

**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 & 11:00-12:00; T 12:30-1:30 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:

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.

**ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act):** 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 accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., 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. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu .

**Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, such as online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires 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. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

**Attendance Policy: Authorized/Excused Absences Statement**

Class attendance is mandatory and crucial to succeed in this course. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized/excused absence. While every effort will be made by departments to minimize missed class time of students by careful scheduling of authorized University activities, when a student has to miss a class due to an authorized University activity, **it will be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of the class in advance.** Students participating in an authorized University activity will have the opportunity to make up in-class work as long as they have given written (email) notice prior to the absence. If no advance is given, the student will receive a "0" for any assignment on the day of the absence. ALL assignments due on a date where the student will be absent, **MUST** be turned in before the student leaves (no exceptions).

**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:**

- All assignments **MUST** be turned in **DURING CLASS** on the day they are due.
- Each essay **MUST** have a rough draft that is either checked by a tutor in The Writing Center or submitted to SmartThinking. Rough draft/SmartThinking response needs to be turned in with the final copy. I **WILL NOT** accept an essay that has not been checked. 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	20%
Reader response Questions	5%
Research Paper	40%
Oral Presentation	5%
Quizzes/Mid-term/Final	15%

**Tentative Schedule**  
**Composition II**  
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**January**

- 18 Introductions
- 20 Blackboard**
- 23 Pre-Assessment (part 1)
- 25 Pre-Assessment (part 2)
- 27 Guidelines: annotated bibliography, essays (critical analysis and argumentative), reader response questionnaire, research paper, topics for research
- 30 Library Research Techniques**

**February**

- 1 Library Research Techniques**
- 3 Library Work---Library Research Worksheet: Locating books (meet in library)
- 6 Library Work---Library Research Worksheet: Finding articles using an electronic database (meet in library)
- Register Topic**
- 8 MLA Basics; MLA Documentation (works cited)
- 10 MLA Documentation (in text citation)
- 13 MLA Exercise (meet in library)
- 15 Direct Quote/Paraphrase/Summary
- 17 Ethical Writing and Plagiarism
- 20 Quiz (direct quote, paraphrase, summary, MLA, plagiarism)
- 22 “Analyzing an Argument” 3-13; **Annotated Bibliography Due**
- 24 “Analyzing an Argument” 13-23; Toulmin Method
- 27 Reader Response: Choose one of the essays from the “Classic Arguments” section of your text.**

**March**

- 1 “Reading and Writing about Visual Arguments” **bring an advertisement to class**; Oral critique of advertisement to class
- 3 Four types of Arguments: Inquiry, Convincing, Persuasive, Mediation
- 6 “Writing Arguments” 24-56
- 8 Review for Mid-term
- 10 **Mid-term**
- 13-17 Spring Break**  
**A College Education: What Is Its Purpose?**
- 20 “Three Reasons College Still Matters”
- 22 “Vocation or Exploration? Pondering the Purpose of College”
- 24 “Education’s Hungry Hearts”; **Argumentative Paper Due**

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

- 27 “Death and Justice: How Capital Punishment Affirms Life”
- 29 “The Death Penalty”
- 31 “Executions Are Too Costly---Morally”

**April**

- 3 **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?**

- 5 “Is Facebook Making You Mean?”
- 7 “Facebook Reset”
- 10 “It’s Not You Facebook. It’s About Us”
- “How Social Media Is Having a Positive Impact on Our Culture”

**Critical Analysis Due**

**Drugs: Should Their Sale and Use Be Legalized?**

- 12 “Drug Policy and the Intellectuals”
- 14 “There’s No Justice on the War on Drugs”
- 17 “Toward a Policy on Drugs”
- 1 **Research Paper Due**; Oral presentations
- 21 Oral Presentations
- 24 Oral Presentations
- 26 Oral Presentations
- 28 Oral Presentations

**May**

- 1 Oral Presentations
- 3 **Review for Final Exam**
- 5 **Final Exam @ 8:00**