

English 3312 Spring 2016**Dr. Sarah Roche** smoreman@sulross.edu**Office:** Sul Ross RGC Castroville Site; Room 100C**Phone:** 830 762 3004**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday 9:00-3:00 and by appointment**Course Description**

Learning to write is a complex, individualized process which takes place over time with continued practice and daily reading. Understanding the complex, recursive nature of enhancing writing and speaking, we will read and write every day. We will focus on developing our own vocabularies and on choosing the most precise, powerful words for papers. This class will be a writing intensive workshop course in which you will develop your reading and writing. You will write a sequence of assignments that culminates in a researched argument for our writing community and your own portfolio of revised papers.

Student Learning Objectives

Learning to write is a complex, individualized process which takes place over time with continued practice. Student Learning Objectives and assessment of how much students learn those objectives are as follows:

- Enhanced vocabulary
- rhetorical knowledge (purpose, audience, differences in communicative situations, genre). Assessment: argument essays;
- critical thinking, reading, and writing (locating, evaluating, analyzing, synthesizing primary and secondary sources; reflection). Assessment: in-class writing, argument essays, resource evaluations, peer critiques;
- understanding of and use of writing processes, (multiple drafts, revising, editing, proof-reading texts, peer critiquing and collaborative thinking and writing). Assessment: minute papers, all essays, group work and peer critiques;
- knowledge of conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing, and appropriate documentation). Assessment: in-class writing, all essays and final exam;
- Understanding of plagiarism, understanding and articulating the ethics of using other people's ideas, understanding the various approaches to documenting sources in the different disciplines, mastery of student's chosen documentation style guide.

Course Texts

- Raimes, Ann. *Keys for Writers*. 7th ed. ISBN: 978-1-111-84175-1
Note: you may purchase, rent, borrow any edition including electronic, but the later the better because guidelines for documenting sources seem to change each year. This is the text adopted by the SWTJC English department.
- Cullick, Jonathan S. *Religion in the 21st Century*. ISBN

Assignments

Please write papers before class. Post your paper to the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and also print out 2 copies for your group. Note: Please do not come to class late because you were printing at last minute, and also, do have the paper written before class. Grades for papers not ready for class will be dropped by 5 percent.

Assignment	Due Before Class	Points Possible
Week 2 summary	1/28	10
Week 3 response	2/4	10
Week 4 question	2/11	10
Week 5 response	2/18	20
Week 6 response	2/25	50
Annotated Bibliography	2/26	100
Week 7 question	3/3	50
Week 8 summary	3/10	50
Argument: proposal	3/24	50

Argument: working thesis	3/31	50
Argument: supporting reasons & evidence	4/7	100
Argument: revision	4/14	C/I
Argument: editing	4/21	C/I
Final Polished Argument	4/28	200
Portfolio	5/5	300
TOTAL		1000

Grading

A: 90 – 100

B: 80 – 89

C: 70 – 79

D: 60 – 69

F: 0 – 59

Course Grade is calculated as a percentage of your cumulative points. So if you earn 793 points, then your grade is 79% or a C.

Course Policies

Scholastic Honesty

All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class; the use of sources must be appropriately, correctly, and consistently documented. Quotations, paraphrases, or summaries that are not documented and the use of papers written by others constitute plagiarism.

Three different acts are considered plagiarism:

- (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas,
- (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and
- (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.

A grade of "F" for the course is earned if the work exhibits any of these kinds of scholastic dishonesty.

Turning in Papers/Assignments

To pass the class you must successfully complete and turn in to me each assignment by the due date. All assignments must be submitted to Blackboard. If you do not submit assignments to Blackboard, they will be considered late. If you fail to turn in any assignments, even one, you may earn an F for the course. If life gets in the way, and you find yourself turning in two papers late, withdraw from the course and take it in a semester when you have more time.

ADA Statement

RSRU Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Disability Services Coordinator assists students with disabilities in gaining opportunities for full participation in programs, services and activities. The Disability Services Coordinator is the Director of Student Services 830-758-5006 in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Schedule

Note: Every class period we will do the following but I will not clog up the syllabus with the details:

- Discuss assigned reading
- Work in groups on written assignment based on that reading
- Have a usage/grammar lesson
- Discuss research and finding/using sources for your evolving researched argument

Week 1 1/21

Students will understand the portfolio assignment and the necessity of revising returned papers for the portfolio and for weekly reflection.

Read "The Faith Club" (Cullick 3-12)

Week 2 1/28

Read "Physics and Grief" and "The Water Will Hold You" (Cullick 13-29 and 29-39)

Week 3 2/4

Read "Freedom in Exile" and "The Spiral Staircase" (Cullick 39-47 and 47-54)

Week 4 2/11

Read "The Multimedia Spiritual Experience: Popular Culture and Faith" (Cullick 179-187).

Week 5 2/18

Read "How Does It Feel?" (Cullick 189-193)

Week 6 2/25

Read "Discovering (not Uncovering) the Spirituality of Muslim Women" (Cullick 193-196)

Week 7 3/3

Read Steven Pinker's "The Evolutionary Psychology of Religion" (Cullick 103-113)

Week 8 3/10

Read "E.T. and God" (Cullick 198-209)

Week 9 3/24

Read Iannaccone's "Progress in the Economics of Religion" (Cullick 124-134)

Week 10 3/31 Turn in working thesis for argument

Week 11 4/7 Turn in supporting reasons and evidence for argument

Week 12 4/14 Turn in argument for revision workshop

Week 13 4/21 Turn in argument for editing workshop

Week 14 4/28 Turn in polished, edited, revised, perfect argument

Last Week of Class: 5/5 but last class day was 5/4 so we won't meet. You turn in to Blackboard your portfolio.