

## English 1301 (Sections 6, 8): Composition I Fall 2014

**Professor:** Dr. Rosemary Briseño, PhD

**Class meets in:** MAB 200 (sec 6); ACR 203 (sec 8)

**Days:** T, Th

**Time:** 9:30-10:45 (6); 12:30-1:45 (8)

**Office:** MAB 112-B

**Office hours:** MWF 11-1;  
T-Th: 2-4 & by appt.

**Office phone:** 432-837-8152

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*“Writing well is not a gift reserved for the few but a set of skills  
that can be learned by anyone.”*



### Course Description

This is an introductory college course which emphasizes the composition of short essays and reading skills required of all students. **Prerequisite:** English 1300 or sufficient English, verbal, and reading scores to meet the requirements of English 1300 as described.

### 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.

### Required Textbook(s):

#### **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU GET THE CORRECT EDITIONS OF THE TEXTBOOK!**

Buying textbooks is expensive, but that goes with the territory of attending a university. Do not buy/rent/borrow older editions in an attempt to save money. If you do not buy your books, you are presenting yourself as an uninterested, disengaged student, and you may be asked to leave the class for that day. Students are expected to come to each class day prepared—which means bringing your books and all handouts, and showing a readiness to participate in class activities and discussions.

--*Patterns for College Writing* by Laurie G. Kirszner and Stephen R. Mandell. 12<sup>th</sup> Ed:  
ISBN 13#: 978-0-312-67684-1

--Various other *required* readings on Blackboard

**Recommended text:** *Writing With Power: Techniques for Mastering the Writing Process* Oxford University Press; 2nd edition 1998. ISBN 978-0195120189

### Required Materials

--One sturdy two- pocket folder capable of holding a minimum of three essays, 3-5 pages in length, and a minimum of 2 rough drafts per essay;(NO hard-backed binders)

--Internet access to Blackboard 9 and your sulross.edu email address. Many readings/ material and

important class news/updates will be sent to you via **Blackboard 9**. *It is your responsibility to check Blackboard 9 and your email frequently!*

## Student Learning Outcomes

*After completing this course, 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.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This course is theme-based and the principle ideology supporting the Course Learning Outcomes is identity, which includes: race, class, ethnicity, gender, and disability. We will be discussing topics of interest which some students might find difficult to discuss, argue, and assess. Students might find some of the material we will discuss in this class as offensive, politically (in)correct, or which otherwise goes against and/or challenges their personal, religious, and political belief systems. This course tests students' abilities in the application of rhetoric, argument, and exposition against controversial subject matter, NOT whether or not you agree with the ideas in the rhetorical and visual texts to which you'll be exposed. You will be graded on how well you apply and illustrate mastery of the five Course Learning Outcomes, which engage various critical, rhetorical, argumentative, and composition skills, a practice the University has set as a department-wide, assessment standard—*whether you agree with thematic material or not.*

### Course Learning Outcomes

**CLO 1 (Process):** Demonstrate engagement with the multi-stage processes of critical reading, formal writing, and public speaking. Students will analyze, evaluate, and improve the manner in which they incorporate the Writing Process into their own academic writing. This means multiple drafts are required per each Major Essay

**CLO 2 (Rhetoric):** Select and apply the appropriate conventions of personal, academic, or professional forms of expression.

**CLO 3 (Collaboration):** Synthesize diverse perspectives through collaboration in academic discourse communities.

**CLO 4 (Ethics):** Apply professional ethical standards to the research process and its public representation.

**CLO 5 (Craft):** Craft language that reveals aesthetic awareness.

**Identity:** race, class, ethnicity, gender, disability

## Course Policies

### Absences

Because this course is designed in a workshop/discussion format, you cannot fulfill the requirements of the course unless you attend regularly and on time. Your questions and contributions are central to our

discussions and, therefore, our understandings of readings and writing process. You are responsible for material covered in class, *whether you are present or not*. Note that in-class work cannot be made up.

