

English 1301 (section 5)

Composition I

Spring 2017

Instructor: Julianna Larrinaga, MA

Office: MAB 103-A

Class meets in: MAB 205

Office Hours: M/W 11-12:30

Class time: 10-10:50 T/TH

T/TH 9:30-11:30

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“Don’t tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass.” –Anton Chekhov

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to improve fluency in writing through reading professional as well as student writing, to examine the purpose for writing and their effects on writing, and to practice reading and writing extensively. This writing will include exercises in composition, peer evaluation, and other forms of university writing such as essay examinations. The objective goal, ultimately, is for you to see qualitative improvements in your ability to think and express your thoughts critically and to qualitatively improve your abilities to read and write fluently.

Course Expectations

This course is an intensive hands on writing workshop which requires class participation in daily writing processes and assignments, peer reviews, and group work. Access to a computer is necessary in order to complete course assignments. Assignments must be completed using word processing software as well as Blackboard for submission. Final drafts of all course work must be typed using 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, and double spaced using the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduating students in English will demonstrate that they can

1. Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development
2. Analyze literary works by applying principles of literary criticism or theory
3. Produce research papers that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of acceptable sources, employ them effectively through quotations or paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer’s own prose, and document them correctly using MLA format
4. Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written or multimedia projects
5. Compare/contrast and analyze major works and periods within World, English, and American literature.

6. Understand and implement principles of rhetoric through its modes and Aristotelian Appeals.

Required Textbook

Bullock, Richard, et.al. The Norton Field Guide to Writing with Readings and Handbook. (Fourth edition) ISBN #: **9780393264388** *Please make sure to get the correct edition of the textbook

Other required materials

- Consistent access to a computer and Blackboard
- One spiral notebook
- One two-pocket folder

I am aware that buying books is expensive. There are multiple options available when purchasing a textbook. However you choose to obtain your text, whether that be through Chegg, Amazon, Kindle, or the bookstore, you must have the textbook in order to pass the class. You are required to come to each class prepared – which means bringing your book, all handouts, your spiral notebook, and showing a readiness to participate in class activities and discussions.

Format for Turning in Assignments

When using Blackboard to turn in assignments, please turn in all of your assignments in either Microsoft Word OR PDF formats. I will not accept work turned in using any other format. Every assignment must be typed or digitally uploaded, unless otherwise noted. Please be aware that Blackboard works only in Firefox, Safari, or Chrome. Internet Explorer is not entirely compatible with Blackboard.

Tech Assistance

If you need help with technology when submitting an assignment, contact the Lobo Technology Assistance Center immediately. The phone number for LTAC is 432.837.8888, or you may see them in person in BAB 101, and on the Library ground floor in the back of the building. The hours are 8am to 5pm (Mon-Fri). ****Not knowing how to upload your work properly via Blackboard is not an excuse for turning in assignments late.**

Absences

Because this course is designed in a workshop/discussion format, you cannot fulfill the requirements of the course unless you attend regularly and on time. Your questions and contributions are central to our discussions and, therefore, our understandings of readings and the writing process. You are responsible for materials covered in class, whether you are present or not. Note that some in-class work cannot be made up.

*******Excessive absences will hurt your overall semester average*******

Three Kinds of Absences

1. **Authorized/Excused Absences** (*Assignments must be completed before you are absent*). These types of absences fall under university-sponsored activities (clubs, athletics, student government, etc.) It is the student's responsibility to notify me **before** s/he will be absent by email or by written notice, and to make arrangements to make up any assignment. Student must notify the professor **BEFORE** they will be absent from the class, not after. Work must be turned in **BEFORE** student is absent.
2. **Explained Absences** (*Possibly Excused*). These are reserved for cases of illness or personal/family injury and/or other emergencies, which are beyond the student's control. Explained absences are given at the professor's discretion only. Makeup work is allowed only **IF** student notifies professor ahead of time (not right before class begins); student is solely responsible for completing/turning in assignments within one week of absence.
3. **Unexcused Absences** (*Never Excused*). The student did not attend class or turn in their work due to negligence.

