

ENGL 1311: Expository English Composition/Introduction to Writing Studies

Semester: Summer II 2014
Course Section & CRN: ENGL 1311, 34215
Time/Days: M-F/2-4:20
Place: UGLC 236

Instructor: Paul LaPrade
Email: Blackboard email
(If Bb is down you can reach me at pdlaprade@utep.edu)

Office: Worrell 110
Office Hours: M-F 12:50-1:50; and by appointment

Course Description

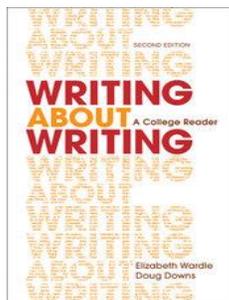
This summer, the objective is not to teach you **to** write--this is not a how-to class. Instead, this class will teach you **about** writing--how students experience writing, how writing occurs in different contexts, how writing must be adapted to individual situations, etc. The overall goal of RWS 1301, Introduction to Writing Studies, 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/situations. By developing critical awareness in these two areas, you will have 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.

Learning Outcomes

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.
- Access information and demonstrate an understanding of how to use library resources.
- Evaluate sources and information critically.
- Use information ethically and legally with appropriate citations.

Required Texts and Materials



The Guide to First-Year Composition
1st Edition



Composing Your Success with FYC@UTEP!

Awarded a 2012 Conference on College Composition and Communication Certificate of Excellence for Writing Programs

- Wardle, E., & Downs, D. (Eds.). (2014). *Writing about writing: A college reader* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford St. Martin's.
- Department of English. (2013). *A Guide to First Year Composition* (16th ed.).
 - This is an ebook available through the bookstore or through www.cafescribe.com. Please be certain to purchase the 16th edition with the cover shown above.
- Cloud service or flash drive to save your coursework files. (Keep these until final grades are posted for the summer session.)
- Regular access to a computer, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

CafeScribe Quick Start Guide:

Creating an account with CafeScribe is simple, quick and free:

- Go to www.cafescribe.com to access the digital textbook(s) using the CafeScribe Reader.
- Click on “CafeScribe Reader” listed in the banner at the top of the homepage.
- At the “Login” page, create a new account, or login.
- When creating a new account, the site will then ask for information including name, email, username, password, and school. Please choose a username and password that is easily remembered.

Activating the digital textbook:

- Visit www.cafescribe.com and log in to the CafeScribe Reader.
- Click the “Activate Book(s)” button.
- Enter the access code that was purchased through the bookstore or CafeScribe and click the magnifying glass icon to lookup *The Guide to First-Year Composition* book.
- Select the book, click “Activate Book(s)”, and the book will be ready to use.

Assignments

This section provides an overview of assignments for the class; more specific assignment sheets are on Blackboard:

E-Portfolio Reflections: You will collect every major assignment in an online writing portfolio, in which you will also reflect on your progress through the semester. **150 points (E-Portfolio counts for 500 total points including major assignments, which are individually listed below)**

Literacy Narrative: You will closely examine your own writing process and compare it to the processes of experienced writers in order to develop a greater awareness of your strengths and weaknesses. **150 pts. (included in Portfolio)**

Discourse Community Ethnography and Researched Argument: You will study the communication practices of an online community and consider how well it meets the criteria for discourse communities set forward by John Swales in “The Concept of Discourse Community.” You will then conduct secondary research and write an argument relevant to the community in question.

Alternatively, you can observe the writing practices of a course in your major or an organization/business that aligns with your career aspirations and see how it measures up to Swales' criteria before conducting secondary research and writing an argument relevant to the academic or professional field in question. **200 pts. (included in Portfolio)**

Rhetorical Analysis Presentation: You will deliver an in-class presentation demonstrating your understanding of rhetorical situation and analysis. **100 pts.**

In-Class Discussion Journal: You will reflect on readings and key concepts by responding to a discussion question in class on the day for which a reading assignment is due. These responses will serve as a springboard for our discussion of the reading. **150 pts.**

Peer Review Conferences: In-class peer review conferences will be held for the Literacy Narrative and the Discourse Community Ethnography and Researched Argument. During these conferences, you will have time to work with your group mates, and I will personally give you feedback and a tentative grade. Being present for and participating in each session will constitute an important part of your grade. Furthermore, attendance and participation in library workshops will count toward this portion of your grade. **100 pts.**

Attendance and Participation in Class: Your attendance and participation in class will be measured here. This portion of your grade also includes occasional in-class activities that will be turned in through Blackboard. **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

Portfolio Grading System: I will give you individualized feedback in class for your first draft of each major assignment if you submit it by the stated deadline. If you do not submit a draft of a major assignment before the stated deadline, your ceiling for that assignment will become the equivalent of 89 out of 100 points. During our peer review conference, I will give you a tentative grade that you can improve if you revise and resubmit your work. However, **in order to submit a new draft for consideration, you must include a clear description of how you revised it on the title page of your new draft** (an example will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard). Furthermore, **there will be a specific timeframe lasting a week during which you can resubmit each assignment once** (see course calendar for details).

