**Rhetoric and Writing Studies RWS 1301**

**CRN:**

**Meeting Times/Days:**

**Place:**

**Instructor:** Jennifer Falcon

**Email:** jfalcon3@utep.edu

**Phone:** 323-243-4739

**Office and Hours:** M/T/W 10 – 12:30 Library 520

**Course Description**

The goal of RWS 1301 is to continue developing students’ written communication skills. This course will continue to help students develop critical thinking skills by building on their strengths, reinforcing grammar, and organization of ideas through minor and major assignments. Students will reflect on their writing process to facilitate effective communication in educational, professional, and social contexts. Effective communication is based on knowledge specific to subject matter, genre, rhetorical strategy, and writing process. It is designed to prepare you for the writing you will do throughout your university experience as well as in professional and civic environments. This course offers you a curriculum that empowers you to determine the most effective rhetorical strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts

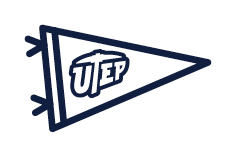
**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students will:

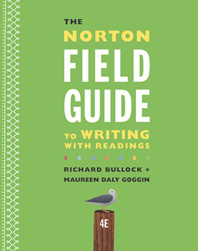
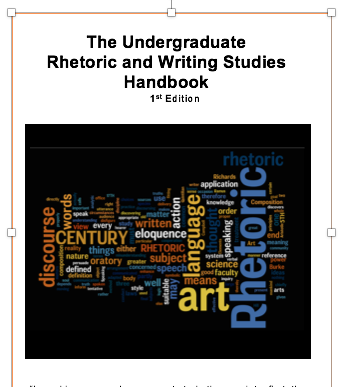
* Reinforce English grammar.
* Develop writing strategies and skills needed for academic writing.
* Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge.
* Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts, argue, and build on each other’s work.
* Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts.
* Engage in reflection about learning.

This course is also designed to promote your overall success, inside and outside the classroom. Our coursework will help you to improve in key areas such as Communication, Confidence, Critical Thinking, Leadership, Problem Solving,

Social Responsibility and Teamwork. To find out more about the university’s plan to improve student engagement and learning, visit the [UTEP Edge](http://utepedge.utep.edu/).



**Required Texts & Materials**



Bullock, R., Daly Goggin, M. (2016). The Norton Field

Guide to Writing 4e/MLA’16 with Readings EBook/Inquizitive Reg Card. 978-0-393-63254-4

Biswas, M. and Crnkovic Padon D. eds. (2016). The Undergraduate Rhetoric and Writing Studies Handbook. (An e-book available through the bookstore or through the publisher Follet/VitalSource.

ISBN: 978-0-692-75953-0

Additional readings may also be posted on Blackboard.

In the next section, I provide an overview of the assignments we’ll cover in this course. Specific assignment guidelines can be found in the Handbook. Further

instructions on our Blackboard course content.

**Course Assignments** **Assignment #1:**

**E-portfolio Website/Blog** (100 points)

Maintain a reflection blog and develop an E-Portfolio

**** **Assignment #2:**

**Grammar Review and Writing Process Reflection** (100 points) **** **Assignment #3: Choosing a Topic for the Semester** (as part of the participation points)

 **Assignment #4:  
Analyzing Assigned Readings and Writing a Reading Response** (50 points)



**Assignment #5:  
Organizing, Writing, Revising,**

(50 points)

**Assignment #6 Annotated Bibliography** **Draft** Selecting, and evaluating sources (50 points)

**Assignment #7 Annotated Bibliography** **Final Draft (**100 points)

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**Assignment #8 Community Research Paper** (100 pts)

Drafting Your Community Problem Report

******Assignment #9 Community Research Paper Peer Review** (50 points)

**Assignment #10 Community Research Paper Presentation** (100 points)

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**Participation in Class and Online**. (300 points)

Weekly Grammar Lessons and Quizzes

Weekly Reading Responses  
Assignment Reflections

**Grade Distribution**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A = 1000-900 | B = 899-800 | C = 799 -700 | D = 699- 600 | F = 599 and below |

**University and Instructor Policies**

This course is designed to engage you through discussions in class and Bb. I hope you actively participate in this course because I have found it is the best way to engage you in learning.  
**Course Delivery:**

This course uses extensively the online learning platform Blackboard. All of the supplementary material for the class will be delivered via Blackboard. It is strongly recommended that you have access to the Internet from home and are comfortable using a computer. If home access is not possible, arrangements can be made to use a computer regularly on campus in order to complete the work. Student computer labs such as ATLAS (http://issweb.utep.edu/) are often available until midnight, but schedules do vary. A great deal of work will be done online, and not having access to a computer will affect your ability to turn in assignments on time.

