English 1302: Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking II

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English 1302: Introduction to Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing II. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in communication. Continues ENGL 1301, but with an emphasis on advanced techniques of academic argument. Includes issue identification, independent library research, analysis and evaluation of sources, and synthesis of sources with students' own claims, reasons, and evidence. This course focuses on critical engagement with ethical and social issues and the development of academic arguments that communicate a specific point of view. **Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in ENGL 1301.**

Core Objectives:

- Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills: To include effective development and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

ENGL 1302 Expected Learning Outcomes

In ENGL 1302, students build on the knowledge and information that they learned in ENGL 1301. By the end of ENGL 1302, students should be able to:

Rhetorical Knowledge

- Identify and analyze the components and complexities of a rhetorical situation
- Use knowledge of audience, exigence, constraints, genre, tone, diction, syntax, and structure to produce situation-appropriate argumentative texts, including texts that move beyond formulaic structures
- Know and use special terminology for analyzing and producing arguments
- Practice and analyze informal logic as used in argumentative texts

Critical Reading, Thinking, and Writing

- Understand the interactions among critical thinking, critical reading, and writing
- Integrate personal experiences, values, and beliefs into larger social conversations and contexts
- Find, evaluate, and analyze primary and secondary sources for appropriateness, timeliness, and validity
- Produce situation-appropriate argumentative texts that synthesize sources with their own ideas and advance the conversation on an important issue
- Provide valid, reliable, and appropriate support for claims, and analyze evidentiary support in others' texts

Processes

- Practice flexible strategies for generating, revising, and editing complex argumentative texts
- Engage in all stages of advanced, independent library research
- 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' arguments

Conventions

- Apply and develop knowledge of genre conventions ranging from structure and paragraphing to tone and mechanics, and be aware of the field-specific nature of these conventions
- Summarize, paraphrase, and quote from sources using appropriate documentation style
- Revise for style and edit for features such as syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Employ technologies to format texts according to appropriate stylistic conventions

Required Texts

- *First Year Writing: Perspectives on Argument.* UTA 3rd Custom Edition (You can purchase an EText of this textbook at http://www.pearsoncustom.com/tx/uta_writing . Once you are on the site, click on "Purchase Access". If you experience technical or logon issues while purchasing your text, please visit the Pearson tech support website at http://www.pearsoncustom.com/_global/productinfo/websites/_24_7/ or call 1-800-677-6337.)
- Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing.* 2nd Ed.
- Scott Foresman Handbook

Description of Major Assignments

This semester, you'll be conducting research on an issue of interest to you. Since you'll be reading and writing extensively on the issue, it's important that you choose a research topic that you really want to know more about. In addition to choosing an issue that interests you, you need to choose an issue that is current (sources published within the last two years), one that is likely to have sources available, and one that has generated some discussion and debate. The **Research Project** includes these assignments:

- Issue Proposal;
- Annotated Bibliography of sources related to your topic (at least 10 entries);
- Exploratory Essay that analyzes the rhetorical situation and discusses the multiple perspectives on the issue; and
- **Signature Assignment**: Researched Position Paper that makes a well-supported argument about the issue.

All parts must be completed in order to receive credit for each one. That means if you change the topic along the way, you'll need to do *all* of the writing assignments for the new topic, even if you have already completed them for a previous topic.

Please keep in mind that assignments incorrectly posted (submitted to the wrong location) in Blackboard will not receive credit.

Also, all assignments must be:

- MLA formatted;
- Turned in as .doc, .docx, or .rtf files (Please do not copy and paste assignments into the text box field); and Submitted before midnight Central Daylight Time (CDT) on the date specified.

An Important Note about Blackboard Assignment Submissions: All students are responsible for making sure their submissions have correctly posted to Blackboard. In order to check if an essay/assignment has been submitted correctly, click on the "Grades" tab located on the left hand side of the course home page and then look for the green exclamation point icon in the appropriate column. (Note: for discussion activities and peer review, a ball icon confirms your submission.) If an exclamation point icon is not present after your assignment has been submitted, you should resubmit following the steps above to make sure it is properly submitted.

If your essay/assignment still isn't posted after several attempts, you should email the essay/assignment (work submitted incomplete will be graded accordingly) as an attachment to your instructor BEFORE the specified deadline. Your instructor will contact you about your emailed submission within 24 hours and specify a timeframe for submitting the essay/assignment to Blackboard. Failure to submit your work within the designated timeframe will result in a zero. Also, you must submit the same essay/assignment to Blackboard that you submitted to your instructor via email. Failure to submit the same work will result in a zero for the assignment.

