English 1301.015: Rhetoric and Composition

Contact Info:
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Office Hours: TR: 11 - 4

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Time: MWF 3 - 3:50 p.m.
Location: Manning Hall, room 250

Course Description
Study of English grammar and usage and the principles of effective expository and argumentative writing; development of reading skills; analysis of short essays as models for writing. This course is required of all freshmen and is worth three credit hours.

Course Objectives
1) Critical Thinking: Students will develop critical thinking skills through creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, and/or evaluation and synthesis of information.
2) Communication: Students will demonstrate the effective development of ideas and/or the interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, or visual communication.
3) Teamwork: Students will demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and/or the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
4) Personal Responsibility: Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices to ethical decision-making, connect actions to ethical decision-making, and/or connect consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes
1. To demonstrate competence in written communication through correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
2. To demonstrate competence in written communication by planning, organizing, and composing messages for various purposes and audiences.

Texts and Materials:
- The Call to Write, Brief Sixth Edition, by John Trimbur
- Writing Materials
- USB Flash Drive

*** You are NOT required to purchase these materials from TAMUK’s bookstore.

Course Requirements
Here’s what you must do to earn credit and a good grade in this course:
- Attend class regularly and on time (more on attendance below).
- Read and mark the assignments and come to class ready to discuss them.
- Write formal critical thinking logs about the assigned reading.
- Satisfactorily complete all written assignments and research projects by due dates.

Evaluation/Grading
You will be graded on a 100-point scale. Your assignments will be divided based on the nature of the assignment, and the breakdown is below:

WA1: 10 %
WA2: 15 %
WA3: 20 %
WA4: 20 %
Presentation: 5 %

Log 1: 5 %
Log 2: 5 %
Log 3: 5 %
Dailies/Participation: 5 %
Final: 10 %
Late assignments:
Absence is not an excuse for late work. If you must miss class when a WA is due, turn it in prior to the due date. I may accept a late assignment ONLY in extremely extraordinary circumstances and with prior notice. Graded daily activities and quizzes may not be made up and earn zero points. For every day that a major assignment is late, you will lose 10 points. Once your grade goes down to a zero, I will not accept the assignment at all. You must turn in your assignment to me printed; I do not accept work via email.

Undergraduate Writing Center:
Every student is required to make an appointment with the Undergraduate Writing Center for every major assignment before it is turned in. The Undergraduate Writing Center is a free service that will help you write your essay at any level: outline, rough draft, final draft, etc. You must make an account with them and book your appointments in advance. Failure to attend these appointments will result in a 10 point loss on your major assignment’s grade.

Extra Credit:
You are allowed five extra credit opportunities in a semester. To obtain extra credit, you must attend an event on campus or in your community and write a critique on it. The critique must fill an entire page, and must be formatted according to MLA guidelines. Your extra credit essays may be turned in at any point in the semester up until the last day of class. Every essay counts as five points toward your lowest major grade; I will add them at the end of the semester to the place where they will do the most good.

Mistake Book:
You will be asked to keep a Mistake Book. Whenever you receive an essay back from your professor, you must write the mistakes you made in a separate notebook. You will be asked at any point in the semester to turn in your Mistake Book to me for a grade - if you have not kept up with your Mistake Book, your grade will suffer accordingly.

Conference:
You will have a conference with me in my office once this semester; the conference will be for a grade. In order to obtain full credit for your conference, you must attend your chosen appointment on time, and bring a full rough draft for me to edit. I will send around a sign-up sheet for the conference the week before.

Attendance/Tardy/Participation Policy
Attendance is mandatory. To do well in this class, you must attend regularly and punctually. This course takes a workshop approach so other students depend on your attendance to comment on their work, contribute to discussion, and participate. When you are in class you must participate in order to be considered “in attendance”! And that means join discussion, ask questions, and take notes!

