

**Composition I**  
**1301:A01 MWF 10:00-10:50 FH 203**

**Instructor:** Julie Vega

**Office and Phone:** FH 212; 837-8771

**Office hours:** MW 9:00-10:00 & TTh 9:30-11:00 or by appointment

**Email:** [jvega@sulross.edu](mailto:jvega@sulross.edu)

**Required Text:**

Rosa, Alfred and Paul Eschholz. *Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed.  
New York: St. Martins Press, 2015.

**Materials:** Textbook, paper/spiral, pen/pencil

**\*\*Always come to class prepared. If you walk into class empty handed, you will be asked to leave and it will be counted as an absence.\*\***

**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.

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Recognize different purposes, modes, and audiences in writing
- Understand and practice steps in the writing process, including pre-writing, revising, editing, and proofreading
- Develop ideas fully and clearly in written assignments
- Organize ideas effectively in written assignments
- Recognize and practice conventional uses of grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and diction
- Construct narrative, expository, and analytical papers
- Employ critical thinking skills when reading and discussing assigned works

**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 Counseling and Accessibility Services; Ferguson Hall 112, 837-8203.

**Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is mandatory and crucial to succeed in this course. You will be allowed 9 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 be opportunities to receive extra credit throughout the semester which 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.

**Regulations for Academic Honesty:**

Each student must abide by rules and regulations published by the University. Following are the rules and regulations/policies for violation of academic honesty as stated in the *Student Handbook: Student Conduct and Discipline, Academic Honesty page 80*.

**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.

"Cheating" includes:

1. 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.
2. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
3. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of a non-administered test.
5. 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.
6. Bribing another person to obtain a non-administered test or information about a non-administered test.
7. 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 a rough and/or final version of an assignment by a professional typist.
8. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit.
9. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.

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

11. "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.

All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean and eventually, to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, an opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. The decision of the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs shall be final.

In the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs may refer the matter to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received procedural due process except as provided under Interim Disciplinary Action.

Any violations in this course will be grounds for automatic "0" on the assignment with no possibility for makeup work. If the violation occurs a second time, student will be referred to the chair of the department for further review and action.

### **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. **If I call on you during class to answer a question about what should have been read and you have not read, that will count as an automatic zero for a quiz grade for that day.** There will be **no make-up quizzes**. If you miss a quiz you will receive a zero for that quiz grade.
- Your spiral will be used for your journals (MUST be 8.5" x 11"). You will be given a journal entry at the beginning of each class. You will have 10 minutes to write during class time. I expect you to use this time wisely. I also expect you to write one page per entry. 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 randomly throughout the semester. If you do not have your journal in class that day, you will not be permitted to turn it in later that day or any other 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.

- Monthly Critical Thinking Reports (check calendar for due dates). A one page, single space summary and response of an article that covers a current event, or an article that pertains to a subject that we are covering in class. Cover (in essay format) the critical thinking questions from the handout provided. As part of the grade, you must present your article/discussion to the class.
- You will be required to write 4 essays during the course of this session. Each essay must be at least 3 pages typed (must use proper MLA format). \*Each essay **MUST** be submitted to SmartThinking via Blackboard **NO LATER** than 5 days before assignment is due. The rough draft and SmartThinking response need to be turned in with the final copy. I **WILL NOT** accept an essay that has not been submitted to SmartThinking. 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:

**1301:A01**

Essays	50%
Journal	15%
Critical Thinking Reports	15%
Quizzes/Mid-term/Final	20%

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**1301:A01 & 0310:A01**

Essays	50%
Journal	10%
Critical Thinking Reports	10%
Quizzes/Mid-term/Final	20%
IRW	10%

**Tentative Schedule**  
**Composition I**  
**1301:A01 MWF 10:00-10:50 FH 203**

**January**

- 20** Introductions
- 22** **Blackboard**
- 25** **Assessment**
- 27** Guidelines for critical reports and essays (format)
- 29** **Blackboard**

