

English 1301. Exposition: Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking

Instructor: Nathan Brown

Course Information: 1301 Sections 003, 011; Time MWF 8-8:50 AM, 9-9:50 AM

Room: 1301-003 in PH102; 1301-011 in FA264

Office/Hours: MWF 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (or by appointment)

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Course Description. English 1301 is an integrated course in critical thinking, reading, and writing. Because these three processes are mutually dependent, we will spend our time in the course reading and analyzing texts, as well as writing them. The type of formal writing we will do in this class is generally known as expository writing, which is a combination of informative and argumentative writing. In this type of writing, you will show both your understanding of texts we have read and your own thoughts about the issues they discuss.

Student Learning Outcomes. By the end of ENGL 1301, students should be able to demonstrate the following skills/knowledge:

Rhetorical Knowledge

- Use knowledge of the rhetorical situation—audience, purpose, genre—to analyze and construct texts
- Compose texts in a variety of genres, expanding their repertoire beyond predictable forms
- Use conventions of structure, tone, diction, and syntax appropriate to the rhetorical situation

Critical Reading, Thinking, and Writing

- Use writing, reading, and discussion for learning, communicating, and examining assumptions
- Summarize, respond to, and analyze texts
- Employ critical reading strategies to identify author's position, main ideas, genre conventions, and rhetorical strategies
- Produce texts with a focus, thesis, and controlling idea, and identify these elements in others' texts
- Provide appropriate support for claims
- Find, evaluate, and synthesize appropriate sources to inform and situate their own claims

Processes

- Practice flexible strategies for generating, revising, and editing texts
- Practice writing as a recursive process that can lead to substantive changes in ideas, structure, and supporting evidence through multiple revisions
- Use the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes to critique their own and others' works

Conventions

- Apply knowledge of genre conventions ranging from structure and paragraphing to tone and mechanics
- Summarize, paraphrase, and quote from sources using appropriate documentation style
- Control such surface features as syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Employ technologies to format texts according to appropriate stylistic conventions

Required Texts

One Composition Notebook for Summary Response Journal

Graff and Birkenstein, *They Say/I Say*

McKibben, *Deep Economy*

Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*

Grades

Grades in FYC are A, B, C, F, and Z. The Z grade is reserved for students who attend class regularly, participate actively, and complete all the assigned work on time but simply fail to write well enough to earn a passing grade. **This judgment is made by the instructor and not necessarily based upon a number average.** The Z grade is intended to reward students for good effort. While students who receive a Z will not get credit for the course, the Z grade will not affect their grade point average. They may repeat the course for credit until they do earn a passing grade. The F grade, which does negatively affect GPA, goes to failing students who do not attend class regularly, do not participate actively, or do not complete assigned work.

All major essay projects must be completed to pass the course. If you fail to complete an essay project, you will fail the course, regardless of your average. All essay projects must be turned in with a two-pocket folder containing all drafts, peer review sheets, and other materials for that project. **Keep all papers** until you receive your final grade from the university. You cannot challenge a grade without evidence.

Late Assignments. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified. Late papers will be penalized TEN POINTS PER DAY LATE. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED if more than a week late.

I am not an unreasonable man, and I am aware that “stuff” happens, so please come and talk to me if you fear that for some reason you may not be able to turn in an assignment on time and I’ll do my best to work things out with you.

FYI – No matter what you may have heard, I am NOT a PSYCHIC or a NINJA! If you do not come to see me (or otherwise contact me) when you are having problems, I CAN’T HELP YOU! If you don’t contact me or come to see me in my office, I’M NOT OBLIGATED TO CHASE YOU DOWN! If my office hours conflict with your schedule, let me know and I will schedule a more convenient time for you. I am always willing to make time for students.

Re-write Policy. Re-writing is an important means for improving both the writing process and the final product. Students have the option of revising two major essays after grading. The last major paper, after it has been submitted for grading, cannot be re-written for a higher grade.

Grade Weighting. Your final grade for this course will be calculated in the following manner:

1000 point scale

Essay Project One (DCM)	200 pts
Essay Project Two (ABE)	200 pts
Essay Project Three (WPE) and Presentation	200 pts
Poster Project and Presentation	100 pts
In-Class Essay Exam	100 pts
Review Quizzes	50 pts
Participation/Attendance	50 pts
Summary Response Journal	100 pts

Attendance Policy - Regular class attendance is expected. Roll will be taken at every class. After a 3rd unexcused absence, every two absences will drop your final grade one letter. Two late arrivals are equal to one absence. Please keep track of your attendance, as it is not my responsibility to inform you when you have too many. "Excused absences" include official university activities, religious holidays, authorized military service, and/or illness with a physician's note. Excused absences, however, **DO NOT EXCUSE STUDENTS FROM TURNING IN WORK ON TIME!** Please be aware that **instructors may drop students from class rolls** for lack of appropriate attendance and/or participation

Drop Policy - If you choose to withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to do so within the university's deadlines. For information on dropping, consult your major academic department (or the University Advising Center if undeclared).

