

**Composition II**  
**MWF 8:00-8:50**  
**MAB 205**

Instructor: Julie Vega  
Office and Phone: FH 212; 837-8771  
Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00 & TTh 11:00-12:00 or by appointment  
email: [jvega@sulross.edu](mailto:jvega@sulross.edu)

**Required Text:**

Barnet, Sylvan & Hugo Dedau. *Contemporary & Classic Arguments: A Portable Anthology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2015.

**Recommended Text:**

Trimmer, Joseph F. *A Guide to MLA Documentation*. 9th Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2013.

**Alternative Online Guide:**

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01>

**Materials:**

Plenty of loose-leaf paper for in-class notes and assignments

**\*\*Always come to class prepared with paper, pen or pencil, and text\*\***

**Course Description:**

Composition and Rhetoric II is a course which focuses on various writing methods with emphasis on exposition, critical analysis, and research techniques. 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: argument, annotated bibliography, documentation, critical analysis, research. Areas, which will be emphasized for essay writing, are: appropriateness, unity and focus, development, organization, and documentation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Successfully define and recognize the various forms of argument
- Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of a well written essay:
  - 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;
  - 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;

- 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;
- Show competency in matters of documentation and research:
- Write essays in which the proper MLA documentation is used
  - Create/Write a research paper that supports one main topic
  - Combine the different forms of argument to support research topic

### **Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is mandatory and crucial to succeed in this course. You are allowed nine absences by the university. After the ninth absence, you will be dropped from the course with a grade of “F.”

### **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.

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

**Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook.

### Course Requirements:

- All assignments **MUST** be turned in during class on the day they are due.
- Each essay **MUST** be submitted to SmartThinking via Blackboard **NO LATER** than 5 days before assignment is due. The rough draft and SmartThinking response needs 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.
- **I will not** accept any late work, under any circumstances!! **NO EXCEPTIONS!!**
- No make-up quizzes or exams will be given.

### Assignments:

- Annotated Bibliography
- Essays (critical analysis and argumentative)
- Reader Response Questions
- Research Paper and oral presentation
- Quizzes/Mid-term/Final

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

Annotated Bibliography	15%
Essays	15%
Reader response Questions	10%
Research Paper	40%
Oral Presentation	5%
Quizzes/Mid-term/Final	15%

**Tentative Schedule**  
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**January**

- 20 Introductions
- 22 Blackboard**
- 25 Pre-Assessment (part 1)
- 27 Pre-Assessment (part 2)
- 29 Guidelines: annotated bibliography, essays (critical analysis and argumentative), reader response questionnaire, research paper, topics for research

**February**

- 1 **Library Research Techniques**
- 3 **Library Research Techniques**
- 5 Library Work—Library Research Handout; **Register Topic**
- 8 MLA Basics; MLA Documentation (works cited)
- 10 MLA Documentation (in text citation)
- 12 MLA Exercise
- 15 Direct Quote/Paraphrase/Summary
- 19 Ethical Writing and Plagiarism
- 22 Quiz (direct quote, paraphrase, summary, MLA, plagiarism)
- 24 “What is Argument?” 3-5; **Annotated Bibliography Due**
- 26 “Analyzing an Argument” 5-13; “Writing a Critique; Appendix B: Fallacies” (on reserve in library)
- 29 Reader Response: Choose one of the essays from the “Classic Arguments” section of your text.**

**March**

- 2 “Reading and Writing about Visual Arguments” (on reserve in library); **bring an advertisement to class**; Oral critique of advertisement to class
- 4 Inquiry Argument; Convincing Argument
- 7 Persuasive Argument; Mediation Argument
- 9 Review for Mid-term
- 11 **Mid-term**
- 14-18 Spring Break**  
**A College Education: What Is Its Purpose?**
- 21 “Three Reasons College Still Matters”
- 23 “Vocation or Exploration? Pondering the Purpose of College”
- 25 “Education’s Hungry Hearts”; **Argumentative Paper Due**

**The Death Penalty: Is It Ever Justified?**

30 “Death and Justice: How Capital Punishment Affirms Life”

28 “The Death Penalty”

“Executions Are Too Costly---Morally”

**April**

**1 Reader Response: Choose one of the essays from the “Contemporary Arguments” section in the text.**

**Facebook: How Has Social Networking Changed How We Relate to Others?**

4 “Is Facebook Making You Mean?”

6 “Facebook Reset”

8 “It’s Not You Facebook. It’s About Us”

“How Social Media Is Having a Positive Impact on Our Culture”

**Critical Analysis Due**

**Student Loans: Should Some Indebtedness Be Forgiven?**

11 “Debate on Student Loan Debt Doesn’t Go Far Enough”

13 “Is Forgiving Student Loan Debt a Good Idea?”

15 “Forgive Student Loans? Worst Idea Ever.”

18 **Research Paper Due**; Oral presentations

20 Oral Presentations

22 Oral Presentations

25 Oral Presentations

27 Oral Presentations

29 Oral Presentations

**May**

2 Oral Presentations

**4 Review for Final Exam**

**9 Final Exam @ 8:00**