Strategies and Genres of Advanced Writing
ENGL3361. 201 Fall 2014
TR 2:00-3:15, OCNR 240

Instructor: Susan Garza
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Office Hours: Mon 10-11 and Tue/Thu 12-2 or by appointment

Course Description
Practice in techniques and tactics of the sophisticated writer. Focus on rhetorical strategies that succeed in specific discourse situations, both academic and non-academic. Satisfies university computer literacy requirement.
Instructor Website:  http://falcon.tamucc.edu/wiki/SGarza/Home

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

- Identify and analyze the rhetorical elements in a variety of texts.
- Use rhetorical elements to produce a variety of texts (in different genres) for a variety of audiences.
- Learn to revise their work according to self-assessment and reader responses.
- Apply new strategies related to writing style – i.e. word choice, syntax, and sentence structure.

Major Course Requirements (How you will earn your grade)
Please remember that all work must be formatted in MLA or APA manuscript style and sources must be cited in APA citation style, unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>course grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Studio Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading/Application</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Style</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Class Participation
You are expected to participate in all assigned activities. Your participation grade will be determined by various activities and assignments, including but not limited to peer review of
drafts, group discussions and presentations. This work cannot be made up.

**Studio Participation**
We will run the course as an actual writing studio. Students will plan and coordinate all activities, including what projects to focus on and what roles each student will play.

**Reading/Application**
We will read, analyze and apply readings related to genre theory and the work we will work on in the studio. Some will be assigned and some will be student selected.

**Portfolio Preparation**
Students will develop a plan for the focus of the portfolio and the elements needed to complete the project. All work in the course will be related to portfolio focus and goals.

**Writing Style**
We will engage in activities throughout the semester to explore the concept of writing style – how it is viewed/defined, strategies and applications within context.

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**Required or Recommended Readings**

*Textbook:* None Required
Access to University Network, an active islander email account, and Blackboard

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**Course Policies**
Late work is not accepted without prior approval from the instructor and must be confirmed via email.

**Expectations**
Students will practice respect and responsibility as a part of this learning community. Here are some things you can do to exhibit an attitude of respect and responsibility:

- Post assignments on time. Early is even better.
- Work extra hard to get to know other classmates.
- Reach out through email or Blackboard posts to support each other. If you have good info/tips on what is working for you/resource ideas, please share with the group so we can help each other out.
- Respect other classmates by watching what you say.
- Add your opinions to/participate in the discussions.
- Check the assignments every week. Don’t wait until the last minute.
- Be helpful to other students
- Don’t get behind. If you get behind in an online/blended course it is harder to get back on track than it is in a traditional course.
- Stay focused and stay connected.
• Keep up with your assignments and your grades. It is not the teacher's responsibility to tell you what you have or haven't turned in. Your grades will be available in Blackboard so all you have to do is regularly check to make sure you have grades posted for all work.

**Description of lessons/modules**
Lessons/modules will include work in peer review of drafts, group discussions and presentations.

**Technical support information/link**
The Island Online (IOL) [https://iol.tamucc.edu](https://iol.tamucc.edu)

**Technical requirements for course**
*Computer Requirements*
IOL runs on a web based application called Blackboard through a web browser. Please note that your web browser must be configured properly to work with IOL. To check if your web browser is compatible with IOL you can do a browser check-up by visiting the IOL site at [https://iol.tamucc.edu/](https://iol.tamucc.edu/).

**Delivery of instructor feedback**
Instructor response to online requests usually occurs within a 24-hour period, but you can expect a response within 3 days.

**Student login expectations**
It is recommended that students check daily for updates.
Blackboard Login [https://bb9.tamucc.edu](https://bb9.tamucc.edu)

**Faculty availability to support students**
Instructor maintains a consistent web presence and is available to meet online in the Blackboard synchronous environment or via phone meetings for students who need more help.

**Types of required interactions**
*Email*
• Always include a subject line
• Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your posts.
• Use standard fonts.
• Do not send large attachments without permission.
• Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to the message
• Respect the privacy of other class members
Discussion Groups

• Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion
• Try to maintain threads by using the “Reply” button rather than starting a new topic
• Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group
• Be patient and read the comments of other members thoroughly before adding your remarks
• Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks
• Be positive and constructive in group discussions
• Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner

Blog

• Introduce yourself to the other learners in the blog session
• Be polite and do not use derogatory statements
• Be concise in responding to others in the blog session
• Be prepared to participate in the blog session at the scheduled time
• Be constructive in your comments and suggestions

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of zero.

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 or wise. 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. November 7, 2014 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of "W" this term.

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

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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.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Grade Appeals**

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.

**Disabilities Accommodations**

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.

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 at (361) 825-5816.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor
has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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**Course Calendar / Outline**

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<th>Week</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td><em>Classes begin</em></td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Studio Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Studio Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Style Assignments</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Style Assignments</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Portfolio Preparation</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Midterm Portfolio Presentation and Studio Meeting</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Style Assignments</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Style Assignments</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Portfolio Preparation</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td><em>Nov. 7th is the last day to drop a class</em></td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Research Essay due</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Studio Meeting <em>Thanksgiving Holiday</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Portfolio Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Last day of class. <em>Reading Day Dec. 13th</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>End-of-Semester Portfolio</td>
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**Academic Advising**: It is imperative that all students visit regularly with an academic adviser. Each college within the university has an academic advising center, staffed by full-time, professional advisers to assist students with course selection, degree plans, and other academic matters. To find out how to contact the right adviser, go to: [http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/advising.php)

Students who have yet to declare a major are advised by the Academic Advising Transition Center. For more information, go to: [http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac](http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac)

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.

**Reminder to English Majors**: As part of the English undergraduate capstone course (ENGL 4351), all English majors are required to submit a portfolio of writings in different discourse genres that they have completed for their college classes. To help you prepare for this assignment, you should **keep a copy** of all essays, research papers, literary analyses, creative and report writing, etc., so that you will have an ample selection from which to choose when the portfolio comes due.