

<b>Semester:</b>	Spring 2018 – Term 7O1
<b>Course Section &amp; CRN:</b>	RWS 1302, 27539
<b>Course Date/Time:</b>	Online
<b>Instructor:</b>	Paul LaPrade
<b>Email:</b>	Blackboard email (Backup email: pdlaprade@utep.edu.)
<b>Office:</b>	Hudspeth 310
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MWF 1:40-3:40, or by appointment (I'll check my email during office hours, and I'll generally respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them.)

## Course Description

---

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

---

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 Blackboard, each of which will include a checklist for that week. Blackboard provides you with access to the syllabus, information about readings and assignments, email, discussion questions, and other online activities. It is vital that you check and participate on Blackboard consistently, as it is an integral part of the course.

## Learning Outcomes

---

Throughout this course, you will

- 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,



- **Citation Matrix/Annotated Bibliography:** You will compile citations and annotations for sources you plan on incorporating into your Literature Review/Research Report. **50 pts.**
- **Literature Review/Research Report:** You will conduct primary and secondary research on a social, political, or ethical issue, then write a 8-10 page (not including title page or references) literature review/research report in which you summarize and synthesize the arguments and ideas presented by your sources. **250 pts.**
- **Advanced Visual Argument:** You will engage with multimodal composition by constructing a Documentary Film, Advocacy Website, or Research Poster. **150 pts.**
- **Reflection E-Portfolio/Blog:** You will construct a reflective portfolio website in which you articulate your experiences with this class, the major assignments, and the course readings. **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**

---

**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 will be accepted until Sunday of Week 5, and optional second drafts of the Literature Review/Research Report will be accepted until Sunday of Week 7 (the end of the course). Reminders of these revision windows will be posted on Blackboard. To be considered for additional credit, a second draft must include a clear description of your revisions on the title page (a sample "revision statement" will be posted on Blackboard).

**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 (Sunday of Week 5 for the GA, Sunday of Week 7 for the LR/RR) with a 10% late penalty. Late GA and LR/RR submissions will not be accepted past these second due dates. Other major assignments and activities will not be accepted late.

**Learning Modules:** The course's content is delivered on Blackboard 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 Blackboard. 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 weekly activities, discussions, and mini-assignments are worth a total of 350 points, or 35% 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: Monday, February 26<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 assignments and activities should be submitted on Blackboard through the weekly learning modules. Written 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 not .pages). I recommend that you include your username and the name of the assignment/activity in the document’s title when saving your work (e.g. pdlaprade genre analysis).

**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](http://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, email me your UWC visit sheets.

The University Writing Center offers free synchronous online one-on-one writing assistance for UTEP Connect students. Graduate and undergraduate consultants work with writers on projects for a wide variety of classes and provide assistance during all parts of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing. Online assistance is available by appointment at [uwc.utep.edu](http://uwc.utep.edu). Most UWC consultants are bilingual Spanish and English speakers. Consultants will not edit your paper for you, and you are the one ultimately responsible for the work you submit and the grade you earn. Instead, Writing Center consultants will guide you through the writing process and teach you valuable writing skills. Visit the UWC’s website to learn more about the services they provide, or make an appointment for an online consultation. Online consultations take place during regular business hours (see website) and must be made at least one day in advance.

**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 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 **Helpdesk at 915.747.4357 (HELP)**.

**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.
- 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

---

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

Week	Assignments	Points
<b>Week 1</b> 1.16-1.21	Discussion: Introduction	25
	Activity: Topic Proposal	25
	Looking Ahead: Genre Analysis Outline (Wk 2 Activity)	0
<b>Week 2</b> 1.22-1.28	Activity 1: APA Citation	25
	Activity 2: Genre Analysis Outline	25
	Looking Ahead: Genre Analysis Peer Review Activity (Wk 3 Activity)	0
	<b>Major Assignment:</b> <a href="#">Genre Analysis</a>	150
<b>Week 3</b> 1.29-2.4	Peer Review Discussion Activity: Genre Analysis	25
	Activity 2: Stasis Theory	25
	Activity 3: Developing Literature-Review Research Questions	25
	Looking Ahead: Citation Matrix/Annotated Bibliography (Wk 4 Activity)	0
<b>Week 4</b> 2.5-2.11	Discussion 1: "'It wasn't me, was it?' Plagiarism and the Web"	25
	<b>Mini-Assignment:</b> <a href="#">Citation Matrix/Annotated Bibliography</a>	50
	Discussion 2: "Let my dataset change your mindset"	25
<b>Week 5</b> 2.12-2.18	<b>Major Assignment:</b> <a href="#">Literature Review/Research Report</a>	250
	Activity: Choosing an Assignment	25
<b>Week 6</b> 2.19-2.25	Discussion Activity: Analyzing a Visual Argument	25
	Discussion Activity: Visual Design	25

<b>Week 7</b> 2.26-3.4	<b>Major Assignment:</b> Advanced Visual Argument	150
	<b>Major Assignment:</b> Reflection E-Portfolio/Blog	100

<b>Grade Breakdown:</b>
<p style="text-align: right;">Discussions (5 @ 25 pts) = 125 pts                  Activities (6 @ 25 pts) = 150 pts                  Peer Review Discussion Activity (1 @ 25 pts) = 25 pts                  Citation Matrix/Annotated Bibliography = 50 pts                  Genre Analysis = 150 pts                  Lit Review/Research Report = 250 pts                  Advanced Visual Argument = 150 pts                  Reflection E-Portfolio/Blog = 100 pts</p>
<b>Total Points = 1,000 pts</b>