English 1301-001: Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking I

Instructor: Trudi Beckman
Course Information: MWF 8-8.50am, 206 PH
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**English 1301** -- Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing I is a course in reading, writing, rhetorical analysis, and argument. Students read a wide variety of texts, practice recursive writing processes, and participate in university discourses. Organized around the OneBook, the course is linked to university co-curricular activities that invite students to participate in classroom, campus-wide, and national conversations about timely issues. Students read a wide variety of texts and complete both informal writing assignments and formal essay projects that draw upon outside sources as well as their own experiences.

**Engl 1301 Expected Learning Outcomes** -- By the end of ENGL 1301, students should be able to:

**Rhetorical Knowledge**
- Use knowledge of the rhetorical situation—author, audience, exigence, constraints—to analyze and construct texts
- Compose texts in a variety of genres, expanding their repertoire beyond predictable forms
- Adjust voice, tone, diction, syntax, level of formality, and structure to meet the demands of different rhetorical situations

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

**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 to critique their own and others’ texts

**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
Class Assignments – Any Major Project assignment must be typed, double-spaced, use 1” margins, MLA format, and have the student’s name typed in the upper left-hand corner of the first page. Any paper exceeding 1 page should have the student’s last name and subsequent page number typed in the upper right-hand corner (MLA format). Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

Late Assignments – Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified. There are very few exceptions to my general policy of not accepting late papers: A death in the family, diagnosis of severe illness, or military duty. All of these exceptions require official proof: a copy of the obituary, doctor's diagnosis, or military paperwork.

Daily Work – Includes quizzes, group work, or in-class writing. Expect a form of Daily Work each class period over the assigned reading for that day. At least one Daily Work Assignment should involve a OneBook event. According to First-Year Composition regulations, all students enrolled in an English 1301 class must attend at least one OneBook campus activity during the semester and submit a summary response about that activity. The OneBook activity calendar can be found online at www.uta.edu/onebook. Daily Work is 30% of the total grade.

Summary/Response (S/R) -- The OneBook S/R should include the following: 1) Summarize: Begin by stating in your own words the main message or central point of the piece and the major support for the central point. 2) Respond: Next, say what you think about the reading and why you respond the way that you do. A critical response is more than an opinion (I liked/didn’t like a reading or agreed/disagreed with a point). To be “critical” requires identifying and explaining why you had that response. 3) Synthesize: Finally, relate the reading to other texts read this semester and/or to class discussion topics. The OneBook S/R must be typed, double-spaced, and follow MLA format in order to be graded.

Class Participation – You must contribute to the day’s discussion in order to receive any class participation grade for that day. Class Participation (CP) days are not announced beforehand. Class Participation is 10% of the total grade.

Group Presentation – A group of 3 – 5 students (no more, no less) will present the final Major Project to the class. The Presentation is graded according to group’s efficacy with the chosen topic, use of scholarly and/or academic resources, ability to answer general questions about the topic, and the use of visual aids. Group Presentation is 10% of the total grade.

Major Projects – These include the Community Paper, Description Paper, Value Paper, Exploratory Paper, and Research Paper. Project details will be released later in the semester. 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 submitted in 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. Major Projects are 50% of the total grade.

Peer Critiques -- Each essay will include peer critiques. You will be required to include all peer critique materials in the paper’s final folder in order for the essay to be graded. It is very important that you attend class on peer critique days, as you will not be able to make up this activity.
Grades -- Grades in FYC are A, B, C, F, and Z. Students must pass English 1301 and English 1302 with a grade of C or higher in order to advance to the next course. This policy is in place because of the key role that First-Year English courses play in students’ educational experiences at UTA.

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.

Your final grade for this course will consist of the following:

- Major Projects: 50%
- Daily Work: 30%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Group Presentation: 10%

Final grades will be calculated as follows: A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, F=0-69%, Z=see the Z grade policy above.

Revision Policy -- Students have the option of revising two major essays (to be announced later in the semester) after they have been graded. A revised paper means a serious revision, not just correcting grammar/spelling/ or mechanical errors. Students must conference with the instructor before submitting a revision. The original grade and revision grade will be averaged to arrive at the student’s final grade for the essay. A revised paper does not guarantee a higher grade. The last major paper cannot be revised for a higher grade.

