

RWS 1302

CRN: 15256

Meeting Time: Friday, 9:00-10:20 AM

Room: UGLC 232

Instructor Information

Name: Sebastian Martinez

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Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 12:00- 2:00 PM on Zoom by appointment. Fri. 11:00- 1:00 PM at the University Writing Center, Library Room 227

Program Overview

At UTEP, the First-Year Composition (FYC) program in the English department offers two first-year courses that are typically taken as a sequence, RWS 1301—Rhetoric and Composition I and RWS 1302—Rhetoric and Composition II. These courses are intended to help students develop their rhetorical and writing knowledge and skills within these five knowledge domains: writing process knowledge, subject matter knowledge, rhetorical knowledge, genre knowledge, and discourse community knowledge. Therefore, we teach writing as a complex activity through which students are given guidance and often collaborate. Drawing on the rich scholarship of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, we have designed our courses to help students address the challenges of 21st century composing. In these courses, students are empowered to determine the most effective strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts.

The FYC program reminds students that the primary purpose of these classes are the learning and practice of writing. The Conference on College Composition and Communication together with the Council of Writing Program Administrators state:

Writing classes teach writing: Principally, writing classes foreground writing itself as a complex, distributed activity premised upon sociality and community formation, processes and materials, flexibility, and ethical communication. Writing classes may involve participants in purposeful interpersonal interactions (discussions and conversations), writing-related activities (peer review, studying features in model texts), and interpreting texts (making meaning individually or together with others); however, the activity of writing itself continues to be central to what a writing class sponsors.

CCCC and CWPA Joint Statement in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

RWS 1301 & 1302 Learning Outcomes

At the end of these FYC courses, students will be able to:

Critical thinking and reading

- Think, read, and write analytically and reflectively
- Address specific, immediate rhetorical situations and their effects on individuals and communities
- Read a diverse range of texts and apply these texts to different audiences, contexts, and situations.

Composing practices

- Read and compose in several genres to understand how genre conversations shape and are shaped by readers' and writers' practices and purposes
- Develop composing processes appropriate to writing style, audience, and assignment
- Use composing processes and tools as a means to discover and reconsider ideas, generate writing, and make meaning
- Engage with a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other's work
- Develop writing projects through multiple drafts by learning flexible strategies for reading, drafting, reviewing, collaborating, revising, rewriting, rereading, and editing
- Give, receive, and act on productive feedback from peers and instructors to work in progress

Research

- Learn to formulate research questions, methods for research, and analyze and synthesize material
- Develop 21st century technological literacies and modalities needed for researching and composing
- Locate and evaluate primary and secondary materials, such as: journal articles and essays, books, scholarly and professionally established and maintained databases and archives, and informal electronic networks and internet sources.
- Learn writing strategies for integrating source material into your own prose (quoted, paraphrased, and summarized material)
- Apply research to various genres and cite sources in American Psychological Association Style (APA) or Modern Language Association Style (MLA)

Assessment

- Use reflective learning strategies to self-assess and understand one's processes and products
- Collaborate
- Integrate and act on critical feedback from peers and instructors

- Understand and examine critically the reasons behind writing conventions in fields and disciplines

Rhetoric & Composition 2 (RWS 1302) Course Description

Rhetoric & Composition 2 (RWS 1302) aims to develop further students' rhetorical and critical thinking skills in order to facilitate effective written communication in educational, professional, and social contexts. Effective communication is based on awareness of and appreciation for diverse language practices as well as knowledge specific to subject matter, genre, rhetorical strategy, racial and social justice, and writing processes.

The curriculum consists of these 5 modules:

MODULE 1. Community Engagement Proposal: Students will explore issues and concerns in their communities (home, place of worship, civic, work, school) and will identify a problem connected with the community that they wish to study. Students will explain how their own interests, goals, and values align with the organization or agency's mission. This paper will take the form of a proposal or memo.

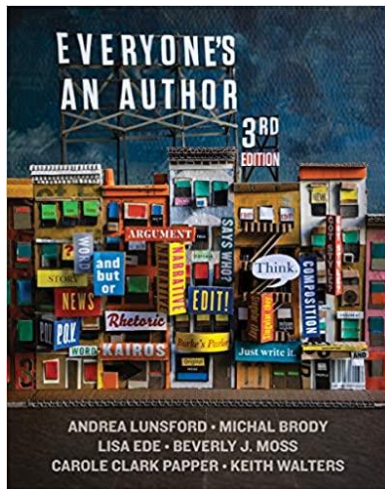
MODULE 2. Community Genre Analysis: Students will identify two distinct texts in different genres (written, visual, and/or oral) created by their organization or related to their selected issue. Students will write an explanatory genre analysis of the two texts and how they operate rhetorically. Students will engage in peer review activities during the writing process.

MODULE 3. Local Fieldwork: Students will identify a social, political, or ethical issue related to their local community or partnering agency. As part of this assignment, students will generate research questions pertaining to the topic and their inquiry. Local research may include field observations, consulting local and primary sources, collecting surveys, and conducting interviews.

