

Composition and Rhetoric I: 1301
MWF 8:00-8:50
MAB 205

Instructor: Julie Vega
Office and Phone: FH 206; 837-8771
Office hours: MWF 9:00-10:00; TTh 11:00-12:00 or by appointment
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Required Text:

Rosa, Alfred and Paul Eschholz. *Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition*, 10th ed.
New York: St. Martins Press, 2010.

Materials:

1 spiral

****Always come to class prepared with book, paper, spiral, and pen or pencil****

Course Description:

Composition and Rhetoric I is a course designed to develop the students' writing skills and reading comprehension. Students will focus on a variety of different types of essays. In this course, students will develop their writing and reading skills through daily exposure to writing and reading exercises. Topics included in this course are: elements of the essay, language of the essay, and different types of essays (illustration, narration, description, process analysis, definition, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, and argument). Areas which will be emphasized for essay writing are: appropriateness, unity and focus, development, and organization.

Course Objective:

After completing this course, the students should be able to demonstrate competency in:
Successfully define and recognize the various types of essays.

- Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of a well written essay.
- Develop a specific topic by giving the appropriate amount of specific and in-depth supporting details.
- Ability to present ideas clearly and with logical sequencing.
- Understand the importance of audience, purpose, and occasion.
- Identify and use the appropriate language and style for each writing assignment.
- Provide unity and focus by writing clear and precise thesis statements and topic sentences.
- Maintain a central idea throughout the entire essay as well as throughout the individual paragraphs.
- Select a point of view that is appropriate to the topic, and by maintaining this point of view throughout the essay.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): Disabilities Accommodation–It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodation because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator, Joyce Sesters in UC 211, 432/837-8178.

Attendance Policy:

Class attendance is mandatory and crucial to succeed in this course. You will be allowed nine absences before you will be dropped from the class. If you are dropped from the course you will receive a grade of “F.”

Extra Credit:

There will opportunities to receive extra credit throughout the semester that will be announced at a later date.

Writing Center and Academic Learning Center:

The Writing Center is located in MAB 102 and the Academic Learning Center is located in FH 213. Tutors are available to help you with any problems you may have with an assignment. Take advantage of this service any time you need help. The tutors are there for you.

Course Requirements:

This class is geared around helping you become better writers. You will have several reading and writing assignments each day. Not all of it will be difficult, but you will be expected to do the best you possibly can. I am not expecting perfection. What I do expect is for you to work hard at becoming a better writer. I expect you to work on your weaknesses as a writer and build on your strengths. All assignments **MUST** be turned in during class on the day they are due. **I WILL NOT accept any late assignments under any circumstances. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** You know when you are going to be absent because of a school related activity, so you must turn in any and all assignments, take quizzes, or take tests **BEFORE** you are to be out. **There are no make-up quizzes or exams given in this course!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!!!!!**

- Quizzes will be administered on a regular basis over assigned readings and other materials discussed in class. There will be **no make-up quizzes**. If you miss a quiz you will receive a zero for that quiz grade. At the end of each story is a list of vocabulary words that you are responsible for knowing—each Friday you will have a quiz over the vocabulary for that week of stories.
- Your spiral will be used for your journals. You will be given a journal entry each class day. You will have 10-15 minutes to write during class time. I expect you to use this time wisely. I also expect you to write at least one page per entry. There may also be a few take home journal entries and these should be at least one page as well. I will grade you on the number of entries you have compared to the number of entries that were assigned. I will pick up the journal three times during the session on any given day. Hint: If you come to class each day and write the required one page, you should easily get an A for your journal score. If you miss class, you should either get the journal entry from another student or write on a subject that interests you.
- You will be required to write 4 essays during the course of this session. Each essay must be at least 3 pages typed (use Times New Roman and 12 point font). Each essay **MUST** be **checked** and **signed or initialed** by one of the tutors in either the Writing Center or Academic Learning Center. The rough draft needs to be turned in with the final copy. I **WILL NOT** accept an essay that has not been checked. I **DO NOT** accept late essays.
- There will be two exams: mid-term and final. Each exam will consist of a multiple choice, short answer, and matching over the short stories, and lectures. There will be **NO make-up exams or early exams**.

