Course Description

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The primary goal of RWS 1302 is to help you develop your critical thinking, writing, and research skills in order to facilitate effective communication in a variety of educational, professional, and social contexts. To cultivate these skills, you will need to develop your awareness of and appreciation for discourse communities as well as knowledge specific to subject matter, genre, rhetorical strategy, and writing process.

This class presents an approach to communication that helps you determine the most effective strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts. By making these decisions, you will work towards a greater sense of confidence and fluency in written and visual communication. Because communication is central to being an active and engaged member of society, this course also provides space for informed advocacy.

## Online Learning

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Because this is an online class, it will require the use of technology through a variety of assignments and activities. Course content will be delivered through weekly learning modules on Moodle, each of which will include a checklist for that week. Moodle provides you with access to the syllabus, information about readings and assignments, e-mail, discussion questions, and other online activities. It is vital that you check and participate on Moodle consistently, as it is an integral part of the course.

## Learning Outcomes

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

- Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other's work.
- Develop 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 writing in its various phases.
- Design a research objective and plan, and integrate information to accomplish the planned objective.
- Access information and demonstrate an understanding of how to use library resources.
- Evaluate sources and information critically.

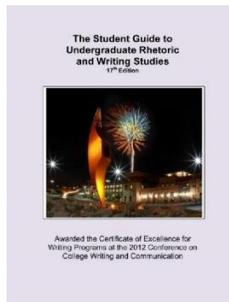
- Identify and integrate primary sources.
- Use information ethically and legally with appropriate citations.

You will also have the opportunity to strengthen skills sets in the following areas:

- Think, read, and write critically;
- Formulate research questions and perform primary and secondary research to answer those questions;
- Become familiar with the contents of the UTEP Library, in a variety of forms and areas of professional study (e.g. the arts, humanities, sciences, nursing, social sciences, business, engineering, and education);
- Analyze and synthesize material from outside sources;
- Develop a sensitivity to the significance of data and how it can be rhetorically applied to various genres; and,
- As part of a research process, apply research to various genres; receive instruction in the logic and form of documentation within a discipline (APA); learn writing strategies for integrating source material into your own prose (quoted, paraphrased, and summarized material); and write analytical and argumentative papers appropriate to genres and larger discourse communities.

## Required Texts and Materials

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- University of Texas at El Paso. (2014). *The Student Guide to Undergraduate Rhetoric and Writing Studies* (17th ed. revised).
  - This is an ebook available through the UTEP Bookstore or online at <http://www.brytewave.com/> (see the “BryteWave Quick Start Guide” on Moodle). **It includes assignment instructions and is a vital component of the course.**
- Cloud service or flash drive to save your coursework files. (Keep these until final grades are posted for the semester.)
- Regular access to a computer, Moodle, and your UTEP email account.

## Assignments and Grade Distribution

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Detailed assignment and activity instructions are available on Moodle and in *The Student Guide*.

- **Topic Proposal for Semester:** You will write a proposal to identify the topic/issue you will work with this semester. (Grade will be included within Online Participation.)
- **Genre Analysis Outline:** You will create a detailed outline as you begin working on the Genre Analysis. (Grade will be included within Online Participation.)
- **Genre Analysis:** You will identify two texts on the same subject, but in different genres, and write a 4-6 page comparative analysis. **150 pts.**
- **Citation Matrix/Annotated Bibliography:** You will submit citations and annotations for sources you plan on incorporating into your Literature Review/Research Report. (Grade will be included within Online Participation.)
- **Literature Review/Research Report:** You will conduct primary and secondary research on a social, political, or ethical issue to become a well-informed expert on the issue. You will then write a 7-10 page literature review of these sources to summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas of your research sources. **250 pts.**
- **Option 1: Digital Source Analysis:** You will practice analysis and evaluation of exclusively online, non-peer reviewed sources by writing a 3-5 page bibliographic essay in which you evaluate a series of argumentative sources. **Option 2: Documentary:** You will engage with multimodal composition by planning, writing, filming and editing a 4-7 minute documentary film advocating a position on a current issue. **150 pts.**
- **Online Opinion Piece:** You will write an Online Opinion Piece on some aspect of the topic of your Literature Review/Research Report in order to advocate for a policy change. (This assignment will be submitted as part of your Advocacy Website.) **100 pts.**
- **Advocacy Website:** You will create, design, and maintain a website that advocates for the topic of your Literature Review/Research report. You will design, add additional links, and provide the needed content to this website in any way you want--with the stipulation that it is focused on advocacy and draws from your semester's work and research. **150 pts.**
- **Peer Review:** You will participate in peer review activities for the Genre Analysis and Literature Review/Research Report assignments. To receive full credit for each session, you will need to thoughtfully engage with your peers' writing and also make your own work available for your classmates to review. **50 pts.**
- **Online Participation (5 Discussions @ 10 pts. each/10 Activities @ 10 pts. each):** You will engage in a variety of weekly activities throughout the semester, including discussion responses to readings and videos as well as scaffolding activities designed to help you effectively prepare for major assignments. **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

## Policies

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**Feedback:** I will do my best to provide you with feedback on major assignments within two weeks of the due date.

**Optional second drafts of the Genre Analysis and Literature Review/Research Report will be accepted until four weeks after their initial due dates** (see course calendar for specific dates). **To be considered for additional credit, a second draft must include a clear description of your revisions on the title page** (an example will be posted on Moodle).

