RWS 1301
Rhetoric and Composition

Course & CRN: RWS 1301, 17515
Time/Days: MW, 3:00-4:20 PM
Location: UGLC 230

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Office & Office Hours: Worrell 307; MWF 10:30-11:20 & MW 1:30-3:00 PM and by appointment
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Course Description
This fall, 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/ENGL 1311, 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.

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

- Engage with 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

- This is an ebook available through the bookstore or through www.cafescribe.com. Please be certain to purchase the 17th edition.
• Cloud service or flash drive to save your coursework files; Google Drive and Dropbox are two excellent free services for saving work. (Please keep all of your essays until final grades are posted for the fall session.)

• Regular access to a computer, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

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

**E-Portfolio:** You will collect every major assignment in an online writing portfolio, in which you will also reflect on your progress through the semester. **600 pts.** (500 from assignments listed below, 100 from reflective responses.)

**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. **Portfolio: 100 pts.**

**Discourse Community Ethnography:** You will study the communication practices of an online or physical community and consider how well it meets the criteria for discourse communities set forward by John Swales in “The Concept of Discourse Community” or James Porter in “Intertextuality and the Discourse community. You may want 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. **Portfolio: 150 pts.**

**Rhetorical Analysis:** Using an artifact related to your discourse community, you will provide and in-depth analysis of its use of the rhetorical appeals and the rhetorical situation. **Portfolio: 100 pts.**

**Researched Argument:** You will conduct secondary research related to an issue you see within your discourse community and write an argument relevant to the community in question. **Portfolio: 150 pts.**

**Journals:** You will reflect on readings and key concepts by responding to a discussion question before class. These responses will serve as a springboard for our discussion of the reading. **120 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. In-class peer review conferences will be held for each assignment. Being present for and participating in each session will constitute an important part of your grade. **280 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
CLASSROOM 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. 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.

SafeAssign: You will be required to submit all first drafts through SafeAssign and the Assignment Dropbox on Blackboard. SafeAssign is a program that automatically checks for similarities between your essay and texts available online. This is a requirement of every RWS class.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and workshops. Four (4) classes can be missed prior to the drop deadline; once you miss five classes, I will drop you from the class. 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, October 31st.

*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, first drafts of 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 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 draft
username literacy narrative final

Extra Credit: You can earn extra credit by visiting the Writing Center tutoring service. Each visit counts for 5 points towards the final score of a major assignment, for up to 10 points per assignment. To receive credit, bring me your UWC visit sheets. The UTEP University Writing Center (UWC) is located in Library Room 227.

Classroom Etiquette:

- Be respectful of your peers during class discussion.
- Do not enter the room after I've closed the door.
- On work days, make sure to bring headphones if you are going to listen to music and keep the sound at a reasonable volume.
- Do not text or surf online during class, or at least don't make it obvious since it can be distracting.

Email Etiquette

When sending an email, maintain conventions. Write a subject line that indicates the purpose of the email (for example, RWS 1301: Missed Journal Entry). Greet the recipient (Hello Mr./Ms. ______ will suffice) and if you do not know each other, introduce yourself and your reason for sending the email. This is especially important if you are emailing a professor or an academic advisor since they handle a lot of emails daily. Finally, sign your name and--if you are emailing a professor--provide the time and CRN for your class.

It is also important to keep the rhetorical situation in mind. How is your message likely to affect your audience? If you are trying to persuade someone, what appeals and strategies will work best? Make sure to be respectful and polite. Do not use all caps and pay attention to spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Evidence suggests that recipients take much longer to respond to emails that come across as poorly written, demanding, or rude.

Please use your official UTEP email for all correspondences in this class.
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.

CALANDER

This calendar is subject to change. Your instructor will notify you of any changes. **Anything listed as homework should be completed before the next class period.**

Bb=Blackboard; WAW=Writing about Writing

**WEEK 1: CLASS INTRODUCTION**

*August 25th & 27th*

**Mandatory Reading:** “Teaching Standard English” (Bb)

**Optional Reading:** “Spanglish as an Alternate Discourse” (Bb)

**M:** Class introduction and discuss portfolio

**Homework:** Read “Teaching Standard English” (Bb) and complete first journal entry

**W:** Discuss “Standard English”

**WEEK 2: LITERACY NARRATIVE**

*September 3rd*

**Mandatory Reading:** “Literacies” (WAW pp. 40-43), Alexei, “The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me” (WAW pp. 128-131)

**Optional Reading:** Bryson, "The Literacy Myth in the Digital Archive of Literacy Narratives" (Bb)

**M:** NO CLASS—UTEP is closed

**Homework:** Read “Literacies” and “The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me,” and complete journal entry