Again, keep in mind that it is your responsibility to submit your work on time and ensure that it is submitted to Blackboard properly. Failure to do so will result in a late penalty or zero. As the submission process in Blackboard allows students to ensure that their assignments have been submitted correctly and an alternative means of submitting assignments is available to all students, NO assignments will be accepted for full credit after the deadline due to failed submission attempts (See the late assignment policy for more information on late work). Please be aware that technical errors in Blackboard are very rare and tech support has sophisticated tools to determine if students have actually submitted assignments or posted to discussion activities.

Grades

Grades in FYC are A, B, C, F, and Z. Students must pass ENGL 1301 and ENGL 1302 with a grade of C or higher in order to move on 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 participate regularly 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:

Discussion Activities	10%
Issue Proposal	10%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Exploratory Essay	25%
Signature Assignment	30%

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

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. **Keep all papers** until you receive your final grade from the university. You cannot challenge a grade without evidence.

Note: All assignments will be graded within one calendar week or sooner. Also, please keep in mind that assignments incorrectly posted (submitted to the wrong location) in Blackboard will not receive credit.

Classroom Policies

Late Assignments: Papers are due on the specified due date. Late essays/assignments will incur a penalty, unless the student meets the following condition: she must contact the instructor or academic coach a week ahead of the assignment due date and provide documentation of a conflict accepted by the University of Texas at Arlington as a reason to miss class or an assignment (These accepted conflicts include military service, religious holidays, and school- sponsored activities such as participation in sporting events. See http://www3.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#5 for further information.). Students presenting documentation are required to complete assignments in the timeframe prescribed by their instructor; otherwise, the assignment(s) will incur a late penalty. Late work submitted without a university excuse will incur a10pt deduction for each day it is submitted past the specified submission deadline (for example, 10pts off for one day late, 20pts off for two days late, etc.). Essays/assignments beyond 10 days late will not be accepted for credit. Please note that discussion activities and peer reviews cannot be submitted past the specified deadline. Also, final papers (Position Papers) will not be accepted late or past the specified due date.

Revision Policy: Revision is an important means for improving both the writing process and the final product. Students have the option of revising two major essays—the Issue Proposal and Exploratory Essay—after they have been graded. The original grade and revision grade will be averaged to arrive at the student's final grade for the essay. The last major paper, after it has been submitted for grading, cannot be revised for a higher grade.

Participation Policy: Improvement in writing is a complex process that requires a great deal of practice and feedback from readers. Regular participation is thus necessary for success in ENGL 1302.

Attendance: While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Classroom Behavior: Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, to listen to other class members, and to comment appropriately. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors and academic coaches 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 referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Electronic Communication Policy: All students must have access to a computer with internet capabilities. ***Students should check their MyMav email daily for course information and updates and respond to their instructor and academic coach's emails within 24 hours.*** I will also send group emails through MyMav. I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. Make sure you have consulted the syllabus and course for answers before you send me an email. Remember, I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day. I typically check it twice a day 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.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

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.

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 or academic coach. All students suspected of plagiarizing or cheating will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

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.

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit* www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/

Drop Policy

It is the student's responsibility to officially drop or withdraw from the course 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.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

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 2013, registered users may visit the Writing Center for 45-minute face-to-face or online sessions from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday; and Noon to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. You may register and schedule appointments online at uta.mywconline.com or by visiting the Writing Center. In addition to normal sessions, the Writing Center will offer Quick Hits (5-10 minute sessions for those nagging last minute problems, spelling/word choice questions, or editing concerns) 4:30-7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. During Quick Hits periods one of our staff will also respond to brief questions on our FaceBook page www.facebook.com/WritingCenteratUTArlington. Research Librarians will also offer Paper's Due Drop Inn to assist with research and citation specific questions. If you need assistance with registration, please call 817-272-2601 during regular business hours. If you come to the Writing Center without an appointment, you will be helped on a first-come, first-served basis as consultants become available. Writing Center consultants 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; consultants 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.

In addition to one-on-one consultations, the Writing Center will offer on-campus FYC and grammar workshops periodically throughout the semester. For more information on these, please visit us at http://www.uta.edu/owl.

Please note all times listed are for **Central Standard Time** and it is students' responsibility to adjust for time differences if they do not reside in the area.

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: ***Course-Specific Guides.*** All First-Year English courses have access to research guides that assist students with required research. 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 ENGL 1301 and ENGL 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.