According to the university handbook, “acceptable” or “excused” absences include only those for “confining illness, serious illness or death in the family, and participation in sanctioned intercollegiate competition or an officially approved class activity.” Students may not exceed 4 (in TTh or MW courses), 6 (in MWF) excused absences or 1 in a once-a-week course. To have an absence considered “excused,” you must
- provide documentation that an absence meets the definition of “excused” AND
- contact me (preferably ahead of class time) by telephone or email

I reserve the right to drop any student with more than 4/6/1 absences whether or not they are passing. You should consider, however, that missing class could negatively impact your performance even if you’re not dropped from the course. I may reduce your final grade for absences I deem excessive.

Manuscript Preparation
All assignments that you turn in to me must be typed (double-spaced) in black ink using a 12pt. Times New Roman font. Use MLA guidelines for spacing, margins, heading, and page numbering. Also, include a Works Cited with each draft, but NO cover sheets. Print a hard copy of your work before closing the program you’re using.
ALWAYS save your work on your hard drive and a flash drive. (Computer labs are located in Fore Hall 111, Rhode Hall, McNeil Hall, Jernigan Library (third floor), and the BA building.)

For all drafts you turn in to me, you must include your rough draft, which must have been proofread by a fellow student. Your participation in peer-editing must be documented by your peer editor signing his/her/their name on the bottom of the page. You will lose ten points if you do not turn in your rough draft.

**Miscellaneous Information**

1. Students are expected to adhere to the highest academic standards of behavior and personal conduct in this course and all other courses. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to University disciplinary procedures. Students are expected to be familiar with the current Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct, which discusses conduct expectations and academic dishonesty rules. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:
   a. Cheating: deception in which the student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the professor on assignments or examinations.
   b. Aid of academic dishonesty: Intentionally facilitating any act of academic dishonesty. Tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
   c. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
   d. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation, and/or paraphrase of someone else’s work, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism. Please be aware that the University subscribes to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Your paper may be submitted to this service at the discretion of the instructor.
   e. Lying: deliberate falsification with the intent to deceive in written or verbal form as it applies to an academic submission.
   f. Bribery: providing, offering or taking rewards in exchange for a grade, an assignment, or the aid of academic dishonesty.
   g. Threat: an attempt to intimidate a student, staff or faculty member for the purpose of receiving an unearned grade or in an effort to prevent reporting of an Honor Code violation.

2. Other forms of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:
   a. Failure to follow published departmental guidelines, professor’s syllabi, and other posted academic policies in place for the orderly and efficient instruction of classes, including laboratories, and use of academic resources or equipment.
   b. Unauthorized possession of examinations, reserved library materials, laboratory materials or other course related materials.
   c. Failure to follow the instructor or proctor’s test-taking instructions, including but not limited to not setting aside notes, books or study guides while the test is in progress, failing to sit in designated locations and/or leaving the classroom/ test site without permission during a test.
   d. Prevention of the convening, continuation or orderly conduct of any class, lab or class activity. Engaging in conduct that interferes with or disrupts university teaching, research or class activities such as making loud and distracting noises, repeatedly answering cell phones/text messaging or allowing pagers to beep, exhibiting erratic or irrational behavior, persisting in speaking without being recognized, repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom or test site without authorization, and making physical threats or verbal insults to the faculty member, or other students and staff.
   e. Falsification of student transcript or other academic records; or unauthorized access to academic computer records.
   f. Nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other university records.
   g. Any action which may be deemed as unprofessional or inappropriate in the professional community of the discipline being studied.

3. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please
contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as early as possible in the term at (361) 593-2904. DRC is located in the Life Service and Wellness building at 1210 Retama Drive.

4. Students are expected to assume individual responsibility for maintaining a productive learning environment and conduct themselves with the highest regard for respect and consideration of others. Ongoing or single behaviors considered distracting will be addressed by the faculty member initially, but if the behavior becomes excessive and the student refuses to respond to the faculty member’s efforts, the issue will be referred to the Dean of Students. In the case of serious disruptive behavior in a classroom, the instructor will first request compliance from the student and if the student fails to comply, the instructor has the authority to ask the student to leave the classroom. The student is expected to comply with the instructor’s request and may subsequently contest this action using procedures established by the department. If the student fails to leave after being directed to do so, assistance may be obtained from other university personnel, including the University Police Department. The incident shall be handled as an academic misconduct matter using established departmental procedures for academic misconduct to determine if the student should be allowed to return to the classroom.

