Composition II

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Course Website: http://englishwiki.tamucc.edu/wiki/Murphy/Eng1302.252_S15

Program Website: http://firstyearwiki.tamucc.edu/wiki

Course Description
Principles, techniques, and processes of written composition, with an emphasis on research and argument.

First-Year Writing Program Description
The First-Year Writing Program (English 1301 and 1302) introduces students to the discipline of writing studies. Students will read, apply, and reflect on the current research and scholarship in writing studies, especially threshold concepts and specific kinds of knowledge (see below) about writing. Students will learn how to transfer, deepen, and extend their ability to use writing in future academic and non-academic contexts and situations.

Core Outcomes
As part of the University Core Curriculum, the First-Year Writing Program helps students achieve these Core Curriculum Outcomes
- CT 3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
- CS 1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.
- TW 1: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team.
- PR 1: Evaluate choices and actions, and relate consequences to decision making.

Student Learning Outcomes for English 1302
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1302
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the transfer of, deepening of, and growth in:
- Their understanding of threshold concepts in writing studies and the five domains of knowledge about writing by applying their knowledge in composing and presenting texts for different rhetorical situations, self-assessing, and reflecting on their work;
- Their understanding of the five domains of knowledge about writing by applying their knowledge in composing and presenting texts for different rhetorical situations, self-assessing, and reflecting on their work;
- Planning and conducting research for specific rhetorical situations;
- Using results of research in texts they compose and present to achieve specific purposes with specific audiences.

TAMUCC-FYWP Threshold Concepts of Writing Studies (Wardle & Downs, 2014, adapted)
These are the threshold concepts of writing studies. These are concepts that writers must understand in order to develop and progress as writers. "They are gateways to [further] learning" (W&D vii).
1. Writing performance is informed by literacy experiences;
2. Writing and reading mediate activity, are knowledge-making, and are recursive processes;
3. Writing is not perfectible; we are always expanding our knowledge of how to use writing;
4. Effective ("good") writing is context-specific; its value depends on the extent to which it achieves its purpose in the situation and with the audience for which it is used; and it is the result of writers knowing about and using appropriate strategies for planning, drafting, and revising; and
5. Writing is a malleable tool used within specific activity systems, which are goal-directed, historically situated, and cooperative human interactions.

Kinds of Knowledge about Writing (Beaufort, 2007, adapted)
English 1302 will extend writers to the kinds of knowledge they need to use writing effectively. Writers compose within and for specific groups (discourse communities), whose expectations, values, and activities determine writers' choices about appropriate content / subject matter and genres. Writers also need to know how to apply knowledge of rhetoric (considering the relationships among the writer, the readers, and the purpose of writing) as they compose. As they consider these kinds of knowledge, writers make choices about the most appropriate process to use in order to compose effective texts.

Learning about and applying these kinds of knowledge will help writers expand their ability to use writing in their college courses and beyond.

Habits of Mind
English 1302 will continue the development of the eight habits of mind that are essential to students’ success in college writing (The Framework for Success in Postsecondary Writing):

- Curiosity – the desire to know more about the world.
- Openness – the willingness to consider new ways of being and thinking in the world.
- Engagement – a sense of investment and involvement in learning.
- Creativity – the ability to use novel approaches for generating, investigating, and representing ideas.
- Persistence – the ability to sustain interest in and attention to short- and long-term projects.
- Responsibility – the ability to take ownership of one’s actions and understand the consequences of those actions for oneself and others.
- Flexibility – the ability to adapt to situations, expectations, or demands.
- Metacognition – the ability to reflect on one’s own thinking as well as on the individual and cultural processes used to structure knowledge.

Major Course Requirements – Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>% Course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading, Writing, and Participation</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis</td>
<td>R 2/12</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>T 2/17</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Journal</td>
<td>R 3/5</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Reflection</td>
<td>R 3/12</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/Argumentative Essay</td>
<td>R 4/16</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimodal Presentation</td>
<td>T 4/21</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflective Portfolio</td>
<td>T 5/12</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

English 1302 Textbook
- Everything’s an Argument, Lunsford, Ruszkiewicz, and Walters. 5th ed. (Required)
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- Writing about Writing, 2nd Edition, by Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs. (Recommended)

1302 will also require these other materials:
- Access to University Network, an active Islander email account, and Blackboard.
- USB drive to save and transport computer files between home, class, and/or computer labs.
- A SandDollar card for checking out items from the Bell Library as well as printing in the Bell Library, computer labs, or Campus Copies in the University Center. Please note: COPIES COST $$$.

Major Course Requirements – Major Assignment Descriptions

Please remember that all work must be formatted in APA manuscript style and sources must be cited in APA citation style, unless otherwise noted.

The CASA Writing Center encourages all writers at any stage in the writing process to visit with them in the Glasscock Building, Room 112. To encourage your use of this free student service, I will offer 1 point of extra credit toward each major writing assignment for a writing center consultation (maximum of 3 points per writing assignment). To receive this credit, you must attach a CASA WC slip to your paper upon final submission.

Reading, Writing, and Participation
I expect that you will come to class everyday prepared to engage and learn. Your in-class participation grade will be determined by various activities and assignments, including in-class reading and writing, peer review of drafts, group discussions and presentations. In-class work cannot be made up. In addition to class work, homework will be assigned in the daily class plans (see course website for daily assignments). Homework assignments will most often require you to read a chapter in Everything’s An Argument and respond to a prompt in writing (1 page, typed and double-spaced or 2 pages handwritten and double-spaced). Homework should be completed outside of class and turned in as hard (paper) copies. Homework is due at the beginning of class, and will not be accepted late. Occasionally, a homework grade will be assigned for an in-class activity or reading quiz.