**W:** Sherman Alexei and literacy.

**WEEK 3: LITERACY NARRATIVE**

*September 8th, 10th, & 12th*


**Homework:** read “Learning to Read” and complete journal entry

**M:** Discuss Malcolm X and literacy

**Homework:** Read “Rigid Rules” and “Shitty First Drafts” and complete journal entry

**W:** Formulate and dismantle Rigid Rules.

**WEEK 4: LITERACY NARRATIVE**

*September 15th & 17th*

**Optional Reading:** “It Wasn’t Me...Was It?” (Bb)

**M:** Discuss plagiarism & citations

**W:** Work day

**WEEK 5: LITERACY NARRATIVE**

*September 22nd & 24th*

**Mandatory Reading:** “Responding—Really Responding to Student Writing” (WAW pp. 16-25)

**Homework:** Read “Responding—Really Responding to Student Writing”
M: Practice peer review.
Homework: BRING DRAFT TO CLASS
W: Literacy narrative peer review.
Assignment Due: First Draft, Literacy Narrative due Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 PM.

WEEK 6: DISCOURSE COMMUNITY ETHNOGRAPHY
September 29<sup>th</sup> & October 1<sup>st</sup>
Optional Reading: “Inventing the University” (Bb)
Homework: Read “Individual in Community” and “The Concept of Discourse Communities” and complete journal entry.
M: Introduce discourse communities and Discuss Swales.
W: Continue discussion of discourse communities; discuss paraphrasing and utilizing sources fairly; locate discourse communities.

WEEK 7: DISCOURSE COMMUNITY ETHNOGRAPHY
October 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>
Reading: Student Examples (Bb)
Mandatory Reading: “Intertextuality and the Discourse Community” (WAW pp.395-409)
Homework: Read “Intertextuality and the Discourse Community” and complete journal entry.
M: Further define discourse communities and intertextuality
W: Discuss summarizing and synthesizing.

WEEK 8: DISCOURSE COMMUNITY ETHNOGRAPHY
October 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>
M: Hybrid day—NO CLASS
W: Work Day & Jeopardy!

WEEK 9: RHETORIC
October 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>
Mandatory Reading: Book I, Parts 2 & 3 of Rhetoric (Bb)
Homework: Read Aristotle and complete journal entry.
M: Discuss rhetoric & logical Fallacies
Homework: BRING DRAFT TO CLASS
W: Peer Review for Discourse Community Ethnography
Assignment Due: First Draft, Discourse Community Ethnography due by Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 PM.

WEEK 10: RHETORIC AND RESEARCHING
October 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>
Mandatory Readings: "The Rhetorical Situation and Its Constituents" (WAW pp. 347-364) and “The Aggressive Egg” (Bb)
Homework: Read “The Rhetorical Situation and Its Constituents” and complete journal entry.
M: Discuss rhetorical situations and practice analyzing rhetorical situations.
Homework: Read “The Aggressive Egg” and complete journal entry.
W: Discuss “The Aggressive Egg.”
WEEK 11: RESEARCHING  
November 3rd & 5th  
**M:** Discuss rhetorical reading strategies.  
**Homework:** BRING DRAFT TO CLASS  
**W:** Peer Review  
*First Draft of Rhetorical Analysis due Friday, November 7th by 11:30 PM.*

WEEK 12: RESEARCHED ARGUMENTS  
November 10th & 12th  
**Mandatory Reading:** "Argument as Conversation" (WAW pp. 27-38)  
**Homework:** Read “Argument as Conversation” and complete journal entry.  
**M:** Discuss arguments and researched argument  
**W:** Argument Strategies and selecting a topic; zombie attack!

WEEK 13: RESEARCHED ARGUMENTS  
November 17th & 19th  
**Mandatory Reading:** "Reading and Writing without Authority" (Bb) & "The Construction of Knowledge in Organizations" (Bb)  
**Homework:** Read “Reading and Writing without Authority” and complete journal entry.  
**M:** Discuss authority and writing, collecting research  
**Homework:** Read “The Construction of Knowledge in Organization” and complete final journal entry.  
**W:** Epistemology and the discourse community.

WEEK 14: PORTFOLIO  
November 24th  
**Homework:** BRING DRAFT TO CLASS  
**M:** Peer review for researched argument.  
**W:** No class—Happy Thanksgiving!  
*First Draft of Researched Argument due Friday, November 28th by 11:30 PM.*

WEEK 15: WORKSHOPS  
December 1st & 3rd  
**Homework:** Complete reflections and cover letter for portfolio; bring them to class.  
**M:** Portfolio Peer Review  
**W:** Jeopardy

FINALS WEEK  
Final draft of Portfolio due Wednesday, December 10th by 11:30 PM