

## English 1301: Rhetoric and Composition I Fall 2014

**Instructor:** Rod Sachs, M.A.

**Course Information:** 1301-066, Tue/Thur – 2:00-3:20, Preston Hall 100

**Office/Hours:** Tue/Thur – 2:00-3:20 (UONAALD)

**Email:** [sachs@uta.edu](mailto:sachs@uta.edu)

**ENGL 1301 RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION I:** This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in communication. This course will require students to read rhetorically and analyze scholarly texts on a variety of subjects. The course emphasizes writing to specific audiences and understanding how information is context dependent and audience specific. Students must engage with a variety of ideas and learn how to synthesize those in college level essays.

### **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 1301 Expected Learning Outcomes.** By the end of ENGL 1301, students should be able to demonstrate:

### *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: STUDENTS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING EDITIONS**

Graff and Birkenstein, *They Say/I Say* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition ISBN: 0393935841

*First-Year Writing: Perspectives on Argument* (2012 UTA custom 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) ISBN: 1256744506

**Description of Major Assignments.**

**Summary Responses/Reading Responses/Reading Quizzes:** More specific **reading response** prompts will also be provided. **Reading quizzes** will be assigned at random and are not announced – so DO the reading. **NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED.**

**Peer Reviews.** Each essay will include mandatory peer review workshops. **It is very important that you participate in peer review, as you will not be able to make up these points.** **NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED.**

**Discourse Community Analysis (Tue 9/23):** For this essay, you will make an argument explaining how you became part of a discourse community.

**Rhetorical Analysis (Tue 11/4):** For this essay, select an essay from the BB reading list. You will write a rhetorical analysis of your designated essay as a review of the article for the editor of the

**Synthesis Essay (Tue 12/2):** For this essay, you will continue your writing on the topic cluster you selected for the Rhetorical Analysis. After reading multiple sources about your chosen topic, you will develop a clear central claim and use multiple sources to support your claim.

**Class Participation:** You will be graded daily on class participation, which includes coming to class prepared, making thoughtful contributions in response to the readings, asking and answering questions, and presenting a general attitude of interest in the course content. 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 ENGL 1301. Students are expected to attend class every day and to arrive on time. 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. **Students are given 100 participation points at the beginning of the semester and will lose points daily if they fail to participate in class. Participation includes being in class on time, having all necessary books/materials, and being thoughtfully engaged in activities and discussions.**

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I cannot make you come to class – but see above participation grade for understanding how beneficial attendance is to your writing growth and academic progress.

**Grades.** Final 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 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:

Discourse Community Analysis	= 25 points
Rhetorical Analysis	= 25 points
Synthesis Essay	= 30 points
Responses/Peer Review	= 5 points
Quizzes	= 5 points
Participation	= 10 points
Total	100

Final grades will be calculated as follows: A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, F=69%-and below; Z=see the Z grade policy 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. **Completion means that something is turned in as a "final draft."** **Keep all papers** until you receive your final grade from the university. You cannot challenge a grade without evidence.

**Paper Reuse Policy** – You are not allowed, under any circumstances, to reuse papers from prior classes in this course or any other course that you have taken at any institution. Reusing papers does not demonstrate any advance in knowledge or skill, and so would not be helpful for you either in terms of your learning this semester, or for me in terms of assessing this learning. If you feel your situation constitutes a clear or significant exception to this rule, you must discuss this with me prior to the due date of the first draft.

**Turning in Assignments to Blackboard:** All major assignments (DCA, RAE, and SE) in this course will be submitted to Blackboard. I will not accept any assignments via e-mail. All assignments submitted to Blackboard must be saved as a **PDF** file to ensure that I am able to open them on my computer. It is your responsibility to ensure that all of your work is saved in this way and submitted in the correct format. If you submit work in the wrong format, then you will receive a zero for the assignment.

**Late Assignments.** Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified. Daily work, summary responses, and journals **will not** be accepted late. If you anticipate the need to hand in a Major Assignments after class has begun, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE INSTRUCTOR *in advance of the due date*. For each calendar day following the class date, the work will receive an additional ten percent deduction. Major Assignments will not be accepted after three late days. If you must be absent, your work is still due on the assigned date.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, if you have four 3-credit courses (12 hours of class time) you should do a minimum of 36 hours of reading, study, etc. For this reason, you should treat your college education as a FULL-TIME JOB.