Excessive Absence Policy

In a MWF course, you will earn a grade of "F", if you have 9 TOTAL absences, which includes explained and unexcused absences. Authorized absences are not included.

In a TTH course, you will earn a grade of "F", if you have 6 TOTAL absences, which includes explained and unexcused absences. Authorized absences are not included.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted for any reason due to student negligence (forgetting to turn in an assignment, forgetting to log in, not notifying your professor of impending absence, waiting until the last minute to begin assignments, not knowing how to use Blackboard, not managing your time properly, illegitimate excuses, etc.)

Tardies

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to stay for the entire class period. ****Unless previously discussed**** *Tardiness indicates an ill-preparedness and is rude and disruptive to both the instructor and students.* You will be asked to sign in when you walk in late. Excessive tardiness will result in the following: Two instances of tardiness equal an unexcused absence. If you are late 15 minutes or more, you will be counted as "unexcused absent". If a quiz or any assignment is turned in or administered at the beginning of class and you are tardy, you earn a "0".

Professor Communication

I will communicate with the class through Announcements and by email, so be sure to log in **DAILY** to check for announcements on the course home page and to check your Sul Ross email account for any information regularly.

Academic Honesty

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonestly. Any student who represents someone else's work as his or her own will automatically receive a zero for that assignment, which will likely result in a failure for the course. Plagiarism can be purposeful or inadvertent, but either results in an unacceptable and unethical academic performance. If a second offense occurs, a failing grade for the course will be administered and the student will be recommended for dismissal from the university.

Disabilities Statement

Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations should contact me as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements to ensure the most hospitable and enhancing (cyber) learning environment as possible.

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking services may contact Mary Schwartz, M.ED., and L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432.837.8691. Email: mschwartz@sulross.edu

Other information

The Writing Center is located in **MAB 102**. Visiting the tutors will be part of your grade towards your major essays, so becoming familiar with this center is ideal in completion of the course. Graduate students are available to assist you with your essays.

Another center that is offered to students is the *Academic Learning Center* located in **FH 213**. The Writing Skills Lab offers tutors that will assist you in any problems you may encounter during an assignment. The Academic Learning Center offers tutoring in multiple subjects.

How you will earn your grade:

*Students are responsible for all assignments in this course and must satisfactorily complete all major assignments in English 1301 to receive a passing grade.

Major Assignment	% of Final Grade
<i>Essay #1 – Process Essay</i>	20%
<i>Essay #2 – Memoir</i>	20%
<i>Essay #3 – Literacy Narrative</i>	20%

<i>Journal</i>	15%
<i>Quizzes, INCW, Homework</i>	15%
<i>Final Exam</i>	10%
Total Average	100%

The vast majority of this course will be completed via the writing and discussion of both essays and theoretical readings. We will read and write about selections from the required text and outside readings, which I will provide to you through Blackboard. You are expected to participate fully in a completely engaged manner and will be held accountable for your participation, both in formal and informal forums, throughout the completion of the semester's work. All of your participation must be thoughtful, sincere, and tactful. In the pursuit of these goals, we will write *three essays* based on readings discussed in class and by applying skills obtained throughout the course. *Quizzes* will be given out randomly and will consist of questions based on readings assigned in class. *Journals* will be done at the beginning of each class and will be turned in every Friday for evaluation. I expect to see improvement throughout your journal entries. Journal entries will consist of free writing, brainstorming, and assigned prompts. Bringing your journal to class every day is mandatory in earning a passing grade.

Final Note

It's worth noting that there's a predictable and positive correlation between careful time management and academic success. I encourage you to make a wise decision as to what kind of student you will be early on and to plan accordingly.

You are completely responsible for meeting all deadlines and keeping track of any changes made to the course schedule. You have several resources made available to you to ensure your success in this course, so I strongly encourage you to take advantage of them.

*For detailed information regarding assignments, due dates, etc., please read Announcements in Blackboard. I review what we did during class, what's for homework, and relay any other important information. It is your responsibility to check announcements on a daily basis; failure to do so will result in earning a lower course grade.

I look forward to seeing what the semester has in store for us! Good Luck!

** Course schedule is subject to change

