

English 1301 Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking

Instructor: Barbi Fowler

Course Information: Section 009 MWF 9:00-10:00 PH 300

Section 015 MWF 10:00-11:00 PH 202

Office Hours: 604 Carlisle Hall MW 11:00-12:30 or by appointment

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Email: barbi.fowler@mavs.uta.edu **This is the best way to reach me.**

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.

Required Texts:

Gary Colombo, et al. *Rereading America*, 7th edition

Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, 6th edition

Timothy Corrigan, *The Short Guide to Writing About Film*, 7th edition

Bill Mckibben, *Deep Economy*

Student Learning Outcomes: After successfully completing English 1301, students will be able to:

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

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.

Grade Distribution:

Essay Project One	15%
Essay Project Two	20%
Annotated Bibliography	5%
Visual Arts Presentation	15%
Essay Project Three	15%
Participation	10%
Informal Writing/Reading Responses/Quizzes	10%
Summary/Analysis	10%

Assignments: Unless I indicate otherwise, every assignment must be typed in **Times New Roman 12 pt font double-spaced. Please staple ALL assignments over one page in length.** I will not accept any handwritten or unstapled assignments.

Late Assignments: Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified. Late papers will be penalized unless you speak to me about your situation **before (not on or after)** the due date. Otherwise papers handed in late will be lowered on letter grade for each day the paper is late. No late papers will be accepted after three days. **Note: Assignments will not be accepted by email!**

Loss Prevention Policy: Don't lose your work: save all of your work throughout the semester. Also be sure to save your word-processed assignments **AS YOU ARE WORKING ON THEM** in more than one electronic format (i.e. your computer's hard drive, email, flash drive, or J drive provided by the university). **Note: Computer and printer problems will not be valid excuses for turning in your work late.**

Rewrite Policy: Re-writing is an important means for improving both the writing process and the final product. You have the option of revising two major essays after grading. You may rewrite any essay (except for essay 3) that receives a grade lower than an A, and a rewrite is required if your paper receives a Z grade. A good rewrite involves more than just correcting any editing and grammar mistakes, it must be evident to me that you have reworked and rewritten your ideas.

The last major paper, after it has been submitted for grading, cannot be re-written for a higher grade.

Attendance Policy: Improvement in writing is a complex process that requires a great deal of practice and feedback from readers. Regular attendance is thus necessary for success in this course. You have five absences to do with as you like. Use them for illness, family emergencies, etc.—not to sleep in or because you didn't finish an assignment. For every class you miss after five absences, I will lower your course grade by five points.

Tardiness: If you sign up for this class, you need to make getting here on time a priority. Showing up late to class is extremely disruptive. Therefore, excessive tardiness will not be tolerated. Every **three** tardies will count as one absence.

Drop Policy. If you choose to withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to do so within the university's deadlines

Cell phones/Texting: Turn them off, put them on silent, do whatever it is you have to do so that your phone doesn't disrupt the class. Put them away. I do not want to see your cell phone on your desk or in your lap. If I catch you texting or using your cell phone in class, you will receive one warning. If I catch you again, I will mark you absent for that day.

Email: The university sends all its correspondence to you via your UTA email address and so will I. It is your responsibility to check your UTA email account regularly.

The Writing Center: 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.

Syllabus and Schedule Changes. I have tried to make this document as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester I may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. I reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary

Course Schedule

NOTE: Have the assigned texts read completely by the first day they are listed. Individual homework assignments and group work will be announced on a daily basis.

Week 1

M 8/24 Introductions, Expectations

W 8/26 Active Writing Skills

F 8/28 Active Reading Skills: Interrogating and Engaging with Texts (Please bring *Rereading America* with you to class)

Due: My Name Essay

Week 2

M 8/31 Horatio Alger "Ragged Dick" (RA 264-270)

Harlon L. Dalton "Horatio Alger" (RA 278-284)

W 9/2 Summary/Analysis: WR (57-66)

Ken Hamblin "The Black Avenger" (RA 285-293)

F 9/4 Anne Witte Garland "Good Noise: Cora Tucker" (RA 358-368)

Due: Summary/Analysis #1—over one of this week's assigned readings

Week 3

M 9/7 Labor Day

W 9/9 Lars Eighner “On Dumpster Diving” (handout)
Sharon Olds “From Seven Floors Up” (RA 332-33)
Discuss Essay #1

F 9/11 Richard Rodriguez “The Achievement of Desire” (RA 193-205)

Due: Summary/Analysis #2—over one of this week’s assigned readings

Week 4

M 9/14 Malcolm X “Learning to Read” (RA 210-218)

W 9/16 Brainstorming and Composing An Essay (WR 3-18 and 24-37)

F 9/18 Academic Integrity—**Meet in library basement, room B20**

Due: Summary/Analysis #3—over Malcolm X’s “Learning to Read”

Week 5

M 9/21 Writing Center Visit

W 9/23 Peer Review Workshop

F 9/25 Peer Review

Rough Draft #1 due

Week 6

M 9/28 Revision Workshop

Rough Draft #2 due

W 9/30 *Deep Economy* Introduction and Chapter 1 (p 1-45)

Discuss Essay #2 and Visual Arts Presentation

Due: Essay #1

F 10/2 *Deep Economy* Chapter 2 (p 46-94)

Due: Reading Response #1

Week 7

M 10/5 *Deep Economy* Chapter 3 (p 95-128)

Due: Reading Response #2

W 10/7 *Deep Economy* Chapter 4 (p 129-176)

Due: Reading Response #3

F 10/9 *Deep Economy* Chapter 5 and Afterword (p 177-233)

Due: Reading Response #4

Week 8

M 10/12 Invention Exercises: Picking a Theme

W 10/14 Finding Scholarly Sources— **9am meet in Ransom Hall 212**
10 am meet in the library basement, room B20

F 10/16 Research/Writing Workshop—**meet in the library basement, room B20**

Week 9

M 10/19 Constructing Reasonable Arguments (WR 67-73)
Developing a Thesis

W 10/21 Thesis Workshop/In-Class Drafting

F 10/23 Creating, Finding and Using Data—**meet in Ransom Hall 212**

Week 10

M 10/26 MLA Workshop—**meet in the library basement, room B20**

W 10/28 Writing/Drafting Day
Due: Annotated Bibliography

F 10/30 Peer Review
Due: Rough Draft #1

Week 11

M 11/2 Visual Arts Presentations
Due: Essay #2

W 11/4 Visual Arts Presentations
Due: Essay #2

F 11/6 In-Class Essay
Discuss Essay Project #3

Week 12

M 11/9 Chapters 1-2 of *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*
Discuss Essay Project #3

W 11/11 Chapter 3 of *A Short Guide to Writing About Film*

F 11/13 Examining and Writing Film Reviews: Various Film Reviews (handout)

Week 13

M 11/16 Film: *In America*
Due: Film Review over one of the films on the Essay 3 prompt

W 11/18 Film: *In America*

F 11/20 Film Discussion

Week 14

M 11/23 In-Class Drafting

W 11/25 Writing Day—No Class!

Due: Essay #3 Outline should be emailed to me by 12pm

F 11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15

M 11/30 Peer Review

Due: Rough Draft #1

W 12/2 Revision Workshop

Due: Rough Draft #2

F 12/4 Class Wrap-Up

Due: Essay #3