**Grade Grievances:** First Year Writing has a specific procedure that must be followed in order for a student to appeal a grade or any other matter related to their 1301/02 class. First, the student must communicate with the instructor in an attempt to resolve any matter in question. The next step is for students to communicate with the Director of First Year Writing. The Director will then advise students on the next official steps in any appeal process. Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate / graduate catalog.

**Late Enrollment Policy:** Though I realize that sometimes enrolling in a course after the start date is unavoidable, please be advised that you will be held responsible for the class periods that you have missed even if you were not enrolled in the course. Please schedule a meeting with me to see how best to get caught up.

**Classroom behavior.** All cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away when entering the classroom; **all earpieces should be removed – Like, Hello? You're IN CLASS, not a waiting room.** Bring book(s) and e-reserve readings (heavily annotated and carefully read) to every class. 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. NO ASSHOLERY\* ALLOWED ... simply treat people with love regardless of how others treat you.

\*Look up this word in Urban Dictionary if you don't get it.

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 may be asked to leave class** if they do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students' – if this occurs you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Classroom Visitors:** Only students officially enrolled in this section are allowed to attend class meetings. Students may not bring guests (children, spouses, friends, family) to class unless an academic request has been submitted and approved by the instructor well in advance of the proposed class visit. Children are not allowed in class as visitors at any time – this is not my policy it is the University's.

**Academic Integrity.** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

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 or colluding with another to prepare assignments. 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.

**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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**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 English Writing Center is located in Room 411 Central Library. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Noon to 5:15 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Students must register and can make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Face-to-Face and online appointments for undergraduate students are scheduled for 40 minutes. Writing Center consultants assist with any aspect of academic writing, from understanding an assignment, brainstorming, revising an early draft, to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; consultants will not correct grammar or rewrite assignments during our long sessions. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for more information about services and guidelines.

**Quick Hits:** A Writing Center consultant is available in the Writer's Studio, 413b, to help students find answers on citation, style, minor editing, punctuation, and other quick questions that require 5 to 10 minutes. Although students must register with the Writing Center, Quick Hits walk-ins are welcome and students are assisted on a first-come, first-served basis. These are not one-on-one sessions. Quick Hits is available Mondays Noon-3:45 p.m., Wednesdays Noon-4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-8:15 p.m. Students also may post short questions to our Facebook page during these periods at [www.facebook.com/WritingCenteratUT Arlington](http://www.facebook.com/WritingCenteratUT Arlington). QH Consultants will not make corrections, but will point clients to the answers.

**Workshops:** The Writing Center offers three series of workshops: grammar, ENGL1301/02, and graduate students. A detailed list with descriptions is available at the start of each semester online at [www.uta.edu/owl](http://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: All First-Year Writing 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. Other helpful information may be found at links provided below:

Library Home Page ..... <http://www.uta.edu/library>  
Ask A Librarian..... <http://ask.uta.edu>

**Student Support Services:** UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers,

developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, [which is located just to the left of our door in Preston Hall](#). Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals – neither the entrance nor the far exit have stairs.

**Electronic Communication Policy.** **I can only email with you using UTA email. I typically will return emails within 24 hours.** 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 Blackboard. 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 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.** 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.

**Conferences and Questions:** I am almost always available for genuine emergencies and can be reached nearly each week for personal conferences and meetings. [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 typically do not discuss individual student issues in the classroom before, during or after class (unless there is a *real* emergency).

**Syllabus and Schedule Changes.** Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester I 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 major changes in writing. While the syllabus is "a contract" it is also a work in progress – if you have doubt, email me and pay attention to my emails to you.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

**For non-emergencies, contact the UTA PD at 817-272-3381.**

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

**ENGL 1301 Course Schedule.** Assignments are due on the day they are listed. Schedule subject to Revision

<b>Syllabus Abbreviations</b>	
<i>TSIS: They Say/I Say</i>	SE: Synthesis Essay
	DCA: Discourse Community Analysis
<i>FYW: First-Year Writing: Perspectives on Argument</i>	RAE: Rhetorical Analysis Essay