**Submitting Work**: All work will be submitted through our Bb course shell. Since Bb comment and grade function works best with Microsoft Word, please submit all assignments in Microsoft Word following APA format unless directed otherwise. Microsoft Word is available to students at all campus computers and through the Cloud.

Be sure to name each submitted assignment with your first initial, last name, and an abbreviation of the assignment.

For example:

jmartinez rhetanalysis draft

jmartinez rhetanalysis final

**Due Dates for Major Assignments:** All major assignments will be due on Fridays at 5 p.m. MST.

**Late Work:** It is important to submit work before deadlines for full credit and feedback. Late work will not be accepted.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

* Electronic devices can be very helpful in the classroom whether a smartphone, tablet, or computer. However, if their use does not contribute to the conversation or tasks in the classroom then I have the right to ask you to put it away or turn it off, even if it is a personal device.
* Debate, critical inquiry, and intellectual diversity are essential elements to higher education and a process of learning. There is the potential during this course for controversial and sensitive topics to be discussed during small group or whole class interaction, and to surface through our social media activity. You are expected to demonstrate the utmost respect and courtesy for your peers with differing arguments, viewpoints, and/or experiences. Sexist, racist, homophobic, or other hateful speech will not be tolerated.
* As a general rule: always consider audience, in class and online. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings. When reacting to someone else’s message (verbal or written), address the ideas, not the person and post only what anyone would comfortably state in a f2f situation.
* Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

**Attendance:**

According to The University of Texas at El Paso’s catalog: “**The student is expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions and attendance is mandatory for all freshman-level courses (1XXX).**  It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. (For further information regarding excused absences refer to UTEP’s Catalog [Curriculum and Classroom Policies](http://catalog.utep.edu/undergrad/academic-regulations/curriculum-and-classroom-policies/).

You are expected to attend all class meetings and to participate in discussions and workshops. The class discussions will help you learn to improve your writing, often through the discussion of a sample student project (sometimes yours, sometimes one written by a classmate).

Since this class meets twice a week, **if you are absent from more than four classes** (= two weeks**), you will be dropped from the course**. Missing a scheduled conference with the instructor constitutes an absence.

**Academic Integrity**

The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of [academic integrity](http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=54418). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Instructors are required to report the suspected academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs. Visit the [Office of Dean of Students](http://www.utep.edu/dos) page for more information on Academic integrity.

**Accommodations:** Your success in this class is important to me. We will all need accommodations because we all learn differently. If there are aspects of this course that prevent you from learning or exclude you, please let me know as soon as possible. Together we’ll develop strategies to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. I also encourage you to visit the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in room 106, Union East Building or contact them at 747-5148 or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). If you need official accommodations, you have a right to have these met. There are also a range of resources on campus, including the Writing Center, Counseling Center, Military Student Success Center and Academic Advising Center.

**University Writing Center**: UTEP’s University Writing Center (UWC) offers free writing tutoring assistance for all UTEP students. The tutors are undergraduate and graduate students who can help with all parts of a writing assignment, including prewriting, organizing, revising, and editing. They can also help to understand any writing assignment and help work on comprehending difficult textbook material. Note: To facilitate revision, I encourage you to visit the writing center at least 12 hours before the assignment is due.

**Military Students:**

If you are a military student (veteran, dependent, active) please visit the [Military Student Success Center](http://military.utep.edu/). I also recognize the complexities of being a student veteran. If you are a student veteran, please inform me if you need special accommodations. Drill schedules, calls to active duty, complications with GI Bill disbursement, and other unforeseen military and veteran-related developments can complicate your academic life.  If you make me aware of a complication, I will do everything I can to assist you or put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you.