**Late Work:** If you do not submit the Genre Analysis or Literature Review/Research Report by their initial due dates, you can submit them **until the due dates for optional second drafts** (see course calendar for specific details) **with a late penalty of one grade level** (the equivalent of 10 out of 100 points). **Late GA and LR/RR submissions will not be accepted past these second due dates. Other major assignments and online activities will not be accepted late unless otherwise stated on Moodle.**

**Learning Modules:** The course's content is delivered on Moodle through weekly learning modules. These modules will include checklists, activities, resources, and spaces for you to submit major assignments.

**Attendance:** Yes, attendance counts in an online course! You will demonstrate your attendance by completing the activities in each week's learning module on Moodle. Modules must be completed by the stated due dates, and the effort you put into them will determine a substantial portion of your grade, as online activities and peer review are worth a total of 200 points, or a fifth of your grade! **No matter how well you do on major assignments, failure to complete modules will negatively affect your grade and may even cause you to fail the course.**

### Course Drop Deadline: Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>\*

**\*Note that you are responsible for contacting me with concerns about your grade prior to the drop deadline.**

- Each semester has a drop date beyond which an instructor can no longer drop a student with a "W." Students who fail to attend or fulfill assignments after the drop date must necessarily receive an "F." However, in the event of exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the instructor of the course and the academic dean, a grade of "W" may be obtained. The student is responsible for supplying written documentation to support the request for a "W." Acceptable reasons for a "W" include: personal or family medical emergencies, death of family member, military leave, or an exceptional work schedule that prevents you from completing the course. For information on semester deadlines, see the UTEP Academic Calendar at <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=11145>

- Please also be aware of the six-course drop limit. According to the Texas Education Code, "all first-year students enrolled for the first time at any Texas public college or university are limited to six drops during their academic career. This includes student and faculty initiated drops and courses dropped at other Texas public institutions. This policy does not apply to courses dropped prior to census day or to complete withdrawals." So, be sure to start your college experience on the right track by attending class regularly.

**Project Format:** All projects will be turned in through the Moodle learning modules. Written assignments should be double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman or a clear typeface of equal size. Please submit assignments in .doc or .docx format (and never .pages format). When saving your work, include your username and the assignment in the document's title. For example:

pdlaprade genre analysis

pdlaprade genre analysis second draft

**Extra Credit:** You can earn extra credit by visiting the Writing Center, either in person or online. Each visit counts for 2.5 points towards the final score of a major assignment, for up to five points per assignment and up to 20 total points. To receive credit, bring or email me your UWC visit sheets.

UTEP's University Writing Center (UWC), located in Library Room 227, offers free in-person and online 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 you understand any writing assignment and help you work on comprehending difficult readings. Visit the UWC website (<http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=academics.utep.edu/writingcenter>) for further information or to schedule an online consultation.

**Technology and RWS 1302:** This course makes frequent use of technology and multimedia. It is strongly recommended that you have access to the Internet from home and are comfortable using a computer.

Technical problems are also not an excuse for work that is late or missing. You will need to get into the habit of completing assignments for this course well before the due date to allow time for dealing with computer problems.

**Instructions for Accessing Your Course Online:** You must have a UTEP email ID and password to access Moodle. UTEP automatically generates an e-mail ID for students when they are entered into the system. Any questions or problems can be directed to the **Helpdesk at 915.747.5257**.

**Course content will be delivered via Moodle. You can access Moodle by following the steps outlined below:**

- Go to <http://my.utep.edu>
- Login is e-mail ID. Password is e-mail password.
- Click on the link to Moodle.
- Click on the course title to access the course.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic Dishonesty is **NEVER** tolerated by UTEP or the Rhetoric and Writing Studies Undergraduate Program. All cases are reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for academic sanctions, which may include expulsion. All work submitted must be original, and you may not submit graded work from another course.

Forms of academic dishonesty include the following: 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).

**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 Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915.747.5148 or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). CASS is located in Room 106, Union East Bldg. You are responsible for presenting me any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

## Calendar

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This calendar is subject to change as needed. Check Moodle to confirm assignment due dates.

	<b>Important dates and holidays</b>	<b>Major assignment due dates</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 8.24-8.28		
<b>Week 2</b> 8.31-9.4		
<b>Week 3</b> 9.7-9.11	Monday, September 9 <sup>th</sup> : Labor Day	
<b>Week 4</b> 9.14-9.18		<b>Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: Genre Analysis Due</b>
<b>Week 5</b> 9.21-9.25		
<b>Week 6</b> 9.28-10.2		
<b>Week 7</b> 10.5-10.9		
<b>Week 8</b> 10.12- 10.16		<b>Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>: Optional Genre Analysis Second Drafts and Late First Drafts Due</b>
<b>Week 9</b> 10.19- 10.23		<b>Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: Literature Review/Research Report Due</b>
<b>Week 10</b> 10.26- 10.30	Friday, <b>October 30<sup>th</sup></b> : Drop Deadline	

<b>Week 11</b> 11.2-11.6		
<b>Week 12</b> 11.9-11.13		<b>Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>: Digital Source Analysis OR Documentary Due</b>
<b>Week 13</b> 11.16- 11.20		<b>Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>: Optional Literature Review/Research Report Second Drafts and Late First Drafts Due</b>
<b>Week 14</b> 11.23- 11.27	Thursday, November 26 <sup>th</sup> : Thanksgiving	<b>Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>: Advocacy Website and Online Opinion Piece Due</b>