

## Composition I

**Instructor:** Julie Vega

**Office and Phone:** FH 212; 837-8771

**Office hours:** MW 8:45 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

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**Required Text:**

Rosa, Alfred and Paul Eschholz. *Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed.  
New York: St. Martins Press, 2015.

**Materials:** : Textbook, paper/spiral, pen/pencil

**\*\*Always come to class prepared. If you walk into class empty handed, you will be asked to leave and it will be counted as an absence.\*\***

**Course Description:**

Composition I is a course designed to develop the students' writing skills and reading comprehension. Students will focus on a variety of different types of essays. 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: elements of the essay, language of the essay, and different types of essays (illustration, narration, description, process analysis, definition, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, and argument). Areas which will be emphasized for essay writing are: appropriateness, unity and focus, development, and organization.

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Recognize different purposes, modes, and audiences in writing
- Understand and practice steps in the writing process, including pre-writing, revising, editing, and proofreading
- Develop ideas fully and clearly in written assignments
- Organize ideas effectively in written assignments
- Recognize and practice conventional uses of grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and diction
- Construct narrative, expository, and analytical papers
- Employ critical thinking skills when reading and discussing assigned works

**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](mailto: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).

**\*\*You are allowed 4 absences total (authorized included). After the 4th absence, you will be dropped, and you will receive a grade of "F."**

***Extra Credit:***

There will be opportunities to receive extra credit throughout the semester which will be announced at a later date.

***Tutoring and Learning Center:***

The Tutoring and Learning Center is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library. Tutors are available to help you. Take advantage of this service any time you need help. This is a free service to all Sul Ross State University students.

***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:***

This class is geared around helping you become better writers. You will have several reading and writing assignments each day. Not all of it will be difficult, but you will be expected to do the best you possibly can. I am not expecting perfection. What I do expect is for you to work hard at becoming a better writer. I expect you to work on your weaknesses as a writer and build on your strengths. All assignments **MUST** be turned in during class on the day they are due. **I WILL NOT accept any late assignments under any circumstances. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!** You know when you are going to be absent because of a school related activity, so you must turn in any and all assignments, take quizzes, or take tests **BEFORE** you are to be out. **There are no make-up quizzes or exams given in this course!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!!!!!**

- **Quizzes:** will be administered on a regular basis over assigned readings and other materials discussed in class. There will be **no make-up quizzes**. If you miss a quiz you will receive a zero for that quiz grade.
- **Journal:** Your spiral will be used for your journals (MUST be 8.5" x 11"). You will be given a journal entry at the beginning of each class. You will have 10 minutes to write during class time. I expect you to use this time wisely. I also expect you to write ONE page per entry. I will grade you on the number of entries you have compared to the number of entries that were assigned. I will pick up the journal randomly throughout the semester. If you do not have your journal in class that day, you will not be permitted to turn it in later that day or any other day. Hint: If you come to class each day and write the required one page, you should easily get an "A" for your journal score. If you miss class, you should either get the journal entry from another student or write on a subject that interests you.
- **Blackboard/Discussion Board:** Blackboard/Discussion Board assignments must be completed in the time allotted for the assignments. If an assignment is not completed and the time has expired, the student will receive zeros for any assignments not completed. **Discussion Board:** The discussion boards allow us to speak to one another. Think of the discussion boards as the "cyber" equivalent of sitting in a seminar room with one another and talking about our readings, writings, thoughts, and reactions to the coursework. Please answer in detailed manners, using examples and analysis of the why and how of your answers. The posts must be approximately 200-300 words. You **MUST** also **REPLY** to 2 other posts. Responses to posts should be approximately 100 words. You will receive 2 grades: one for your discussion and one for completing two replies.
- **Essays:** You will be required to write 3 essays during the course of this session. Each essay must be at least 3 pages typed (use Times New Roman and 12 point font). \*Each essay **MUST** be **checked** and **signed or initialed** by a writing tutor in the Tutoring and Learning Center. The rough draft 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.
- **Exams:** There will be two exams: mid-term and final. **Mid-term** will consist of a multiple choice, short answer, and matching over the short stories, and lectures. The **final examination** will pull together the key ideas and aspects of the advent of composition.

Your final exam will consist of short answers and a fully developed essay that explores key concepts and personal analysis of the session's work. The goal of the assignment is to apply your discussions and measure your ability to pull together the semester's significant ideas comprehensively and clearly. There will be **NO make-up exams or early exams.**

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

Essays	40%
Journal	15%
Blackboard/Discussion Board	20%
Quizzes/Mid-term/Final	25%

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### Composition I Weekly Reading Assignments

#### Week 1:

<i>July</i>	10	Introductions
	11	Guidelines, Prompts, Blackboard, Assessment
	12	MLA Format
	13	<b><u>Thesis</u></b> "The Most Important Day" "Anxiety: Challenge by Another Name"

#### Week 2:

	16	<b><u>Unity</u></b> "My Favorite Teacher" "The Meanings of a Word"
	17	<b><u>Organization</u></b> "A View from the Bridge" "The American Man: Age Ten"
	18	<b><u>Beginnings and Endings</u></b> "White Lies" "Shame"
	19	<b><u>Paragraphs</u></b> "Simplicity" "The Lean and Hungry Look"
	20	<b><u>Transitions</u></b> "Becoming a Writer" "The Magic of the Family Meal"

### **Week 3:**

- 23     **Effective Sentences**  
          “38 Who Saw Murder Didn’t Call Police”  
          “Salvation”
- 24     **Description**  
          “The Corner Store”  
          “The Unforgettable Miss Bessie”
- 25     Review for Mid-term
- 26     **Mid-term exam**
- 27     **Diction and Tone**  
          “Me Talk Pretty One Day”  
          “Be Specific”

### **Week 4: \*Descriptive Essay Due**

- 30     **Figurative Language**  
          “The Barrio”  
          “The Flight of the Eagles”  
          “Polaroids”
- 31     **Narration**  
          “What’s In a Name?”  
          “Momma, the Dentist, and Me”  
          “Listening to My Father”  
          “The Story of an Hour”
- August 1*     **Illustration**  
                  “A Crime of Compassion”  
                  “The Blue Marble”  
                  “In Defense of Dangerous Ideas”
- 2     PB & J Group Work
- 3     Execute PB &J Exercise

## **Week 5: \*Narrative Essay Due**

- 6     **Process Analysis**  
      “How to Write Poorly”
- 7     “Guacamole is a Cruel Mistress”  
      “Why Leaves Change Color in the Fall”
- 8     **Comparison and Contrast**  
      “Two Ways of Seeing a River”
- 9     “Taking My Son to College: Where Technology Has Replaced  
      Serendipity”  
      “Two Ways to Belong in America”
- 10    Blackboard

## **Week 6: \*Process Analysis Due**

- 13    **Cause and Effect**  
      “Why We Crave Horror Movies”  
      “Why and When We Speak Spanish in Public”
- 14    “Does Trying to Be Happy Make Us Unhappy?”  
      “Black Men in Public Space”
- 15    Review for Final Exam
- 16    Final Exam