5. Cell Phones: Respect your classmates and ME. Turn OFF your phone before coming into class to avoid disruptions. Likewise, DO NOT read or send text messages. If your phone becomes an issue, you will be asked to leave the room and will be counted absent.

6. IPods/MP3 Players/PSPs: Do not wear ear buds, headphones, etc. during class (whether or not the machine is ON). If you do so, you will be asked to leave the room and will be counted absent.

7. Senate Bill 1231, passed by the Texas legislature 2007, limits the number of drops (six) that undergraduate students may accrue without a punitive grade. Undergraduates completing a high school program and enrolling in an institution of higher education prior to fall 2007 are exempt. Undergraduate students completing a high school program and enrolling in an institution of higher education for the first time or after fall semester 2007 are subject to the law. (See Catalog, pp.57+).

8. Texas A&M University-Kingsville does not tolerate discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation (or any other illegal basis) and will investigate all complaints that indicate sexual harassment, harassment, or discrimination may have occurred. Sexual harassment and sexual assault are types of sex discrimination. Such sexual misconduct is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. A person who believes he/she has been the victim of sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination may pursue either the informal or the formal complaint resolution procedure. A complaint may be initially made to the Office of Compliance at (361) 593-4758, complainant’s immediate supervisor, a department head, a supervisory employee, or the Dean of Students at (361)-593-3606 or the Office of Compliance at (361) 593-4758. Regardless of who the complaint is filed with, the Compliance Office will be notified of the complaint so it can be investigated.

**F A L L 2017 – ENGL 1301 SCHEDULE**

(note: this may be subject to change)

The following calendar is for Trimbur’s “The Call to Write Brief 6th Edition” (CW).

**Week One – AUGUST 23 – 25**
- Introductions, syllabus discussion.
- Discussion about misconceptions in writing.
- Argue.

**Week Two – AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 1**
- Discussion about WA1 – why did you come to college?
- Discuss how to peer edit.
- **Peer edit WA1**

**Week Three – SEPTEMBER 4 – 8**
- No class on Sept. 4 – Labor Day Holiday
- **WA 1 due**
- Assign”I Believe” speech.
- MLA format discussion
Week Four – SEPTEMBER 11 – 15
● Workshop “I Believe” assignment
● Assign WA 2 – three possible careers
● CW: 412

Week Five – SEPTEMBER 18 – 22
● “I Believe” assignment presentations
   Assign Annotated Bibliography assignment.

Week Six – SEPTEMBER 25 – 29
● CW – 446 – 464
● Class discussion about citing sources
● Annotated Bibliography assignment due.

Week Seven – OCTOBER 2 – 6
● CONFERENCES

Week Eight – OCTOBER 9 – 13
● CW: 434 – 446
● Class discussion about incorporating sources/plagiarism.
● Peer edit WA2
● WA 2 due.
● Assign WA 3 – current issue in your profession

Week Nine – OCTOBER 16 – 20
● CW 396 – 401.
● Class discussion
● Assign Research Critique assignment.

Week Ten – OCTOBER 23 – 27
● CW: 75 – 79
● Class discussion about bias and source reliability
● Research Critique assignment due.

Week Eleven – OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 3
● Peer edit WA 3
● WA 3 due.
● Assign WA 4 – a solution to the problem
● CW: 334 - 336

Week Twelve – NOVEMBER 6 – 10
● In class research days
● CW: 42 – 50
● Class discussion about ethos, pathos, and logos.

Week Thirteen – NOVEMBER 13 – 17
● Peer edit WA 4.

Week Fourteen – NOVEMBER 20 – 24
● WA 4 is due.
● Thanksgiving Break

Week Fifteen – NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 1
● Dead Week!
● We will probably watch a movie.
● Nov. 30 is the last class day.
Have your rewritten essays and extra credit submitted before this week!

Week Sixteen – DECEMBER 4 - 8

- Final examinations.
- You do not have one for my class (you’re welcome). Instead, your WA4 will count as your final grade.