In-Class Participation
You are expected to come to class every day prepared and with required materials. Your in-class participation grade will be determined by various activities and assignments, including but not limited to peer review of drafts, group discussions and presentations. In-class work cannot be made up. If you have more than 2 absences your grade will diminish 1% for each day missed up to 5%.

Homework
Homework will be assigned in the class plans. Occasionally, a homework grade will be assigned for an in-class reading quiz. However, homework assignments will most often be completed outside of class and turned in as hard (paper) copies. Homework is due at the beginning of class, and will not be accepted late.

Rhetorical Analysis
A rhetorical analysis should explore the writer’s goals, the techniques (or tools) used, examples of those techniques, and the effectiveness of those techniques (2-3 page, double-spaced).

Research Proposal
A research proposal is a short (one page, double-spaced) essay that begins to explore a topic, question, problem, or issue that you are interested in researching and writing about this semester. It is important that you take time to brainstorm ideas and select a topic that you will pursue throughout the semester in this course.

Research Journal - total of 10 (one page, double-spaced) entries
A research journal is a place for you to keep track of the research you are conducting, reading, and thinking about
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in connection to your selected topic. The purpose of the journal is to 1) deepen your understanding of the topic as you proceed through your sources, 2) evaluate how reliable each source is, depending upon its slant, and 3) enter into an ongoing conversation or debate about your selected topic.

**Final Research Essay** - total of 8-10 pages (double-spaced), not including title page or references
Your final research essay will include the “conversation” you discussed in your multiple perspective(s) paper as well as incorporate your own position on your selected topic. You should use credible evidence and sound reasoning to support your position in relation to other perspectives on the topic.

**Multimodal Presentation**
You will convert your extended research essay into a multimodal project—video, website, Prezi, etc., that presents your argument in the context of the conversation surrounding your topic. You will present your multimodal project in class.

**Reflective Portfolio**
This assignment will provide opportunities for reflection on your learning and growth as a writer, a college student, and an individual. You will receive more information about these assignments in your Seminar and Composition classes.

**University & Course Policies**

**Classroom/Professional Behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**In-class Conduct**
In general, treat each other and the instructor with respect and follow standards of common courtesy. Here are a few specifics:

- Please turn off all cell phones or other electronic communication devices and place them out of sight (in a bag, purse, pocket) while in class.
- Do not use your time in English 1301 to work on assignments for other classes.
- Computers are to be used for English 1301 work only.

**In-Class Participation**
To earn daily, in-class writing points, you must be on time, come to class prepared, participate in all class activities, and remain in class for the entire period. Leaving early, coming in late, or refusing to participate in in-class work may result in the loss of points.

**Writing Center**
The CASA Writing Center at TAMUCC, located in Room 112 of the Glasscock Student Success Center, provides free help for students at any stage of their writing process. Writing Consultants are trained to support writers in planning, outlining, drafting, organizing, and/or revising their writing and are also knowledgeable in citing sources in various documentation styles used in academic writing. It offers both face-to-face and online appointments for both undergraduate and graduate students. The Writing Center works closely with faculty across the TAMUCC campus to understand writing in different disciplines and to help students meet these expectations. The Writing Center encourages students to make a 30-minute appointment; however, if Writing Consultants are available,
they do accept walk-in appointments. Visit casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php to create an account using your @islander.tamucc.edu email address. Once you have an account, you can log-on to make an appointment.

**Late Work/Extensions**

If there is a crisis that prevents you from meeting a deadline or attending class, you can request an extension to turn the work in late without a penalty. The approval of an extension is entirely at my discretion and will depend on the reason for your absence, your record of completion of work, and attendance. All extensions must be confirmed by email.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

*Definition:* In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.

This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers. Most current discussions of plagiarism fail to distinguish between:

1. Submitting someone else’s text as one’s own or attempting to blur the line between one’s own ideas or words and those borrowed from another source, and
2. Carelessly or inadequately citing ideas and words borrowed from another source.

Such discussions conflate plagiarism with the *misuse of sources.* Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. (Quoted from “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices”)

Plagiarism is a serious violation of departmental and University policies, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help.

Information on MLA documentation rules and APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. You can also visit their website at http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/ and contact them via e-mail at disability.services@tamucc.edu. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.
Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please be aware that you are allowed 6 drops in your entire undergraduate career, so these decisions must be made carefully. **November 15, Friday** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Grade Appeals Process
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

Provisional Course Outline
Please see the course website for the most updated plans and deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>Classes begin Thursday Jan. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan 27-29</td>
<td>Ethos/Pathos/Logos Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Feb 3-5</td>
<td>Ethos/Pathos/Logos Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Feb 10-12</td>
<td>Rhetorical Analysis Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Feb 17-19</td>
<td>Research Proposal Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Feb 24-26</td>
<td>Conferencing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>March 3-5</td>
<td>Research Journal Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>March 10-12</td>
<td>Midterm Reflection Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>March 24-26</td>
<td>FYRC Proposal Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>March 31-April 2</td>
<td>Research/Argumentative Essay workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>April 7-9</td>
<td>Conferencing / 4/10 last day to drop a class with a “W”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>April 14-16</td>
<td>Research/Argumentative Essay Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>April 21-23</td>
<td>Multimodal Presentation Due / Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>April 28-30</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Last Day of class / Reading Day May 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Reflective Portfolio</td>
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</tbody>
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