

English 1301 Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking

Instructor: Rachael Mariboho

Course Information: 1301-050 T/TH 9:30-10:50; Trimble Hall 002
1301-060 T/TH 12:30-1:50; Preston Hall 110

Office: 402 Carlisle Hall

Office Hours: T/TH 9:00-9:15, 11:00-12:15

Email: rmariboho@yahoo.com **This is the best way to reach me**

Required Texts & Materials: (Bring Your Book to Every Class Unless Told Otherwise)

Gary Colombo, et al. *Rereading America: Cultural Contexts for Critical Thinking and Writing*, 7th ed.

Hacker, Diane. *Writer's Reference*

McKibben, Bill. *Deep Economy*

Course Description:

Welcome to English 1301! This 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: 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.

This policy ensures that, by the end of the course, students are capable of writing passing work without the benefit of teacher feedback and re-writes.

All three 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 writing slips for that project. **Keep all papers** until you receive your final grade from the university. You cannot challenge a grade without evidence.

UTA OneBook Program: OneBook is a program for all UT Arlington freshmen, who will study, discuss, and write about the same book in their first semester English composition classes, freshman seminars, and selected other classes. Their shared experience with the book will include related co-curricular events and activities and an essay competition, culminating when possible, in an on-campus visit by the author. The faculty see this shared intellectual experience as a vehicle for introducing new students to the University, a community of scholars and lifelong learners where ideas are discussed, debated, and explored both in and outside of the classroom. OneBook provides the foundation for UT Arlington Conversations. All students are required to attend one OneBook event and write a summary/analysis of the event. Papers must be turned in one week after the event. This year's selection for the OneBook program is *Deep Economy* by Bill McKibben.

Grade Distribution:

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

ALL homework and assignments should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font!

Late Assignments: Late assignments will only be accepted if you speak to me about your situation **before (not on)** the due date. Otherwise papers handed in late will be lowered one 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!

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 rewrite grade will be averaged with your original paper's grade. The last major paper, after it has been submitted for grading, cannot be re-written for a higher grade.

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

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. Much of the work done here is collaborative; it is beneficial for you to communicate with others as ideas come to you as well as when you are working through your papers. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student for an explanation of what was covered. You have **5** absences to do with as you like—use them wisely for the inevitable "stuff" that will mess up your semester: illness, traffic, death in the family, etc. For every class you miss after your 5 absences, I will lower your course grade by half a letter.

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. Also, coming to class without a draft on peer critique dates will count as an absence as well.

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. 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.

Drop Policy: If you choose to withdraw from this course, you must follow university procedures. It is your responsibility to execute these procedures correctly, and within the university's deadlines.

Odds and Ends: Students in this class are expected to show respect for their fellow classmates. Please refrain from disruptive behavior such as talking out of turn, insulting other students, etc.

What is Disruptive Student Conduct:

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public service activity or program, or any athletic event 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" (UTA Handbook of Operating Procedures, Ch.2, Sec. 2-202).

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.

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 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new 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 accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty: 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, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you may be called before the Vice President of Student Affairs to receive disciplinary action. Forms of academic dishonesty include:

Collusion – lending your work to another person to submit as her/his own

Fabrication – deliberately creating false information on a works cited page

Plagiarism – the presentation of another person's work as your own, (intentional or not)

Please acknowledge the source of any words, phrases, or ideas that you use. If you are not sure how to quote or paraphrase a source, please see me, go to the Writing Center, or check your handbook. Make sure that your written work is all your own.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission 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.

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. This syllabus is subject to change; all changes will be announced in class.

Week 1

T 8/25 Introduction, Expectations, and Syllabus Overview
My Name Essay assignment

TH 8/27 Active Reading and Writing Skills: Interrogating and Engaging with Texts (Please bring *Rereading America* with you to class)

DUE: My Name Essay

Week 2

T 9/1 Analyzing and Writing about Texts
Summary/Analysis (WR 57-66)
Horatio Alger "Ragged Dick" (RA 264-270)
Harlon L. Dalton "Horatio Alger" (RA 278-284)

TH 9/3 Anne Witte Garland "Good Noise: Cora Tucker" (RA 358-368)
Ken Hamblin "The Black Avenger" (RA 285-293)

DUE: Summary/Analysis #1

Week 3

T 9/8 Discussion of Essay Project #1
Lars Eighner "On Dumpster Diving" (handout)
Sharon Olds "From Seven Floors Up" (RA 332-33)

TH 9/10 Richard Rodriguez "The Achievement of Desire" (RA 193-205)
Malcolm X "Learning to Read" (RA 210 -218)

DUE: Summary/Analysis #2

Week 4

T 9/15 Academic Integrity Workshop – **Meet in Library Room B20**
MLA Formatting Session

TH 9/17 Brainstorming and Composing an Essay (WR 3-18 and 24-37)

Week 5

T 9/22 Peer Review workshop
Peer Review

DUE: Two Copies of Your Rough Draft

TH 9/24 Revision Workshop
Revising An Essay (WR 18-23)

Week 6

T 9/29 *Deep Economy* Introduction and Ch. 1
Discussion of *Deep Economy* Projects
DUE: Reading Response #1
DUE: Essay #1

TH 10/1 *Deep Economy* Ch. 2
DUE: Reading Response #2

Week 7

T 10/6 *Deep Economy* Ch. 3
DUE: Reading Response #3

TH 10/8 *Deep Economy* Ch. 4
DUE: Reading Response #4
Sheet One: Picking a Theme

Week 8

T 10/13 *Deep Economy* Ch. 5
DUE: Reading Response #5
Invention Exercises

TH 10/15 Finding Scholarly Sources – **Meet in the Library Room B20**
Sheet Two: Developing a Thesis

Week 9

T 10/20 Thesis Workshop
Constructing Reasonable Arguments (WR 67-73)

TH 10/22 MLA workshop – **Meet in Ransom Hall 212**

Week 10

T 10/27 Research and Writing Workshop – **Meet in Ransom Hall 212**
DUE: Annotated Bibliography

TH 10/29 Peer Review
DUE: 2 Copies of Your Rough Draft

Week 11

T 11/3 Visual Arts Presentations
DUE: Essay Project #2

TH 11/5 Visual Arts Presentations
DUE: Essay Project #2

Week 12

T 11/10 In-Class Essay
Discussion of Essay Project #3

TH 11/12 Writing about Film
Short Guide to Writing About Film Ch 1-2 (handout)

Week 13

T 11/17 *In America*

TH 11/19 *In America*

Film Discussion and Review

Week 14

T 11/24 Analyzing Film

Synthesis Essay Outline

DUE: Film Review

TH 11/27 THANKSGIVING BREAK!

Week 15

T 12/1 Peer Review

DUE: 2 Copies of Your Rough Draft

Th 12/3 Class wrap-up

DUE: Essay Project #3