RWS 1301: Rhetoric and Composition I

Semester: Spring 2018
Course Section & CRN: RWS 1301, 24437

Days/Time: MWF/11:30-12:20
Place: UGLC 230

Instructor: Paul LaPrade
Email: Blackboard email
                            (Backup email: pdlaprade@utep.edu)
Office: Hudspeth 310
Office Hours: MWF 1:40-3:40, or by appointment

Course Description

This semester, the objective is not to teach you ***to*** write--this is not a how-to class. Instead, this class will teach you ***about*** writing--how students experience writing, how writing occurs in different contexts, and how writing can be adapted to individual situations. The goal of RWS 1301, Rhetoric and Composition I, is two-fold: facilitate 1. a critical awareness of one's own writing process, and by doing so locate points of strength and weakness, and 2. a critical awareness of writing as it occurs within specific communities and situations. By developing critical awareness in these two areas, you can cultivate the knowledge and skills to become effective writers in a variety of educational, professional, and social contexts. In order to achieve these goals, we will focus on a handful of core concepts: writing process, discourse community, rhetorical situation, critical self-reflection, and information literacy.

Information Literacy: 21st-century academic writing places a premium on information literacy, which is "the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information" (ALA, 2018). This course will implement a number of information-literacy features in collaboration with Les Arms, our partner librarian. Your engagement with information literacy will play a large role in determining your success in this course.

Learning Outcomes

Throughout this course, you will
- Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on the work of others.
- 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.
- Access information and demonstrate an understanding of how to use library resources.
- Evaluate sources and information critically.
- Use information ethically with appropriate citations.

Required Texts and Materials
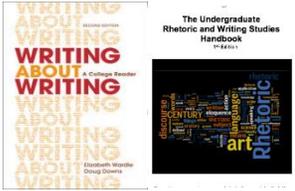
- Wardle, E., & Downs, D. (Eds.). (2014). *Writing about writing: A college reader* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford St. Martin's.
  - Readings and online journal responses should be completed before the beginning of class on days for which they are assigned. Reading discussions will play an important role in this class and will relate directly to major assignments.
- *The Undergraduate Rhetoric and Writing Studies Handbook* (2016).
  - This e-book is available at https://shelf.brytewave.com/#/user/signin.
  - Click on "Create an Account," enter your UTEP email address and select "Next," then enter the required information and select "Create."
  - After creating your account, go to "Shop Now," search for "University of Texas at El Paso" under "Search for a School," search for the keywords "rhetoric handbook," then select the book with the cover pictured above and add it to your cart.
  - Once you own the book, you can access it by signing in through the link above. To navigate the book, use the "Table of Contents" icon in the lower left corner of the screen.
- 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, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

Assignments

This section provides an overview of your course grade. Assignment instructions are available on Blackboard.

Reflective E-Portfolio: *You will create* an online writing portfolio in which you will reflect on your experiences throughout the semester. **100 points**

Literacy Narrative: *You will examine* your own writing process and compare it to the processes of experienced writers in order to develop a greater awareness of your habits and their effectiveness. **150 pts.**

Discourse Community Ethnography: *You will observe* the writing practices of either a course in your prospective major or an organization/business that aligns with your career aspirations in order to better understand the concept of discourse community. You will then analyze specific examples of communication within the group you choose to observe. **200 pts.**

Researched Argument: *You will explore* a concept or issue relevant to your academic or professional interests, or within the field of Rhetoric and Writing Studies (and the whole point of this class is that RWS is relevant to your academic and professional interests). You will

identify a specific audience for your argument and then support your claim with research. **200 pts.**

Reading Journal: *You will reflect* on readings by writing journal responses on Blackboard. **150 pts.**

Peer-Review Conferences: *You will engage* in peer-review conferences for major assignments. During these conferences, you will have time to share your feedback with your group-mates, and I will give you feedback and a tentative grade. Participating in each session will constitute an important part of your grade. **60 pts.**

Attendance and Participation: *You will practice* writing strategies through a variety of in-class activities. **140 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

Late Work: If you do not submit a draft of a major assignment before the stated due date, your ceiling for that assignment will become the equivalent of 89 out of 100 points if you submit a late first draft by the due date for optional second drafts (see the course calendar for details)**.** *Late major assignments will no longer be accepted past this second due date. In-class activities and reading journals will not be accepted late.*

Weekly Modules: The course's online content is delivered on Blackboard through weekly modules, which you can access on the sidebar. These modules include weekly checklists, reading-journal prompts, and spaces to submit in-class activities and major assignments.