Your final grade for the class will be calculated as follows:

Essays	50%
Journal	20%
Quizzes	20%
Mid-term/Final	10%

Tentative Schedule
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August

- 19 Introduction
Elements of Essay
- 21 **Thesis** pg. 73
“The Most Important Day”
“Anxiety: Challenge by Another Name”
“Faster, Higher, Stronger, No Longer”
- 24 **Unity** pg. 94
“My Name”
“No Mercy”
“The Meanings of a Word”
- 26 **Organization** pg. 114
“A View from the Bridge”
“Two Ways to Belong in America”
“The Ways of Meeting Oppression”
- 28 **Beginnings and Endings** pg. 137
“Of My Friend Hector and My Achilles Heel”
“How I Got Smart”
- 31 “The Wounds That Can’t Be Stitched Up”
“Unforgettable Miss Bessie”

September

- 2 **Paragraphs** pg. 169
“Simplicity”
“Once Unique, Soon a Place Like Any Other”
“I Just Wanna Be Average”
- 4 **Transitions** pg. 192
“On Being 17, Bright, and Unable to Read”
“Becoming a Writer”
“The Magic of the Family Meal”
- 7 Labor Day---No Class!!!!

- 9 **Effective Sentences** pg. 217
 “Childhood”
 “Salvation”
- 11 “My House: Plain and Fantasy”
 “38 Who Saw Murder Didn’t Call Police”
- 14 **Diction and Tone** pg. 273
 “Shame”
 “The Case for Short Words”
- 16 “Me Talk Pretty One Day”
 “Pop-A-Shot”
- 18 **Figurative Language** pg. 303
 “The Barrio”
 “The Jacket”
 “Watching a Night Launch of the Space Shuttle”
- 21 Library Research Instruction
- 23 **Writing with Sources** pg. 245
 “Praise the Humble Dung Beetle”
 “Be Specific”
 “The English-Only Movement: Can America Proscribe Language with a Clear
 Conscience?”

Illustration

- 25 Illustration pg. 325
 “A Crime of Compassion”
 “Let’s Think Outside the Box of Bad Cliches”
- 28 “Burdens of the Modern Beast”
 “In Defense of Dangerous Ideas”

Narration

- 30 Narration pg. 357
 “What’s In a Name?”
 “A Hanging”
 “Momma, the Dentist, and Me”
 “The Story of an Hour”

October

2 Review for midterm

5 Midterm Exam

Description

7 Description pg. 387
“Subway Station”
“Memories of New York City Snow”

9 “The Corner Store”
“My Favorite Teacher”

Process Analysis

12 Process Analysis pg. 407
PB&J group writing exercise

14 “The Principles of Poor Writing”
“Young Love”
“The Spider and the Wasp”

Comparison and Contrast

16 Comparison and Contrast pg. 474
“Two Ways of Seeing a River”
“Some Lessons from the Assembly Line”

19 “Grant and Lee: A Study of Contrasts”
“Fahrenheit 59: What a Child’s Fever Might Tell Us about Climate Change”

Cause and Effect

21 Cause and Effect pg. 501
“Why We Crave Horror Movies”
“Why and When We Speak Spanish in Public”

23 “Stuck on the Couch”
“Forty Acres and a Gap in Wealth”

Definition

- 26 Definition pg. 432
“What is Crime?”
“The Company Man”
“A Nincompoop”

Division and Classification

- 28 Division and Classification pg. 448
“You are What You Search”
“Friends, Good Friends----and Such Good Friends”
“Doubts about Doublespeak”

Argument

- 30 Argument pg. 525
Four Types of Arguments

November

- 2 “The Declaration of Independence”
“I Have a Dream”
- 4 “Building Baby from the Genes Up”
“In Praise of the F Word”

The Obesity Epidemic: Who’s To Blame?

- 6 “Don’t Eat the Flan” pg. 557
- 9 “Supersize Me: It’s Time to Stop Blaming Fat People for Their Size” pg. 562
- 11 Bring an Article Pertaining to the Obesity Issue of Americans

Shame: Is It an Effective Punishment?

- 13 “Condemn the Crime, Not the Person” pg. 566
- 16 “Shame is Worth a Try” pg. 571

Organ Transplants: How Can We Solve the Shortage?

- 18 “Need Transplant Donors? Pay Them” pg. 576
“A Moral Solution to the Organ Shortage” pg. 581

20 Bring an Article Pertaining to Organ Transplants

23-27 Thanksgiving Holiday

Man-Made Garbage: How Should We Control What We Waste?

30 "Hiding in Plain Sight" pg. 585
"On Dumpster Diving" pg. 591

December

2 Bring an Article Pertaining to the Destruction of the Environment

4 Review for final exam

7 **Final exam 8:00 a.m.**