Classroom behavior -- Regular, prompt attendance is essential. There are no make-ups or retakes on quizzes or other class assignments, so you should make every effort to attend class. Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence. I cannot drop any student for excessive absences; the student must take that responsibility. If work, illness, or tragedy prevents you from attending class, you’ve just had your semester affected by misfortune or personal commitments. These circumstances do not, however, allow you to make-up class work. Missing one or two quizzes probably will not damage your grade too badly; however, missing several assignments can be detrimental. Be prepared for class. This means that you read the assigned material before coming to class, that you understand the material or you have questions prepared over material you do not understand, that any written assignments are completed according to specifications, and that you are prepared to participate in class, including, but not limited to, taking notes, answering questions, asking questions, working in groups, writing essays, and explaining text. Observe standards of common courtesy. This means that if you arrive late, you take your seat as quickly and as quietly as possible. Please do not feel compelled to explain your tardiness -- just jump in and begin catching up on the class activity. Disruptions or other personal business is unacceptable behavior. Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3 players, laptops, and other electronic devices should be
turned off and put away when entering the classroom; all earpieces should be removed. Store newspapers, crosswords, magazines, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the readings and discussions each day. Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, to listen to other class members, and to comment appropriately. Do not sleep in class. If you are too tired to stay awake in class, don't come. If you simply need a "boost" to wake up, try some non-alcoholic beverage or crunchy snack. Do ask questions, especially if the material is unclear. Do ask for examples to further your understanding of the material. Do set conferencing appointments with me if you don't wish to ask questions in class. Do inform me at the beginning of the semester if you require appropriate accommodations because of a disability. Do provide me with authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors are to be addressed appropriately and communicated with professionally.

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 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 or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students' learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Academic Integrity -- 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 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 textbook and/or handbook for more information on quoting and citing properly to avoid plagiarism. If you still do not understand, ask your instructor. All students caught plagiarizing or cheating will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct, and receive an

Americans with Disabilities Act -- The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic
accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Drop Policy** -- Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

**Writing Center** -- The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, provides tutoring for any UTA student with a writing assignment. Writing Center tutors are carefully chosen and trained, and they can help students at any stage of their writing processes, 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 students' errors or rewrite the assignment for them, but tutors will help students become better editors of their own writing. Tutors are familiar with the requirements for most assignments in first-year English classes. Tutoring sessions last no longer than 30 minutes, and students are limited to one tutoring session a day and two sessions a week. Students can schedule Writing Center appointments by logging in to www.rich37.com/uta. During their first visit to the web site, students must complete a brief registration form. On subsequent visits, they can go directly to the schedule to make their appointments. Students who come to the Writing Center without an appointment are helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available. During long semesters, Writing Center hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday; and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. For summer hours or for additional information, students should visit the Writing Center web site, www.uta.edu/owl.

**Library Research Help for Students in the First-Year English Program** -- UT Arlington Library offers many ways for students to receive help with writing assignments: *Paper's Due Drop Inn.* The Paper's Due Drop Inn is a drop-in service available during the Fall and Spring semesters. On Monday through Thursday, from 4pm – 6pm, in room B20 (located in the basement of Central Library), librarians will be available to assist students with research and/or citation. On most days, there will also be a tutor available from the Writing Center who can help with any problems students may have with organizing or writing papers.

*Course-Specific Guides.* All First-Year English courses have access to research guides that assist students with required research. To access the guides, go to http://libguides.uta.edu. Search for the course number in the search box located at the top of the page. The research guides direct students to useful databases, as well as provide information about citation, developing a topic/thesis, and receiving help.

*Virtual Office Hours.* Librarians who specialize in first-year students will be available online two evenings each week to assist students with research and citation. The English 1301 and 1302 research guides include a chat box that makes it possible to IM a librarian without logging in to your own account. This page will also indicate the exact days/times the service is available. During Virtual Office Hours, students can IM the librarian at utavoh.

**Additional Academic Resources** -- The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These
resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Electronic Communication Policy -- All students must have access to a computer with Internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through MyMav. Make sure you have consulted the syllabus for answers before you send me an email. Remember, I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day. I check it periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend.

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.

Conferences and Questions -- I have one regularly scheduled office hour each week. This time is reserved for students to drop by or to make an appointment to discuss course assignments, grades, or other class-related concerns. I will be happy to make other appointment times for you if your class schedule conflicts with regular conference times, or if I am not available on certain days. If you receive a grade on an assignment or quiz about which you have questions, please wait twenty-four hours before discussing it with me. This gives you time to process the assignment comments and to think about how your course work meets the requirements set forth for each assignment. I do not discuss individual student issues in the classroom before, during or after class.

Syllabus and Schedule Changes -- Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester they may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students will be informed of any changes in writing. FYW=First-Year Writing

Tentative Course Schedule. Assignments are due on the day they are listed.

