

ENGL 3312

Advanced Composition

Catalogue Description An

Lisa Cortez Walden, Ph.D.
Lisa.c.walden@gmail.com*
BEST WAY TO REACH ME

Lisa.walden@suulross.edu

intensive study of writing techniques useful to the advanced writer. Areas of concentration include grammar, rhetorical strategies, and style.

Introduction

Writing is just like exercising—the more you do it the better you get. So, we’ll be writing a lot in this course in order to make each of you better writers. In addition, we’ll also be reading some truly wonderful essays in order to decode their writing strategies. Finally, because a strong logical thread is central to effective writing, we’re going to discuss challenging essays in order to stretch our logic muscles. I’m Dr. Cortez Walden—think of me as your coach.

Learning goals

Through reviewing online presentations, participating in online discussion and writing and revising essays, you will:

- 1) Identify and develop rhetorical strategies for 4 different types of essays: Descriptive, Causal, Argumentative, and Critical
- 2) Expand your critical thinking and logic skills
- 3) Practice conventions of the writing process
- 4) Increase your fluency in the foundations of grammar, etc.
- 5) Learn legal and ethical ways to attribute other people’s works.

Course Texts

- *Keys for Writers* by Ann Raimés and Susan K. Miller-Cochran (ISBN 9781111841751)
- Online PowerPoints and Presentations (will be stored in the PowerPoint section of Blackboard).
- And additional readings as assigned (will be stored in Course materials, under folders by date)

Course Requirements:

Each week, you will read a selection from *Keys for Writers*, read an additional essay, review a short online PowerPoint on Blackboard, and participate in an online discussion. Every other week, you will turn in an essay assignment.

Assignments:

All assignments are due by midnight of their “due date”. At 12:01 a.m., I have programmed Blackboard to automatically deduct 10 points.

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Due Date
Participation in online discussion	60	Weekly, each Tuesday

Essay 1: Descriptive	10	September 1
Revisions Essay 1	n/a	September 8
Essay 2: Causal	10	September 22
Revisions Essay 2	n/a	October 6
Essay 3: Argumentative	10	October 20
Revisions Essay 3	n/a	November 3
Essay 4: Critical	10	November 17
Revisions Essay 4	n/a	December 2

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 Schedule

	Monday Reading	Tuesday Discussion post due	Thursday Homework due
Week 1: August 22-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1: The Writing Process (chp. 1-3) PPT: The Writing Process Descriptive Essay packet 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	
August 29-Sept. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part 1: The Writing Process (chp. 4-5) 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Descriptive essay due September 1
Sept.5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PowerPoint: Evaluating research 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Revisions to descriptive essay due September 8
Sept. 12-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Causal Essay Packet 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	

Sept. 19-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 2: Research, Sources, and Documentation (chp. 6-8) • PPT: Research, Sources, and Documentation 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Causal essay due September 22
Sept. 26-29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 3 and 4: MLA, APA, Chicago style Formatting (SKIM ALL CHAPTERS) • PPT: Formatting 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	
October 3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 6: Style (Chapter 28-32) • PPT: Style • Argumentative Essay samples 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Revisions to Causal Essay due October 6
October 10-13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 6: Style (chapter 33-34) 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	
Oct. 17-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 7: Common Sentence Problems (ALL) 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Argumentative essay due October 20.
Oct. 24-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPT: Fix your sentences • PPT: Activate your voice 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	
Oct. 31-Nov. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 8: Punctuation (SKIM ALL) • Review the OWL website on punctuation. 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Revisions to Argumentative essay due November 3
Nov. 7-10 VOTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 8: Punctuation (RE-SKIM ALL) • Critical essay packet 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	
Nov. 14-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 9: Writing Across Languages and Cultures (Chp. 57-59) • PPT: Cross-Cultural Communication 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Critical Essay due November 17

Nov. 21-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 9: Writing Across Languages and Cultures (chp. 60-62) • Code-switching, semiotics, and additional communication strategies 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	
Nov. 28- Dec. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No readings. 	Discussion post due, along with responses to two other posts. See Blackboard.	Revisions to Critical Essay Due, December 2.

How to turn in your assignments:

All assignments must be submitted to Blackboard via the SafeAssign link. Assignments may not be emailed to me. If you fail to turn in any assignments, even one, you will earn an F for the course.

Course Policies

This course follows all policies of the Sul Ross University system. In particular, you will need to be familiar with the policies regarding civility and plagiarism.

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.

ADA Statement

SRSU 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.