The Writing Center. The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, offers tutoring for any writing you are assigned while a student at UT-Arlington. During Fall 2009, Writing Center hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday; and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. You may schedule appointments online by following directions available at www.uta.edu/owl/appointments, by calling 817 272-2601, or by visiting the Writing Center. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available. Writing Center tutors are carefully chosen and trained, and they can assist you with any aspect of your writing, from understanding an assignment to revising an early draft to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; tutors will not correct your grammar or rewrite your assignment for you, but they will help you become a better editor of your own writing. I encourage each of you to use the Writing Center.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism. It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic 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, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2) You can get in trouble for plagiarism—even if you do not intend to cheat—by failing to correctly indicate places where you are making use of the work of another. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the conventions of citation by which you indicate which ideas are not your own and how your reader can find those sources. Read your handbook for more information on quoting and citing properly to avoid plagiarism. If you still do not understand, ask your instructor.

Student Success Programs. The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admissions and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

E-Culture Policy. The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email. All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Class Disruption. UTA Policy states "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that's intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or in fact interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks."

ENGL 1301 – FALL 2009 Tentative Reading & Assignment Schedule

[Please note that the dates below are when readings will be DISCUSSED. **YOU SHOULD HAVE ALREADY READ THE MATERIALS BEFORE THE DATE ASSIGNED.** This is a **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**, which means dates and assignments are subject to change]

WEEK 1

8/24 – Course and syllabus introduction, DCM Example Essay will be handed out.

8/26 – Intro to Discourse Communities, *A-Kon Microcosm* DCM Example

8/27 – Brainstorming and idea development

Discourse Community Memoir (DCM) assignment will be handed out

WEEK 2

8/31 – Essay prep, outlining, rough drafts, and conducting peer reviews

9/2 – DCM ROUGH DRAFT DUE for In-class peer review

9/4 – Lecture on essay revision process, REVIEW QUIZ #1

WEEK 3

9/7 – NO CLASS (Labor Day)

9/9 – DCM FINAL DRAFT DUE, *They Say, I Say* Chapters 1 and 2 (read pgs. 15-38), CENSUS DATE (Must drop by this date to avoid penalty)

9/11 – *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 3 (read pgs. 39-47). REVIEW QUIZ #2

WEEK 4

9/14 – The meaning of sustainability. *Deep Economy*, “After Growth” (pgs. 5-45) and introduction to “Alpha Barriers”

9/16 – *They Say, I Say*, Chapters 4 and 5 (read pgs. 49-73)

9/18 – *Deep Economy*, “The Year of Eating Locally” (pgs. 46-94) , REVIEW QUIZ #3

WEEK 5

9/21 – *They Say, I Say*, Chapters 6 and 7 (read pgs. 74-97)

9/23 – *Deep Economy*, “All for One, One for All” (pgs. 95-128)

9/25 – *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 8 (read pgs. 99-114), REVIEW QUIZ #4

WEEK 6

9/28 – *Deep Economy*, “Wealth of Communities” (pgs. 129-176)

9/30 – *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 9 (read pgs. 115-122), Sustainability Essay (SE) or Alpha Barriers Essay (ABE) assignment will be handed out

10/2 – *They Say, I Say*, Chapter 10 (read pgs. 123-132), REVIEW QUIZ #5

WEEK 7

10/5 – *Deep Economy*, “The Durable Future” (pgs. 177-226)

10/7 – MLA CLASS...MEET IN LIBRARY

10/9 – Review and discussion of *Deep Economy*, MIDTERM CONSULTATION SIGN-UP
REVIEW QUIZ #6

WEEK 8

10/12 – SE or ABE ROUGH DRAFTS DUE for in-class peer review, MIDTERM CONSULTATION SIGN-UP

10/14 – MIDTERM CONSULTATIONS

10/16 – MIDTERM CONSULTATIONS

WEEK 9

10/19 – SE or ABE FINAL DRAFTS DUE, Intro to OneBook Poster Project assignment

10/21 – Videos and discussion, OneBook poster project

10/23 – Videos and discussion, OneBook poster project, REVIEW QUIZ #7

WEEK 10

10/26 – Group activity for OneBook projects

10/28 – OneBook poster presentation PROPOSALS DUE

10/30 – (LAST DAY TO DROP COURSE) – Lecture on impromptu/in-class writing

WEEK 11

11/2 – Impromptu/in-class writing, “Forest Fire” discussion

11/4 – Impromptu/in-class writing, “Internet Suicide” discussion

11/6 – Impromptu/in-class writing, “Bomb Shelter” discussion, REVIEW QUIZ #8

WEEK 12

11/9 – IN-CLASS ESSAY EXAM (Bring a **BLUE BOOK**)

11/11 – OneBook POSTER PRESENTATIONS DUE

11/13 – Proposal Essay discussion, writing presentation essay (WPE) assign. handed out

WEEK 13

11/16 – Brainstorming group activity for WPE

11/18 – Development group activity for WPE

11/20 – WPE ROUGH DRAFT DUE for peer review

WEEK 14

11/23 – “Evening with an Author Series” – CLIVE BARKER – Bass Hall at 7PM

11/25 – Class discussion of Clive Barker event, SUMMARY RESPONSE JOURNALS DUE

11/27 – NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

WEEK 15

11/30 – WRITING PRESENTATIONS of WPE DUE (GROUP 1)

12/2 – WRITING PRESENTATIONS of WPE DUE (GROUP 2)

12/4 – WRITING PRESENTATIONS of WPE DUE (GROUP 3)

FAREWELL ...