F Aug 27 Introduction to the class
M Aug 30 Icebreaker, classmate introductions, diagnostic writing
W Sep 1 DUE: Read Chp 1 in FYW; Rhetorical Situation
F Sep 3 DUE: 1 page of Tentative Schedule; Guided Writing: What is Human Nature?
M Sep 6 Labor Day Holiday – no class
W Sep 8 DUE: Read Chp 2 and “Driving Down the Highway, Mourning the Death of American Radio” in FYW; Daily Work
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>F Sep 10</td>
<td>Community Clips; review Community Paper assignment; brainstorming</td>
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<td>M Sep 13</td>
<td>DUE: Read Chp 3 in FYW; Daily Work (identifying claims, support)</td>
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<td>W Sep 15</td>
<td>DUE: Read Chp 4 in FYW; Daily Work (organizing support, transitions)</td>
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<td>F Sep 17</td>
<td>DUE: Rough draft of Community Paper; Peer Critique</td>
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<td>M Sep 20</td>
<td>DUE: Final draft of Community Paper</td>
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<td>Daily Work (analyzing images)</td>
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<td>W Sep 22</td>
<td>DUE: Read Chp 5 in FYW; using support with description</td>
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<td>F Sep 24</td>
<td>Guided Writing: Group descriptions of selected items</td>
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<td>Review Description Paper assignment</td>
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<td>M Sep 27</td>
<td>DUE: Read Chp 10 in FYW, using visual argument and description</td>
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<td>W Sep 29</td>
<td>DUE: Bring in 1 image or 1 written description (ads, paragraph, report)</td>
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<td>Daily Work (analyzing image/writing effectiveness)</td>
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<td>F Oct 1</td>
<td>DUE: Rough draft of Description Paper, Peer Critique</td>
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<td>M Oct 4</td>
<td>DUE: Final draft of Description Paper</td>
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<td>W Oct 6</td>
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<td>F Oct 8</td>
<td>Guided Writing: What is moral, ethical: the right/wrong stuff?</td>
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<td>M Oct 11</td>
<td>DUE: Read Chp 7, “Do College Students Need a Major” in FYW</td>
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<td>Daily Work (Class Debate)</td>
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<td>W Oct 13</td>
<td>DUE: Read Chp 8 in FYW, review Value Paper assignment</td>
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<td>Using a Narrative for evidence</td>
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<td>F Oct 15</td>
<td>Guided Writing: Should Society Prioritize Values?</td>
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<td>M Oct 18</td>
<td>DUE: Bring in 1 item that displays a value</td>
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<td>Daily Work (class discussion – how best to describe, emphasize, a value)</td>
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<td>W Oct 20</td>
<td>What about conclusions?</td>
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<td>F Oct 22</td>
<td>DUE: Rough draft of Value Paper; Peer Critique</td>
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<td>M Oct 25</td>
<td>DUE: Value Paper</td>
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<td>Film <em>My Boy Jack</em></td>
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<td>W Oct 27</td>
<td>Film <em>My Boy Jack</em></td>
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<td>F Oct 29</td>
<td>Finish film, Daily Work (class discussion – finding issues)</td>
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M Nov 1  DUE: Read Siegfried Sassoon, Wilfred Owen, Brian Turner (will be online or sent to your student email account); review Exploratory Paper assignment, brainstorm

W Nov 3  DUE: Review Chp 6 in FYW
TBA (Library Day / research / gathering evidence, OR organizing, drafting, developing multiple perspectives)

F Nov 5  DUE: Review Chp 11 in FYW
TBA (Library Day / research / gathering evidence OR organizing, drafting, developing multiple perspectives)

M Nov 8  Daily Work (Round-Robin with your exploratory topic)

W Nov 10 DUE: Review Appendix 1; MLA group quiz; integrating information, quotes

F Nov 12 DUE: Rough draft of Exploratory Paper; Peer Critique

M Nov 15 DUE: Exploratory Paper
Film clips – We Were Soldiers Once, The Hurt Locker, The Green Zone

W Nov 17 DUE: Read “How to Tell a True War Story” (online, or sent to your student email account); review Research Paper, Group Presentation assignments

F Nov 19 DUE: Review Chp 12 in FYW; brainstorming, drafting

M Nov 22 Drafting working outline for Research Paper

W Nov 24 Library Day / research / gather evidence for Research Paper

F Nov 26 Thanksgiving Holiday

M Nov 29 How to prepare for Group Presentations, sign-up for presentation day

W Dec 1 Fine-tuning Research Paper, Works Cited

F Dec 3 DUE: Rough Draft of Research Paper, Peer Critique
Prepare Group Presentations

M Dec 6 Dead Week Begins
Group Presentations

W Dec 8 Group Presentations

F Dec 10 Last Day of Class
DUE: Research Paper
Group Presentations

F Dec 17 FINALS 8-10.30am
ENGL 1301 Syllabus Contract

I have read and understood the syllabus, and I agree to abide by the course policies.

___________________________          ____________

Print Name                      Date

____________________________________

Signature                      Date