

RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION SYLLABUS

*"Nothing goes by luck in composition. It allows of no tricks.
The best you can write will be the best you are."*

Henry David Thoreau

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will teach students how to read and write in a variety of ways for a variety of purposes. Assignments are concerned with style and arrangement, with emphasis on creativity and argument. The overarching goal of this course is to help students think creatively about problems they will encounter in all aspects of life. Armed with language, organization, and critical thought students should feel equipped to engage and direct the various "meanings" that account for each individual's experience in the world.

TEXT

Reading Literature and Writing Argument (4th Edition) by Missy James and Alan P Merickel

GRADING

A, 179-200 points; B, 159-178 points; C, 139-158 points; D, 119-138 points; F, $x \leq 118$

Literary Analysis	5%	10 points
Editorial Analysis	5%	10 points
Cover Letter	10 %	20 points
Political Cartoon Analysis	7%	14 points
Children's Story	8%	16 points
Peer Review	10 %	20 points
Participation	10 %	20 points
Midterm Exam	15%	30 points
Final Exam	15%	30 points
Research Writing	Total = 15 %	30 points
		Topic = 3 points
		Materials List = 3 points
		Outline = 3 points
		Introduction = 3 points
		Final Draft = 18 points

TOTAL **100%** **200 POINTS**

PARTICIPATION POLICY

Attendance and participation are vital for each student's success in this class. 10% of the final grade is derived from participation points that will be collected throughout the semester. Points are collected from in-class activities such as quizzes, reaction summaries, group work, etc...

Participation activities are not announced ahead of time. In order to earn participation points, a student must be present on the day of the activity and must contribute in a substantive way.

There are no make-up assignments for missed participation points.

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

LITERARY ANALYSIS/POETRY (5% of grade/10 points)

Assignment Objectives:

1. Mark it while you read it! (underline, write margin notes, and react to the poem in writing while you read)
2. Evaluate the poem based on subject, context, and form.
3. Examine the poet's language choices.

EDITORIAL ANALYSIS (5% of grade/10 points)

Assignment Objectives:

1. Understanding the components of a rhetorical situation.
2. Identifying internal and external constraints.
3. Analyzing a writer's persona.

COVER LETTER FOR EMPLOYMENT (10% of grade/20 points)

Assignment Objectives:

1. Making decisions on format.
2. Making decisions on content.
3. Making decisions on organization.

POLITICAL CARTOON ANALYSIS (7% of grade/14 points)

Assignment Objectives:

1. Explore the function of metaphor.
2. Understanding the rhetorical implications of metaphors.

CHILDREN'S STORY (8% of grade/16 points)

Assignment Objectives:

1. Examining rhetorical constructions of "virtue" and "vice."
2. Understanding "polarizing" messages.

RESEARCH WRITING (15% of grade/30 points)

Assignment Objectives:

1. Choosing and focusing on a topic.
2. How to collect and process materials.
3. How to outline the information and organize the body.
4. What is needed for a solid introduction and conclusion?
5. How to approach the editing stage.

PEER REVIEW (10% of grade/20 points)

Assignment Objectives:

1. What is the purpose and who is the audience?
2. Praise the good stuff.
3. Move from large issues to small issues.
4. Be clear.
5. Describe what you walked away with.
6. Be honest, polite, and constructive.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE	Course and Participant Introductions
WEEK TWO	Chapter One: The Literature and Argument Connection
WEEK THREE	Due: Literary Analysis (5% of grade/10 points)
WEEK FOUR	Chapter Two: Examining Thinking and Analyzing Argument
WEEK FIVE	Chapter Three: Talking Voice and Writing Arguments Due: Editorial Analysis (5% of grade/10 points)
WEEK SIX	Due: Cover Letter for Employment (10% of grade/20 points)
WEEK SEVEN	Chapter Four: Strategies for Writing Academic Arguments Due: Research Writing/Topic (1.5% of grade/3 points)
WEEK EIGHT	Midterm Exam
WEEK NINE	Chapter Five: Individuality and Community Due: Research Writing/Materials List and Outline (3% of grade/6 points)
WEEK TEN	Chapter Six: Nature and Place Due: Political Cartoon Analysis (7% of grade/14 points)
WEEK ELEVEN	Chapter Seven: Family and Identity Due: Research Writing/Introduction (1.5% of grade/3 points)
WEEK TWELVE	Chapter Eight: Power and Responsibility Due: Children's Story (8% of grade/16 points)
WEEK THIRTEEN	Due: Research Writing/Final Draft/2 copies (9% of grade/18 points)
WEEK FOURTEEN	In-Class Workshop
WEEK FIFTEEN	Due: Peer Review (10% of grade/20 points) Final Exam