



SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
Writing Skills ENG 0300: SSS
TTH 9:30-10:45; LH 201

Instructor: Micaela Aguilar
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Office Hours: M-F 9-12; 1-5

CREDIT HOURS: 3
LECTURE HOURS: 3

PLACEMENT: TSIA: Essay score of 1-3 with multiple choice score of 350 or higher OR 1-3 essay score with ABE score 4-6 OR no essay score (only a multiple choice score).

Course Description:

ENG 0300 Writing Skills (3-0). This course is designed for students whose score on an approved assessment instrument does not meet minimum requirements on the writing portion of the assessment. 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 grammar, sentence structure, paragraph development, and essay writing. Areas which will be emphasized for essay writing are appropriateness, unity and focus, development, and organization. Credit in this course cannot be used to satisfy requirements for any degree. Students must earn a grade of C or better to progress to ENG 1301.

Required Texts: English 1301 Articles

Materials: Internet access, Sul Ross email account, journal notebook, pen/pencil, folder with pockets. Always come to class prepared with these writing materials.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, the student should be able to demonstrate competency in the following:

- 1) Successfully complete any given writing assignment from creating and generating ideas, to revisions, to editing, to final drafts.
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of a well written essay:
 - a) Analyze a given topic by examining the topic, by showing an understanding of the importance of audience, purpose, and occasion, and by using a language and style appropriate to the writing assignment;
 - b) Provide unity and focus by writing clear and precise thesis statements and topic sentences, by maintaining a central idea throughout the entire essay as well as throughout the individual paragraphs, by selecting a point of view that is appropriate to the topic, and by maintaining this point of view throughout the essay;
 - c) Develop a specific topic by giving the appropriate amount of specific and in depth supporting details as well as to be able to present ideas clearly and with logical sequencing;
- 3) Show competency in matters of sentence grammar, mechanics, and usage:

- a) Write sentences that are effectively structured and free of structural errors and free of errors in usage;
- b) Spell common words correctly and use the conventions of capitalization and punctuation properly.

ACADEMIC ETHICS: Please remember that real success comes from learning how to do the work yourself. I believe that you are an honest individual and expect that all of the work that you do results from your own efforts. You know that a college education costs too much for you to waste your time trying to beat the system rather than figuring out how to learn the material. You know that any form of cheating is dishonest and it makes you look very bad. I will have specific responses to any academic dishonesty that I may encounter. A repeated instance of academic dishonesty may result in your situation being forwarded to the Dean of Student Life. Please see the *SRSU Student Handbook* for a more complete discussion of academic honesty.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Class attendance is mandatory and crucial to succeed in this course. If you fail to attend and/or participate, you will earn an “F” for the course. Also, it is a course requirement that you take the mid-term and final exams. Failure to do so will result in your earning an “F” for the course.

CELL PHONES: Cell phones going off during class are disruptive. If you feel that you have an emergency situation that requires your phone being left on, speak with me before class.

Academic Learning Center: Tutors are available in the Academic Learning Center, Ferguson Hall 213, free of charge. Please check with the Academic Learning Center for hours and days of tutor availability.

Writing Center: The Writing Center is located in MAB 102. Graduate students are available to assist you with any of your writing assignments.

SSS Lab: The Student Support Services Lab is located in FH 104. Tutors and Peer Mentors are there to help you! I AM HERE TO HELP YOU.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): If you have a disability and need an accommodation, you should contact the Counseling and Accessibility Center located in Ferguson Hall, Room 112 (432-837-8203). You are responsible for presenting to the instructor any accommodation letter(s) and instructions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This class is geared around helping you learn the basics of writing an essay to help you become a successful college student; therefore, you can expect to do a lot of writing and reading. Not all of it is going to be difficult, but you will be expected to do the best that you possibly can. I am not expecting perfection. What I do expect is for you to work hard at becoming a better writer. I want you to work on improving your weaknesses as a writer and building 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 tests **BEFORE** you are to be out.

- You will be given a journal entry every Tuesday and you will have 10 minutes to write during class time. I expect you to use this time wisely. I only ask that you write at least 2

pages (the notebooks are small and wide-ruled) for each entry. I will pick up your journal several times during the semester at any given day. I will grade you on the number of entries you have compared to the number that were assigned. Hint: If you come to class each time and write the required 2 pages, you should easily get an A for your journal score. If you miss class, you should either get the journal entry from another classmate or write on a subject that interests you.

- Lab Journal/Folder writing to be completed in the SSS Success Center.
- There will be two exams: mid-term and final. There will be NO make-up exams given.

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

Essays	50%
Journal	15%
Grammar Assignments	10%
Quizzes	5%
Mid-term/Final	20%

Grade distribution is as follows:

A=90+

B=80-89

C=70-79

PR (Progress)=69 or below (Indicates some progress but not enough to advance you out of Eng. 0300. However, you have been compliant with all course procedures.

D=60-69

F=59 and below

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August

- 25 Syllabus discussion, read Murray article, begin Eng. 1301 Writing Assessment
- 27 Read Richardson article, turn in Eng. 1301 Writing Assessment

Lab Work: Eng. 1301 Writing Assessment & QRI assignment

September

- 1 Read Pinker article
- 3 Diagnostic grammar test

Lab Work: SSS Mandatory Meeting

- 8 Blackboard: Submit Haas & Flower article response
- 10 Blackboard: Submit Ray & Burton article response

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise & Journal Entry

- 15 Read Rumsey article
- 17 Grammar Exercise

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise

- 22 Essay One
- 24 Read Kantz article, Essay One

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise

- 29 Read Lamott article, Essay One

October

- 1 Essay One

Lab Work: Essay One

- 6 Read Murray article
- 8 Read Neubert article

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise

- 13 Read Gillam article
- 15 Mid-term Review

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise

- 20 Mid-Term Exam
- 22 Essay One Revision

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise

- 27 Read article TBA
- 29 Essay Two

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise

November

- 3 Essay Two
- 5 Read article, Essay Two

Lab Work: Grammar Exercise

- 10 Read article, Essay Two
- 12 Grammar Exercise

Lab Work: Essay Two

- 17 Read article, Essay Two
- 19 Read article, Essay Two

Lab Work: Essay Two

24 Writing Assessment Revision

26 Thanksgiving Holiday

Lab Work: TBA

December

1 Reflective Note, Final Exam Review

3 Dead Day

Lab Work: SSS Final Exams Study Night

Final Exam Day TBA