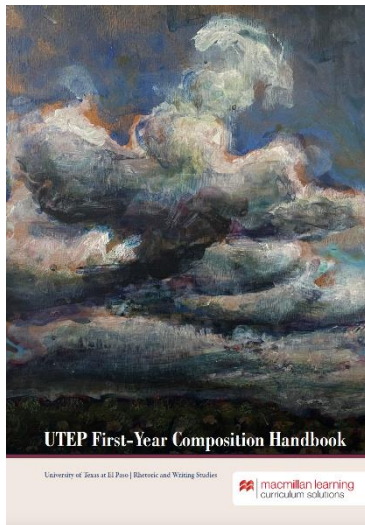
MODULE 4. Broader Community Study: The broader community study will build upon students' local research, extending it into a broader inquiry. Students have the option to change their focus. This project will incorporate secondary research in order to examine the societal impact of their chosen issue. This includes developing a larger list of sources and creating an evaluative annotated bibliography.

MODULE 5. Multimodal Community Product/Tool: Students will create a multimodal product or tool based on the needs of their community partner, organization, or a topic they are exploring. This can be an individual or group assignment to be completed with classmates focused on a similar topic. The goal of this project is to synthesize the research and writing students have done and present it to their classmates and/or chosen community.

Required Texts & Materials



- Lunsford, A., Brody, M., Ede, L., Moss, B.J., Papper, C.C., Walters, K. (2021). Everyone's an Author, 3rd. Norton Publishing.
ISBN: 978-0-393-88568-2
 - Available at the UTEP Bookstore
- UTEP First-Year Composition Handbook, Fall 2022 ed.
 - E-book available through UTEP bookstore.



- Additional required readings may also be posted on Blackboard.
- Internet access through Wifi/Hotspot.
- Account with Zoom (should virtual meetings be needed anytime throughout the semester)

Course Assignments and Grading

Grade Distribution—Students 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

200 Points: MODULE 1– Community Engagement Proposal

200 Points: MODULE 2 – Community Genre Analysis

200 Points: MODULE 3 – Local Fieldwork

200 Points: MODULE 4 – Broader Community Study

200 Points: MODULE 5 – Multimodal Community Project/Tool

Grading Policy

During the course you will complete five major assignments/projects, each of which will be worth the same number of points in relation to your overall grade. I've chosen this method of grading to enforce the importance of each assignment you will complete throughout the course, making sure that one project isn't worth more than another.

As shown above, you can earn up to 200 points in each learning module, which will be split between discussion posts, reading discussions, mini assignments, drafts, and the one major assignment in each module. Before the due date of most of the major assignments, we will spend some time revising a draft of that major assignment, which is meant to encourage the recursive nature of the writing process.

As far as what I'm going to be evaluating in each your submissions, I'm going to primarily be looking at the content of your writing. I want your submissions to be substantial, well thought-out, and engaging with the prompt or purpose of the assignment. I'm going to forego "word-count" requirements because I would prefer that you write in a way that seems fulfilling to yourself (and the assignment), rather than to meet an arbitrary number of words. That being said, the writing being done in this course should convey effort and be reflective of the time you spent on completing it.

To that effect, I also won't be evaluating for grammar or "academic language." I'm mainly concerned with how well you can express your ideas and thoughts through your writing in whichever way you're most comfortable doing. From time to time, I may offer grammatical tips and suggestions, if necessary, but these will be purely constructive and are not meant to count against your grade.

Upon grading many of your assignments, I will try to provide an end-comment that consists of feedback in response to your written work. If any of you would like to discuss your grades, you are welcome to visit during my office hours to do just that.

Course Delivery

In Fall 2022, RWS 1302 will be held primarily face-to-face on campus. There are a few sections that are designated as online. Those classes may meet synchronously or asynchronously through Blackboard. Whether face-to-face, online, or hybrid, the course is designed to engage students through discussions with your classmates and instructor using Blackboard (Bb). In order to succeed in the course, you will need to have regular use of the internet and a stable connection regardless of whether your class meets face-to-face, hybrid, or fully online. Although you can use the Blackboard App on your phone, it is highly recommended that you compose your work for class, and perform class activities, via a computer. If you don't have a computer or reliable internet at home, the university can help you with resources: [Technology Support - UTEP](#) . Please speak with your instructor immediately if you will need assistance. We want you to have the opportunity to succeed in class without concern about access. There are also computers available for you to use in the library on campus.

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

Students can prepare by taking the Blackboard Student Orientation:

<https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/cid/student-resources/blackboard-orientation.html>

Submitting Work: All work will be submitted through the Blackboard course shell for this class. Since the Blackboard comment and grade function works best with Microsoft Word, please submit all assignments in Microsoft Word following APA or MLA format unless directed otherwise. Be sure to name each submitted assignment with your name and the title of the assignment. (For example: "Rhetorical Analysis DRAFT- Sebastian Martinez", "Rhetorical Analysis FINAL-Sebastian Martinez").

Late Work: It is important to submit work before deadlines for full credit and feedback. If anything were to come up that prevents you from submitting an assignment on time, do not hesitate to reach out to me through email to let me know what's going on so that we can work out a solution.