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Class Topic</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>1</b>	THU 8/21	Welcome, Introductions, academic conversation and syllabus/policies Major Assignments – THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICS - Freire Reading Diagnostic Essay	
<b>2</b>	TUE 8/26	<b>Review / Discuss “I Am”</b>	Freire/ “I Am” Reading Response
<b>2</b>	THU 8/28	Introduction: Academic Conversation/Argument: Writing Assignment: Smokey Robinson Slam Introduction Discourse Community Analysis	<b>Read:</b> <i>TSIS</i> Preface, Intro, Chapter 9 <i>FYW</i> Chapter 1, <b>pg. 28</b>
			<b>Due: Review Questions from FYW</b>
<b>3</b>	TUE 9/2	DCA Assignment Read Aloud	<b>Read:</b> DCA Assignment P26-P32
<b>3</b>	THU 9/4	The Rhetorical Triangle / Audience	<b>Read:</b> <i>FYW</i> P11-P22 <i>TSIS</i> Chapter 1
<b>4</b>	TUE 9/9	Appeals: Logos Film: TBA	
<b>4</b>	THU 9/11	Appeals: Pathos Film: TBA Discuss and Assign Peer Review	<b>Due: First draft of DCA</b>
<b>5</b>	TUE 9/16	Appeals: Ethos Film: TBA “Understanding Your Instructor’s Comments” and “FYW Evaluation Rubric”	<b>Due: Completed Peer Review</b> <b>Read:</b> Sample DCA in <i>FYW</i> pp. p30-p32,
<b>5</b>	THU 9/18	In Class Work: Editing/Revising Workshop or Conferences Discuss Grade Criteria/Rubric for DCA	
<b>6</b>	TUE 9/23	Introduce the Rhetorical Analysis Essay and Preview the Synthesis Essay Discuss Reading Clusters	<b>Due: DCA Final</b> <b>Read:</b> <i>FYW</i> P33-P36

6	THU 9/25	Analyze the Shorthorn Audience The Rhetorical Situation TRACE exercise	<b>Read:</b> <i>FYW</i> Chapter 2
7	TUE 9/30	TRACE analysis of one RAE article	<b>Read:</b> RAE eligible article of choice, <i>FYW</i> Chapter 4, <i>TSIS</i> Chapter 2
7	THU 10/2	TRACE analysis of one RAE article	<b>Read:</b> RAE eligible article of choice
8	TUE 10/7	Analyzing Reasons and Evidence: Textual Argument	<b>Read:</b> <i>FYW</i> Chapter 6
8	THU 10/9	Analyzing Reasons and Evidence: Visual Argument	<b>Read:</b> <i>FYW</i> Chapter 10
9	TUE 10/14	Metacommentary: <i>TSIS</i> Ch 10, Exercise 2 In Class: Workshop on RAE	<b>Read:</b> <i>TSIS</i> Chapter 10
9	THU 10/16	Discuss and Assign Peer Review	<b>Due:</b> First Draft of RAE
10	TUE 10/21	Individual Conferences on RAE	
10	THU 10/23	Individual Conferences on RAE	<b>Due:</b> Completed Peer Review
11	TUE 10/28	Sample RAE Read Aloud  <b>FYI: Last Day to Drop!!!</b>	<b>Read:</b> <i>FYW</i> P37-P38
11	THU 10/30	Discuss RAE Grading Criteria/Rubric Introduce Synthesis Essay:	<b>Read:</b> <i>FYW</i> P39-P42
12	TUE 11/4	Reading Cluster Groups: Synthesis Practice	<b>Due:</b> RAE Final



12	THU 11/6	Reading Cluster Groups: Synthesis Practice	
13	TUE 11/11	Advancing the Argument: Writing Claims and Reasons	<b>Read: TSIS Chapter 4 &amp; 5</b> <b>Read: Thesis Handout</b>
13	THU 11/13	The Naysayer	<b>Read: TSIS Chapter 6</b> <b>Due: First Draft</b> <b>of Synthesis Essay</b>
14	TUE 11/18	Synthesizing and Documenting Sources: MLA Citations	<b>Read: FYW Appendix A MLA</b> <b>Documentation</b>
14	THU 11/20	The Art of Quoting	<b>Due: Completed Peer Review</b>
15	TUE 11/25	Sample Synthesis Essay: Grading Criteria/Rubric	<b>Read: FYW P43-P45</b>
15	THU 11/27	No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday	
16	TUE 12/2	In Class Work on Synthesis Essay Peer Review	<b>Due: Synthesis Final</b>
16	THU 12/4	In Class Work on Synthesis Essay Peer Review  <b>LAST DAY OF CLASS</b> <b>(We will not meet after this class. There is no</b> <b>final during "finals week")</b>	<b>Due: Synthesis Final FINAL</b>

## 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

### Permission to Use Student Writing

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Number and Section \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Name \_\_\_\_\_

I give my permission for my writing to be used as an example of student work and/or as a teaching tool for future classes. I understand that my name will be removed from my work before it is shared with others.

Student's signature \_\_\_\_\_

UTA ID \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_