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. 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 and with a grade of F after the course drop deadline." (For further information regarding excused absences for university-recognized activities, absences for religious holy days, and military leave, refer to the UTEP Catalog's "Curriculum and Classroom Policies": http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/)

You are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and other activities. You can miss six classes, which is two weeks' worth of class, before you are dropped from the course. Two late arrivals will constitute one absence. All absences count equally, both excused and unexcused, unless they are due to a university-sponsored event.

Course Drop Deadline: Thursday, March 29th* (Week 10)
*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 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." With that in mind, 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 Blackboard weekly modules. Assignments should be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman or a font of similar size. Please submit assignments in .doc or .docx format (and never .pages format). To stay organized, include your UTEP username and the assignment in the save name, e.g., "username literacy narrative."

Extra Credit @ The University Writing Center: You can earn extra credit by visiting the Writing Center, either in person or online at uwc.utep.edu. 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 me your UWC visit sheets.

Technology and RWS 1301: This course makes frequent use of technology and multimedia. If you do not have internet access at home, you can get it through the university**.**

Student computer labs such as the Library's Collaborative Learning Center (CLC, Main Floor) and the ATLAS Lab (UGLC 202) are often available until late at night, but schedules vary (a full list of computer labs is available here: http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=68378). Major assignments will be submitted online, and not having access to a computer will not be an excuse for incomplete or late assignments.

Instructions for Accessing Your Course Online: You must have a UTEP email ID and password to access Blackboard. UTEP automatically generates an email ID for students when they are entered into the system. Any questions or problems can be directed to the Help Desk at 915.747.4357 (HELP) / helpdesk@utep.edu**.**

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

- Go to http://my.utep.edu
- Login is email ID. Password is email password.
- Click on the link to Blackboard.

- Once logged into Blackboard, all the courses you are registered for are listed under the appropriate semester.
- Click on the course title to access the course.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic Dishonesty is **NEVER** tolerated by UTEP or the First-Year Composition 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. CASS is located in Room 106, Union Building East. You are responsible for presenting me any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.

Calendar

This calendar is subject to change. Attend class and check Blackboard to confirm due dates.

	Readings	**Library workshops, conferences, and important dates**	**Due dates for major assignments and optional second drafts**
Week 1 M 1.15		No Class: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
W 1.17			
F 1.19	"Introduction to the Conversation" (1-11)		
Week 2 M 1.22			
W 1.24	"Literacies" (40-42), Alexie (128-132)		
F 1.26	Malcolm X (119-127)		
Week 3 M 1.29			
W 1.31	"Processes" (488-491), Sommers (576-589)	Census Day	
F 2.2	Lamott (527-531)		
Week 4 M 2.5		Library Workshop 1: *Plagiarism Vs. APA!*	

W 2.7	Rose (532-546)		
F 2.9			**Friday, February 9ᵗʰ: Literacy Narrative Due**
Week 5 M 2.12			
W 2.14			
F 2.16			
Week 6 M 2.19	"Individual in Community" (212-214); excerpt from Swales (215-229): "Framing the Reading," "Getting Ready to Read," and "2.3 A Conceptualization of Discourse Community"		
W 2.21			
F 2.23	Kain and Wardle (273-283)		**Friday, February 23ʳᵈ: Optional Literacy Narrative Second Drafts Due**
Week 7 M 2.26			
W 2.28	Porter (395-409)		

F 3.2			
Week 8 M 3.5			
W 3.7	"Rhetoric" (318-324), Aristotle (http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/rhetoric.1.i.html; Part 2)		
F 3.9			
Spring Break 3.12-3.16	Have fun,	catch up on sleep,	and occasionally give serious consideration to working on your DCE!
Week 9 M. 3.19			
W 3.21			
F 3.23			**Friday, March 23rd: Discourse Community Ethnography Due**
Week 10 M 3.26			
W 3.28		Drop Deadline: Thursday, March 29th	
F 3.30		No Class: César Chávez Day/Spring Study Day	

Week 11 **M 4.2**	Greene (27-39)		
W 4.4		Library Workshop 2: *Book it!*	
F 4.6			**Friday, April 6th: Optional DCE Second Drafts Due**
Week 12 **M 4.9**		Library Workshop 3: *Database it!*	
W 4.11	Penrose and Geisler (Blackboard)		
F 4.13			
Week 13 **M. 4.16**			
W 4.18			
F 4.20			
Week 14 **M 4.23**			
W 4.25			
F 4.27			**Friday, April 27th: Researched Argument Due**
Week 15 **M 4.30**			
W 5.2			

F 5.4		No Class: Dead Day	
Finals M 5.7			**May 7th: Optional Researched Argument Second Drafts Due**
W 5.9			
F 5.11			**Friday, May 11th: Reflective E-Portfolio Due**