Participation: All students will be provided with an equal chance of participating in the class, given that they will be called upon at random and expected to contribute to the course discussion.

Classroom Etiquette and Netiquette

- Debate, critical inquiry, and intellectual diversity are essential elements to higher education and a process of learning. There is the potential during this course for controversial and sensitive topics to be discussed during small group or whole class interaction (whether face-to-face or online). You are expected to demonstrate respect and courtesy for your peers and instructor when they express differing arguments, viewpoints, and/or experiences. Sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful speech will not be permitted. Angry displays, whether in writing, online postings, or in class discussions

will be handled as disruptions to the wellbeing of the class and responded to as negative participation.

- As a general rule: always consider audience, in class and online. As Virginia Shea writes in *Netiquette*, the first, or “golden,” rule of online practice is to “Remember the human.” Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading your postings. When reacting to someone else’s message (verbal or written), address the ideas, not the person and post only what anyone would comfortably state in a F2F situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for your RWS classmates and instructor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).
- For more on Netiquette, visit the “Ready for Online Learning” guides located in our Blackboard course shell in the Navigation bar.

University and Program Policies

FYC Class Attendance Policy

According to UTEP’s [Curriculum and Classroom Policies](#):

The student is expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions. 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 or with a grade of F after the course-drop deadline.

Please consult UTEP’s [Curriculum and Classroom Policies](#) for more information regarding Excused Absences for University-Recognized Activities, Absence for Religious Holy Days, and Military Leave

Attendance is mandatory for all freshman-level courses. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and workshops. The class discussions will help students learn to improve their writing, often through the discussion of a sample student project (sometimes the student’s, sometimes one written by a classmate).

In addition, the First-Year Composition Program has developed the following policies that should be adhered to strictly by all instructors:

For Face-to-Face Classes:

Students are entitled to a single week of unexplained absences without penalty (for example, 3 classes missed in a three-times-a-week class, 2 classes missed in twice-a-week class, 1 class missed in a once-a-week class).

After 2 total weeks of absence (not necessarily consecutive classes) the student’s grade is lowered by a full letter (A becomes B, etc.).

After 3 total weeks of absence (not necessarily consecutive), the student is automatically dropped from class.

Missing a scheduled conference with the instructor constitutes an absence.

For Hybrid Courses:

The attendance policy for hybrid courses aligns with the structure for face-to-face courses with each missed weekly class meeting constituting absence from a week of class.

The program recommends that the student contact the instructor to discuss the attendance policy and how it applies in cases in which it is not possible to attend a weekly class meeting, while continuing to maintain robust participation in class activities. [see also online courses]

For Online Courses:

In an online class, attendance is measured by participation in class activities. The attendance policy for online courses aligns with the structure for face-to-face courses, with each missed week of class activities constituting absence from a week of class.

The instructor can measure participation through various pathways, such as completion of scaffolded activities and discussion posts, and responding to other students' posts and feedback. We also recommend measuring course activity by using the Course Reports feature on Blackboard, particularly the Course Activity Overview.

When it becomes evident that it is not possible to participate in class, the program recommends that the student contact the instructor to discuss the attendance policy and how it applies, before resuming robust participation in class activities.

Drop Policy

If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact your instructor. Your instructor can help you with the drop process and you can contact the Registrar's Office. If you do not drop, you are at risk of being dropped by the instructor and possibly receiving an "F" for the course.

Academic Integrity

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs. Visit the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) page for more information on Academic integrity.

Accommodations

UTEP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](#). Students are encouraged to visit CASS in room 106, Union East Building or contact them at 747-5148 or cass@utep.edu.

University Writing Center

UTEP’s University Writing Center (UWC) offers free 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 to understand any writing assignment and help work on comprehending difficult textbook material.

Military Students

If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active) please visit the [Military Student Success Center](#). I also recognize the complexities of being a student veteran. If you are a student veteran, please inform me if you need special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran-related developments can complicate your academic life. If you make me aware of a complication, I will do everything I can to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you.

Course Support Resources

Title IX	915-747-8358	Institutional Compliance
Dean of Students	915-747-5648	Dean of Students
UTEP Health & Wellness Center	915-747-5624	https://www.utep.edu/chs/shc/ studenthealth@utep.edu
UTEP Police Department	915-747-5611	https://www.utep.edu/police/ police@utep.edu
Counseling and Psychological Services	915-747-5302	https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/counsel/caps@utep.edu

Important Dates for FALL 2022 Semester

Aug 22nd	Fall classes begin
Aug 22nd-26th	Late Registration (Fees are incurred)
Sept 5th	Labor Day Holiday - University Closed
Sept 7th	Fall Census Day; this is the last day to register for classes.
Oct 28th	Fall Drop/Withdrawal Deadline Note: Student-initiated drops are permitted after this date, but the student is not guaranteed a grade of W. The faculty member of record will issue a grade of either W or F.
Nov 24-25th	Thanksgiving Holiday - University Closed
Dec 1	Fall – Last day of classes
Dec 5-9th	Fall Final Exams