ENG[L] 3312: Advanced Composition, Spring 2024

Instructor: Jules Lattimer
Email: jules.lattimer@sulross.edu
Office hours: By appointment only. Please email me to schedule a meeting over Zoom.

I do not have a physical office on campus in Alpine or Del Rio. The phone number in the university directory does not reach me. To contact me, please use email.

Course Description

An intensive study of writing conducted in a workshop format focused on rhetoric, critical thinking, reading, writing processes, and conventions of usage, grammar, punctuation, and documentation of sources.

My goal for this course is to help you build strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Since we don't meet as a whole class, your work will be self-driven, with the occasional, joyous opportunity to collaborate. Each week, you'll complete a short quiz that demonstrates you've done the reading, and you'll submit a Wednesday paper to Blackboard for my review. In the second month of this semester, each of you will read Ross Gay's book of essays, *The Book of Delights*. While we read, we'll also practice responding to works of literature through our personal, critical, and academic lenses. From there, we'll begin to build toward our course papers, in which we conduct a research project that is inspired and supported by our course readings thus far. This research project will be robust – focused on the tasks of posing an argument, selecting and citing sources, organizing/building a logical paper, and revision.

Wednesday Papers

The main function of the Wednesday papers is for you to exercise your writing muscles rigorously and regularly. Like any regimen—going to the gym, learning an instrument—writing requires practice. Writing every week also ensures that you are never stuck staring at a blank Word document when it's time to write a more consequential essay. Throughout the course, we will discuss the tools that build an effective piece of writing, and you'll practice those tools in your Wednesday papers.

Required Materials

It'll be up to you to procure Ross Gay's *Book of Delights* by mid-February. Thriftbooks.com is affordable and reliable! I highly recommend it:
https://www.thriftbooks.com/w/the-book-of-delights-essays_ross-gay/19088059/item/32303263/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=pmax_high_vol_scarce_under_%2410&utm_adgroup=&utm_term=&utm_content=&gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQiAnfmsBhDfARIsAM7MKi3Nd1HVKgtzP5iEJ-KPh161PNdBcdzk3CvOP_sWpJpUOSYZ8BtkPw0aAkizEALw_wcB#idiq=32303263&edition=20299785

I also recommend your campus or local libraries, or local bookstores, and of course it's available at large retailers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble, but isn't it nicer to support the smaller businesses?

Here is the ISBN number to help you with your search: 1616207922

All other reading materials will be available as PDFs/as links on Blackboard.

Grading Breakdown

20% Reading Quizzes and lesson bits – At the moment, I expect to post 10-15 quizzes, meaning each one is not very consequential. But keep up with them so you don't fall out of the habit, fall behind on reading, or risk losing all 20%. I also post little things, short answer questions that aren't quite an essay. These answers will fall into the "lesson bits" category, and graded within this 20% section.

30% Wednesday Papers – At the moment, I expect to assign 10-12 of these. This could change! And this could add up quickly. Don't fall behind.

30% Final Paper – There will be many component parts of your final paper and a detailed rubric to accompany this assignment down the line. Don't let that intimidate you – this is to structurally support you as you embark on this assignment *and* the component parts have the double-effect of breaking up your grade.

20% Final Exam — This will be posted to Blackboard for you to complete from May 6 to May 8.

Final course grade	Letter grade for your transcript
90 - 100%	A
80 - 89%	B
70 - 79%	C
60 - 69%	D
0 - 59%	F

Late Work

You have two chances during the entire semester to submit your weekly assignments late. This is a good lesson: don't use these chances unless it's an emergency. I know that things happen — cars break down, we get sick, our loved ones need us. This isn't likely to happen over and over and over again, though if it does, please be in touch. Do your best to complete your work on time so that you're free to use these chances when you are struck by an emergency. I expect you to carve out time to complete work for this class each week. This is the agreement we've entered into as we embark on this course together, so please uphold your end of that agreement.

How it works: Email me to ask that I look for your late assignment. In the email, let me know if it's your "first chance" or your "second chance." Your work will be accepted for credit **within 7 days of its original due date** in these cases. Beyond 7 days, or beyond these two chances, it is up to me to decide whether to accept your late work or not. I will be reasonable, but I do lose patience after a while, so please be respectful of this system.

Your final course paper and your final exam are the two exceptions to this rule. For both assignments, expect they will only be accepted for credit if submitted to Blackboard on time. As such, please protect your grade by submitting these assignment early, so you don't fall victim to sudden emergencies, like computer/wifi problems.

Original work and Plagiarism

Since this is a writing course, and thus we are tasked with strengthening your writing, you can expect demanding writing assignments throughout this term. Your writing will be bolstered by course reading assignments and your own research, so correctly citing your sources will become a crucial component of these assignments.

While there will be some clearly-marked opportunities to collaborate, please uphold your own honor by only submitting work that is utterly your own. Help from tutors, family, friends, and online sources is expected, within reason—but every single sentence should be of your own creation.

Chat GPT and other AI writing software are entirely prohibited from this coursework. It is remarkably obvious when this software is in use, even if you think it is not. Every assignment you submit will be run through an AI detector. If AI is detected, you'll receive a failing grade for that assignment. If it's a continuous problem, I will recommend to the department that you are removed from this course. If AI is detected on your final paper, you will receive a failing grade for this course.

Style expectations

During this term, we'll study the effective sentence, paragraph, and essay. We'll talk about interesting words or turns of phrase that maximize the rhetorical effect of your ideas. I want to see you effectively build these papers, and then style them so that they're easy to read. Please reference Purdue OWL for everything MLA-format-related, including how to format your Wednesday papers. I won't take points off if it's incorrect in your Wednesday papers, but I expect you to try, so that you have a resulting final paper that demonstrates you've practiced and mastered this style of essay.

ADA Statement

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu or contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, 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 a secure login. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Libraries

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu/. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LobolD and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

New for Fall 2023: Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and ScanIt to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Supportive Statement

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

SRSU Writing Center

The SRSU Writing Center is located in Blackboard >> Organizations! Just type "writing center" or see the link in our Blackboard course menu. View an invitation to visit at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xw3BxIUCq5U

Course Learning Objectives

This course offers you the opportunity to read and analyze a variety of both topical and critical articles that will serve as a model for the types of writing that you will practice this semester. We will use a variety of rhetorical styles, and we will also work on your editing skills by improving your grammar. We will also help you better your peer revision skills by collaborating and reading each other's work.

Student Learning Outcomes

Writing students will demonstrate the ability to do the following:
SLO 1: Construct essays that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development

SLO 2: Study rhetorical theory and then apply the theory to analyze the form of popular and academic writing.

SLO 3: Produce a research paper that demonstrates 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

SLO 4: Demonstrate creativity or originality of thought in written and multimedia projects

SLO 5 Study grammar in relation to the art of writing in order to improve both as a writer and editor.

Marketable Skills

1) Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking.

2) Students will use different research strategies to address problems and develop ideas that engage a variety of perspectives.

3) Students will recognize how social and cultural contexts shape meaning and language.