**Elements of Essay**

**February**

- 1** **Thesis** pg. 79
  - “The Most Important Day”
  - “Where Anonymity Breeds Contemp”
  - “Anxiety: Challenge by Another Name”
- 3** **Unity** pg. 98
  - “My Favorite Teacher”
  - “Our Vanishing Night”
  - “The Meanings of a Word”
- 5** **Organization** pg. 121
  - “A View from the Bridge”
  - “The American Man: Age Ten”
  - “Revolution on Eight Wheels”
- 8** **Blackboard**
- 10** **Beginnings and Endings** pg. 144
  - “White Lies”
- 12** “The Case for Short Words”  
“Shame”
- 15** **Paragraphs** pg. 169
  - “Simplicity”
  - “The Lean and Hungry Look”
  - “The Home Place”
- 17** **Transitions** pg. 192
  - “An Indian Father’s Plea”
  - “Becoming a Writer”
  - “The Magic of the Family Meal”

19 **Effective Sentences** pg. 218  
“38 Who Saw Murder Didn’t Call Police”

22 “Salvation”  
“Disconnected Urbanism”

24 **Diction and Tone** pg. 287  
“How Do Plants Know Which Way is Up and Which Way is Down?”  
“Me Talk Pretty One Day”

26 “Be Specific”  
“No, I Do Not Want to Pet Your Dog”

29 **Figurative Language** pg. 320  
“The Barrio”  
“The Flight of the Eagles”  
“Polaroids”

## March

2 **Writing with Sources** pg. 240  
“The Case for Censoring Hate Speech”  
“The English-Only Movement: Can America Proscribe Language with a Clear Conscience?”  
“The Clan of One-Breasted Women”

## **Illustration**

4 Illustration pg. 339  
“A Crime of Compassion”  
“The Blue Marble”

7 “Incivility Crisis in Politics is Just a Symptom of Division”  
“In Defense of Dangerous Ideas”

9 **Review for Midterm**

11 **Midterm**

14-18 **Spring Break**

## **Narration**

21 Narration pg. 372  
“What’s In a Name?”  
“Momma, the Dentist, and Me”

23 “Listening to My Father”  
“The Story of an Hour”

### Description

25 Description pg. 402  
“The Corner Store”  
“The Unforgettable Miss Bessie”

28 “My Rosetta”  
“Hunting Your Own Dinner”

### Process Analysis

30 Process Analysis pg.427  
PB&J group writing exercise

April

1 “How to Write Poorly”  
“Guacamole is a Cruel Mistress”  
“Why Leaves Change Color in the Fall”

### Comparison and Contrast

4 Comparison and Contrast pg.487  
“Two Ways of Seeing a River”  
“Taking My Son to College: Where Technology Has Replaced Serendipity”

6 “Two Ways to Belong in America”

### Cause and Effect

8 Cause and Effect pg. 517  
“Why We Crave Horror Movies”  
“Why and When We Speak Spanish in Public”

11 “Does Trying to Be Happy Make Us Unhappy?”  
“Black Men in Public Space”

### Definition

13 Definition pg. 447  
“What is Crime?”  
“The Company Man”  
“What Happiness Is”

### Division and Classification

15 Division and Classification pg. 463  
“The Ways of Meeting Oppression”  
“Doubts about Doublespeak”  
“Mother Tongue”

## Argument

- 18 Argument pg. 54
- 20 “A Farm Boy Reflects”  
“In Praise of the F Word”
- 22 “Lincoln’s Call to Service—and Ours”

## Crime: Finding an Effective Punishment

- 25 “Condemn the Crime, Not the Person”  
“Shame Is Worth a Try”  
“The Problem with Public Shaming”

## Slacktivism: Social Media Meets Activism

- 27 “‘Slacktivism’ Makes the World a Better Place From the Couch”  
“Putting Action Back in Activism”  
“Changing the Face(book) of Social Activism”

## Body Image: How We See Ourselves [online]

- 29 “Shrinking Women”  
“Women Are Dying to Be Thin”  
“What’s Photoshop Got to Do with It?”
- May
- 2 “Words From a Father to His Daughter”  
“A Silent Epidemic”
- 4 **Review for Final Exam**
- 9 **Final Exam @ 10:15**