### **Explained Absences**

These absences fall under university-sponsored activities (clubs, athletics, student government, etc). It is your responsibility to notify me before you will be absent, and to make arrangements to make up any assignment. You must notify me BEFORE you will be absent from class, not after. **Work must be turned in BEFORE student will be absent.**

### **Excused Absences**

These are reserved for serious cases of illness or personal/family injury and/or emergencies only, and are given at the **professor's discretion**. *Makeup work allowed only if student notifies professor ahead of time* (a reasonable amount of time, not just prior to when class begins); student is solely responsible to complete/turn in assignment(s) within one week of absence.

### **Unexcused Absences**

The student did not attend class due to negligence. Any work assigned/due earns "0" points. No makeup/late work allowed.

### **Excessive Absence Policy**

--In a **MWF** course, you will earn a grade of "F", if you have **9 TOTAL absences**, which includes explained, excused, and unexcused absences.

--In a **TTh** course, you will earn a grade of "F", if you have **6 TOTAL absences**, which includes explained, excused, and unexcused absences.

### **Tardies**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to stay for the entire class period. *Tardiness indicates an ill- preparedness and is rude and disruptive to both the instructor and students.*

### **Excessive tardiness will result in the following:**

Two (2) instances of tardiness equal an unexcused absence. If you are 15 minutes late, you will be counted as "unexcused absent." If a quiz (or any assignment) is turned in or administered at the beginning of class and you are tardy, you earn a "0," since these assignments are usually administered at the beginning of class; these cannot be made up.

### **Classroom Decorum**

In respecting others opinions, we will cultivate a classroom environment that fosters communal learning. Accordingly, please turn off any electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops, etc.

**DO NOT text during class, or surf the web while you are in class.** If you are continually asked to turn off your electronic devices, you will be asked to leave; you will not get credit for that class day's activities.

### **Student preparation**

*You must come to class prepared each class day, which is defined as....*

- come to each class meeting
- bring your books
- read assignments *before* coming to class. Keeping up with the reading schedule is absolutely vital to your success in this course. If you do not consider the reading schedule a priority, your grade will suffer because quizzes, class lectures, and major papers, revolve around the reading schedule
- do not leave class early (use a personal/sick day, if you must leave early)
- do not arrive late
- turn in assignments by the due dates
- check your email/ Blackboard Announcements on a **daily** basis

-bring in required handouts

-participate respectfully in class. Your input, thoughts, and ideas relative to course readings and other course materials, are an important part of this course during class discussion and peer review sessions

-DO NOT interfere with others' ability to learn; this means, you cannot monopolize the classroom conversation, rudely interrupt others, shame or intimidate others, or otherwise prohibit or interrupt the learning process with disrespectful and/or disruptive behavior. If you continually interrupt/disrupt class, you will be asked to leave, and you will earn "0" points for anything assigned that day.

### **Time Management**

For each hour of class, you should anticipate doing about two hours of work outside of class, including a considerable amount of reading for this course. Since writing and thinking is a process, dedicate some time each day to this course. You will be given at least one week's notice before each essay is due. I expect you to plan time each day to complete the work for this course.

### **Makeup Work**

*In the case of an Explained or Excused Absence ONLY:* it is your responsibility to turn in your work on or before the deadline. If the assignment is not turned in by the deadline, work might be accepted but ONE WHOLE LETTER grade (10 points) will be deducted per day the assignment is late.

### **Late Work**

No late work will be accepted. *All assignments are due on or before the deadline.* If you know you will be absent, it is your responsibility to turn in your work by the deadline. You may turn in your work early or have a friend/roommate/family member/carrier pigeon, etc., turn in your work for you.

### **Academic Honesty**

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Please see page 82 in the SRSU Student Handbook: for complete information.

[http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records\\_srsu/handbook\\_2012-2013-complete.pdf](http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records_srsu/handbook_2012-2013-complete.pdf)

### **Plagiarism Policy**

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. Please see page 82 in the SRSU Student Handbook: for complete information.

