



ENGL 5308: Seminar: Studies and Research Techniques in the English Language: Rhetorical Grammar

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Office Hrs: T, W, Th 10 – 2
and by appointment

Course Description

English 5308 brings together theories and practices of researchers and linguists to provide graduate students with conscious knowledge of sentence structure and to help them recognize and apply the grammatical choices available for producing different kinds of texts for different audiences. Students will discuss the theories and options they learn in video conferences and discussion boards, they will complete weekly grammar exercises, they will use the principles learned to revise their own writing, and they will produce a project that addresses a pattern of error in student writing. The course will conclude with student presentations of their project and a final exam.

Course Texts

Kolln, Martha and Loretta Gray. *Rhetorical Grammar*. 8th edition. Peason, 2017.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to

1. Apply principles of rhetorical grammar to enhance style, specifically in terms of word choice, sentence structure, punctuation, and figurative language.
2. Teach lessons about the versatility of verbs.
3. Teach lessons about enhancing messages through sentence cohesion and rhythm.
4. Demonstrate strategies for helping writers identify and address patterns of error in their writing.
5. Write and defend a seminar paper addressing grammar in the field of composition and rhetoric.

Activities (aligned to Course Objectives CO)

Activity	Due Dates	Points out of 1000
Grammar exercises—ten (CO 2, 3, 4)	weekly, due Saturdays	100
Discussions (CO 2, 3, 4)	weekly	100
Reflection and Revision Essay (CO 1)	11/3	200
Seminar Paper (CO 1, 5)	11/17	200
Teaching Demonstrations (CO 2, 3)	Weeks 3, 4, 5 according to sign-up	200
Final Exam (CO 2, 3, 4)	12/11	200

Assignments

Exercises: these are short sets in each of Kolln and Gray's *Rhetorical Grammar* that you submit to the appropriate Assignments link. You will complete about five or six sets of exercises each week. When exercises ask you to focus on your own writing, use them to work on the Reflection and Revision Essay.

Video conferences: short meetings to discuss assigned readings and exercises with question and answer segment.

Reflection and Revision Essay: a rhetorical analysis of students' own previous writing using the principles of rhetorical grammar. Some of the exercises and FOR GROUP DISCUSSION questions in *Rhetorical Grammar* may help with this revision.

Seminar Paper: a researched inquiry project.

Presentation: in a video conference, you will teach a grammar lesson to the class on the versatility of verbs or sentence cohesion and rhythm.

Final Exam: may include short questions and will include essay questions, an open-book, take-home assignment.

Course Policies

SRSU Distance Education Policy: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require 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.

Procedures and Policies for Blackboard Courses

Course assignments must be produced in formats that we can open and read. In general, saving files as Microsoft Word documents or as rtf files will be best. If you have questions about Blackboard, contact Sandy Bogus at 432-837-8523 or sbogus@sulross.edu.

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.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College 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 Kathy Biddick in Student Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Schedule

Ch refers to chapters in Kolln and Gray's *Rhetorical Grammar*

Generally, complete all exercises and group discussion questions and submit to Assignments by Saturday

Week One 8/26 – 9/1

Ch 1 on words and phrases in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises

Begin preparing Reflection and Revision Essay and Seminar Paper (see Assignments folder for handouts)

Week Two 9/3 – 9/8

Ch 2 on sentence patterns in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises

Week Three 9/10 – 9/15 Teaching Demonstrations

Ch 3 on verbs in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises

Week Four 9/17 – 9/22 Teaching Demonstrations

Continue Ch 3 on verbs in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference on teaching students to revise verb issues in written texts, Exercises

Week Five 9/24 – 9/29 Teaching Demonstrations

Ch 4 on Coordination and Subordination in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises and and practice revising students' own writing for Reflection and Revision Essay due 11/3

Week Six 10/1 – 10/6

Ch 5 on adverbials in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises and practice revising students' own writing for Reflection and Revision Essay due 11/3

Week Seven 10/8 – 10/13

Complete midterm evaluation

Ch 6 on adjectivals in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises and practice revising students' own writing for Reflection and Revision Essay due 11/3

Week Eight 10/15 – 10/20

Ch 7 on nominals in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises and practice revising students' own writing for Reflection and Revision Essay due in two weeks

Week Nine 10/22 – 10/27

Ch 9 on cohesion in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises and practice revising students' own writing for Reflection and Revision Essay due next week

Week of 10/29 – 11/3 I will be at a conference; Submit Reflection and Revision Essay.

Week Ten 11/5 – 11/10

Ch 10 on sentence rhythm in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Video Conference, Exercises; edit researched project

Week Eleven 11/12 – 11/17

Submit Research Project

Ch 11 on voice in *Rhetorical Grammar*; Exercises

Week Twelve 11/19 – 11/21 Thanksgiving Week

Ch 12 on words and word classes; prepare for presentations

Week Thirteen 11/26 – 12/1

complete end of semester course evaluations; prepare for presentations

Ch 13 on punctuation in *Rhetorical Grammar*, Exercises, no video conference this week

Week Fourteen 12/3 – 12/8

Presentations and complete course evaluations

Week Fifteen 12/10 – 12/11

Review and Final Exam