**Important Dates for this Semester:**

August 28 First day of class

September 4 Labor Day Holiday—

University Closed

September 13 Census Day

October 25 Freshmen mid-term

grades due

November 3 Withdraw course

deadline

November 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday

University Closed

December 7 Last day of classes and complete withdrawal from the University

December 8 Dead Day

December 11-15 Final Exams Check the UTEP finals week calendar for your course

December 19 Instructor Submits

Final Grades

**Please make note of office hours and email, and reach out to me if you need to. I look forward to guiding your learning this semester!**

**RWS 1301 Calendar**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Calendar** | **Monday** | **Wednesday** | **Friday** |
| Week One  8/28 | **Introduction to class, and review of syllabus.**  **Read:** Syllabus, and review Course Policies  Discussion of the writing process | **Continue Discussion of Writing Process**  **Review Writing Process Reflection Assignment Guidelines**  **Assignment #1:Set Up 1301 E-Portfolio and Blog (in-class assignment)** | **Submit E-Portfolio Link 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Two  9/4 | **No class** | **Grammar Review and Writing Process Reflection**  **Read:** p. 16 – 22,  **Assignment #2: Writing Process Reflection Due 5 p.m. MST** | **Grammar Quiz #1 Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Three  9/11 | **Intro to Selecting Semester Topic**  **Class Discussion: What is a researchable topic?**  **Read:** p. 88 - 90 | **Grammar Review #2** | **Assignment #3 Due – Submit Semester Topic at 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Four  9/18 | **Assignment #4: Analyzing Assigned Readings and Writing a Reading Response**  **Read: Blackboard handouts, PDF** | **Continue Discussion of Analyzing Assigned Readings and Writing a Reading Response** | **Grammar Quiz #2 Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Five  9/25 | **Writing a Reading Response Workshop** | **Writing a Reading Response Workshop** | **Draft of Reading Response Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Six  10/2 | **Introduction Assignment #5**  **Organizing, Writing, Revising,**  **Researching Your Subject**  **Read: p**. 9 – 15 | **Reading Response Revision Workshop Organizing Information** | **Send Draft of Reading Response to Peer Review Group**  **Reflection Blog #2** |
| Week Seven  10/9 | **Peer Review Workshop**  **Bring Hard Copy of Reading Response to Class**  **Read: Peer Review Guidelines (Posted on BB)** | **Peer Review Workshop**  **Bring Hard Copy of Reading Response to Class** | **Reading Response Final Draft Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Eight  10/16 | **Assignment #6 Annotated Bibliography**  **Researching Your Subject and Selecting Sources**  **How to Find Sources**  **Using RefWorks**  **Read:** p. 108 - 113 | **Continue Discussion on Researching Subject and Selecting Sources**  **How to Annotate Sources**  **Read:** p. 114 - 124 |  |
| Week Nine  10/23 | **Annotated Bibliography Workshop** | **Annotated Bibliography Workshop** | **Annotated Bibliography Draft Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Ten  10/30 | **Annotated Bibliography Peer Review** | **Annotated Bibliography Peer Review** | **Annotated Bibliography Final Draft Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Eleven  11/6 | **Assignment #8 Community Research Paper**  **Read:** p. 90 – 104, Community Research Report Guidelines (Posted on BB) | **Planning and Organizing Community Research Paper** | **Grammar Quiz #3 due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Twelve  11/13 | **Community Research Paper Workshop** | **Community Research Paper Workshop** | **Community Research Paper Draft Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Thirteen  11/20 | **Community Research Paper Online Peer Review**  **Read:** Online Peer Review Guidelines  **Sign up for Conferences with Me** | **Community Research Online Paper Online Peer Review**  **Sign up for Conferences with Me** | **Peer Review Due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Fourteen  11/27 | **Community Research Paper Online Conferences** | **Community Research Paper Online Conferences** | **Community Research Paper Final Draft due 5 p.m. MST** |
| Week Fifteen  12/4 | Presentations and E-Portfolio Workshop | Presentation and E-Portfolio Workshop |  |
| Finals Week  12/11 | Presentations  **Portfolio due by 11:59 p.m. MST** | Presentations  **Portfolio due by 11:59 p.m. MST** |  |