[http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records\\_srsu/handbook\\_2012-2013-complete.pdf](http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files//sites/default/files/users/docs/records_srsu/handbook_2012-2013-complete.pdf)

1. "Cheating" includes:

- a. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
- b. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
- c. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
- d. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting,

soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.

e. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.

f. Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

g. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.

h. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit.

i. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.

j. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

k. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

### **Plagiarism Policy**

As a simple guideline, if you submit your own work, you will avoid all serious types of plagiarism. Nevertheless, a responsible student should also consider the less obvious variants of plagiarism, especially when writing research papers that require citations. Instances of plagiarism, such as submitting an essay with sentences or passages cut and pasted from an online source, or a paper obtained from an online "paper mill," students in this course will automatically fail the assignment, receive a final grade of F, and be recommended for dismissal from the university. There is no excuse for serious plagiarism. I will also regard unattributed citations – verbatim copying of another's person's work without some indication of the source – as a serious form of plagiarism. In other words, don't insert any text in a paper that is not your own without also noting the source. You can email me with a question before an assignment is due, stop by my office during my office hours, or even parenthetically raise the question in your paper. *It's your responsibility to comply with principles of academic honesty; it's my responsibility to see that every student receives a fair and accurate grade.* **Here is my policy on plagiarism for this course:**



The *first offense* of plagiarism, in part or in whole, will result in a failing grade on that assignment(s). The *second offense*, in part or in whole, will result in a final grade of "F," and the student will be recommended for dismissal from the university. The student has the right to appeal to the Dept. Chair, then Provost, and eventually to the Provost and VP for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. The decision of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs is final.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Grace Duffy in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.

## Grade Meaning

- A 90-100: Outstanding performance in mastering of the subject. Achievement of superior quality. (4 grade : points per credit hour)
- B 80-89: Consistent performance in achievement beyond the usual requirements of the course. Achievement of high quality. (3 grade points per credit hour)
- hoC 70-79: Performance of a satisfactory nature. Achievement demonstrating an understanding of the subject sufficient for continued study in the discipline. (2 grade points per credit hour)
- D 60-69: Minimally acceptable performance. Achievement demonstrating below average understanding of the basic elements of the course. (1 grade point per credit hour)
- F 50-59: Achievement at a level insufficient to demonstrate understanding of the basic elements of the course. (0 grade points)

**Incomplete grade(I):**The grade of "I" is given by the instructor upon consultation with the student. The work to be completed and deadline for completion must be specified on the grade report to the Director of Records and Registration. A student may have a maximum of one academic year in which to remove an T during which time the "I" will not be calculated in the student's grade point average. f the work is not completed by the deadline set by the instructor, the "I" will be converted to an "F" and will be calculated n the student's grade point average for the semester in which the "I" was given. Normally, an incomplete grade will be awarded only for situations such as illness, family emergencies, or unusual circumstances which prevent a student from completing a course in a semester or summer term. Incomplete grades must be removed prior to graduation.

**Withdrawal grade (W):** The grade of "W" is given for courses dropped after the 12th/4th class days through the last day to drop a course with a "W" as published in the University's calendar. Students who wait until the published deadline must have complied with the class attendance policy of this catalog. An instructor is not obligated to recommend a "W" for a class if excessive absences have occurred. Students will not be permitted to drop a course or withdraw from the University after the published deadline.

## Student Resources

**For assistance with MAJOR ESSAYS:** The Sul Ross State University Writing Center is here to help students improve on their writing skills to ensure success. They are available to all students for any and all of their classes in which they must turn papers into their professors. The Writing Center is also available to assist you with submitting documents and homework to Blackboard 9. Contact them by phone at 837-8270, by e-mail at [writing@sulross.edu](mailto:writing@sulross.edu), or by visiting the Writing Center in MAB102. You are also strongly encouraged to visit me during office hours to discuss your essay (or any aspect of this course).

**For Assistance with BLACKBOARD 9 and other TECHNICAL ISSUES:** Call Lobo Technology Assistance Center (LTAC) at 432-837-8888 (x8888) or toll Free at 1-888-837-2882. Or stop by BAB 101 anytime during regular hours for in-person help desk services: Monday through Friday 7:30 am to 7:30 pm in BAB 101.