Learning Modules: The course's online content is delivered on Blackboard through weekly learning modules. Each module begins at noon on Monday and ends at 11:59 (and 59 seconds, to be precise) AM the following Monday. You can access these modules by going to "Learning Modules" on the sidebar. Each module will include discussion questions and a checklist for that week, including information about readings, assignment reminders, and assignment dropboxes.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and workshops.

Two (2) classes can be missed prior to the drop deadline 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. Please notify me as soon as possible if you encounter extraordinary circumstances that affect your ability to attend class.

Course Drop Deadline: Friday, July 25th (Week 3)*

***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.

Late Work:

- Unless otherwise specified, major assignments are due on Fridays before you go to bed. Attend class and check Blackboard to confirm assignment deadlines.
- **If you do not submit a first draft of a major assignment before the stated deadline, your ceiling for that assignment will become the equivalent of 89 out of 100 points during the weeklong resubmission period.**
- Be sure to submit all major assignments in order to pass this class.

Project Format: All projects will be turned in through the Blackboard learning modules. Assignments should be double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman or a clear typeface of equivalent 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:

username literacy narrative

username literacy narrative revised

Extra Credit: You can earn extra credit by visiting the Writing Center or Gear Up's tutoring service. Each visit counts for 2.5 points towards the final score of a major assignment, for up to 5 points per assignment. To receive credit, bring me your UWC or Gear Up tutoring center 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.

Online "Netiquette":

- Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Do not copy another classmate's response on a discussion board.
- No credit will be received for yes/no answers. Posts should justify positions and provide specific examples. You must demonstrate that you have read the assignment and your classmates' comments carefully and thoughtfully.
- Be sure to post in a timely fashion to receive credit for the discussion. Pay close attention to the posted deadlines.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted to these online spaces is intended for classmates and the professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If you wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

Technology and English 1311: 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. If you do not have access, you can get it through the university.

Student computer labs such as the UGLC's ATLAS Lab (<http://issweb.utep.edu/>) and the Library's Collaborative Learning Center (CLC) are often available until midnight, but schedules vary. Major assignments will be submitted online, and not having access to a computer will not be an excuse for incomplete or late assignments.

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 e-mail ID for students when they are entered into the system. Any questions or problems can be directed to the **Helpdesk at 747-5257**.

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 e-mail ID. Password is e-mail 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 Dean of Students 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 Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or dss@utep.edu. The DSSO is located in Room 106, Union East Bldg. You are responsible for presenting me any DSS accommodation letters and instructions.

Calendar

This calendar is subject to change as needed. Unless otherwise specified, major assignments are due on Fridays before you go to bed. Attend class and check Blackboard to confirm assignment deadlines.

	To be read before class	Conferences, library workshops, and important dates	Major assignment due dates and resubmission deadlines
Week 1 July 7			
T	“Introduction to the Conversation” (1-11), “Literacies” (40-42), Alexie (128-132)		
W	Malcolm X (119-127), Lamott (527-531)		
R	“Processes” (488-491), Rose (532-546)		
F			Literacy Narrative Due
Week 2 July 14		Peer Review Conference	
T	“Individual in Community” (212-214), Swales (215-229)		
W			

R	Porter (395-409)		
F		Library Workshop 1 (Room 204B)	Deadline for Literacy Narrative Resubmissions
Week 3 July 21			
T	Greene (27-39)		
W	“Rhetoric” (318-324), Aristotle (http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/rhetoric.1.i.html); Parts 2 and 3)		
R	Penrose and Geisler (e-pages)		
F		Drop Deadline: Friday, July 25 th Library Workshop 2 (Room 204B)	Discourse Community Ethnography and Researched Argument Due
Week 4 July 28		Peer Review Conference	
T	Grant-Davie (347- 364)		
W			
R		Rhetorical Analysis Presentations	

F		Rhetorical Analysis Presentations	Deadline for Discourse Community Ethnography and Researched Argument Resubmissions
Finals Week			Monday: E-Portfolio Due