## Graded Assignments

**Quizzes, Assignments, & Journals.....30%**

Quizzes will be unannounced, and will usually be given at the beginning of some class periods. They will be based on previously assigned readings and/or class lectures. Sometimes, quizzes will consist of questions that will test your basic knowledge of reading assignments (short answer-questions). Assignments vary; some will be *mini-essays* based on the assigned reading(s) and lecture materials; others consist of various writing exercises. Additionally, you will sometimes summarize lectures as a journal entry after certain class meetings. Journal entries should include *a brief synopsis of information presented in the class that day*. All journal entries must be typed. No handwritten entries will be

accepted. I will not print out the journals for you.

**Two Exams.....20%**

Students will take 2 comprehensive exams (material covered will have been previously covered during quizzes) within the semester. These will be multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank.

**Three Major Essays.....40%**

You will write 2 major essays, with page requirements ranging from 3 to 5 pages in length, double spaced, in a standard font (12-pt. Times New Roman or 11 pt. Arial). Page requirements do not include the Works Cited page (bibliography). An essay will not be graded until you have revised it at least twice. You have a one-time option of revising one previously graded essay for a maximum of one letter grade (10 pts) above the original assigned grade. To be eligible, an essay up for revision must be turned in on time, not plagiarized, and have at least two comprehensive Rough Drafts.

**Student Participation.....10%**

On-time attendance, minimal absences, consistent, positive classroom contribution including discussion, regular professor/student contact including email, conferences, and office hours; turning in all work/assignments on time. **A NOTE ABOUT EMAIL:** While email is a great way to communicate, it often lends itself to informality and grammatical misconduct. Students participating in an academic relationship should carefully compose their email messages. Therefore, any email that is not properly addressed, appropriately composed, and free from grammatical/mechanical errors will remain unanswered.

#### Final Note

It's worth noting that there's a predictable and positive correlation between careful time management, consistent and on-time and academic success. I encourage you to make a wise decision as to what kind of student you will be early on and to plan accordingly. **No extra points, no extra credit work will be assigned, so don't ask. You are completely responsible for meeting all deadlines and keeping track of any changes made to the course schedule whether you are present or not.** You have several resources made available to you to ensure your success in this course, so I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them. **You will receive the grade you earn, not the grade I "give" you.**

#### CLASSMATE CONTACT INFORMATION

*In case you're absent from class, contact a classmate, not your instructor*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Weekly Schedule**

*Subject to change. Empty spaces will be filled with lecture, assignments (including quizzes, in-class work, etc), and discussion. It is **imperative** that you check Blackboard on a daily basis to ensure you keep up with class goings-on*

**MODULE 1** Differences between high school and college writing. Basic parameters essay writing.

**Week 1: 8/26-8/28** Course procedures discussed. “Orientation”, “Bad Habits,” Writing: Differences Between High School and College”

**Week 2: 9/2-9/4:**

**MODULE 2** Critical thinking

**Week 3: 9/9-9/11:** Major Essay parameters discussed; prompts delivered; decode prompts in class.

**Week 4: 9/16-9/18:** Major Essay #1 **DUE** (hard copy in class; digital copy due n BB by 11:59 pm)

**MODULE 3, 4** Beyond the Five-Paragraph Essay, Modes of Exposition

**Week 5: 9/23-9/25:**

**Week 6: 9/30-10/2:**

**Week 7: 10/7-10/9:**

**Week 8: 10/14-10/16**

**Week 9: 10/21-10/23: EXAM #1** (Midterm)

**Week 10: 10/28-10/30:**

**Week 11:/4-11/6** prompts delivered; discussed in class; Last day to Withdraw from University

**Week 12: 11/11-11/13:** Major Essay #2 **DUE** (hard copy due in class; digital copy due on BB by 11:59)

**Week 13: 11/18-11/20:**

**Week 14: 11/25-11/27** THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

**Week 15: 12/2-12/4:** writing prompts delivered; discussed in class; **EXAM#2**; Last class day (12/2)

**Week 16: 12/9-12/11:** Major Essay #3 **DUE**; Optional Rewrite **DUE** by 4 pm in office

***END OF SEMESTER***