



Department of Rhetoric and Writing

COMPOSITION I

RHET 1311.950 (CRN 10678) MW 10:50 am – 12:05 pm RHET1311950@ualr.edu

Instructor: Stephanie Williams
Office / Hours: Benton Campus / By Appointment
Contact: shwilliams1@ualr.edu
Other Contact: 501-747-8596 (text okay, include name/class)

COURSE MATERIALS

Required: Ruskiewicz, John J. and Jay T. Dolmage. *How To Write Anything: A Guide and Reference with Readings*. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015. Print. ISBN 978-1-4576-6703-9

Reynolds, Nedra, and Elizabeth Davis. *Portfolio Keeping: A Guide for Students*. 3rd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2014. Print. ISBN 978-1-4576-3285-3

Important Note: **You should bring your book to every single class period.** You should also be prepared with pencils/pens and paper for any in-class writing. I also highly suggest using some sort of personal electronic storage (e.g., cloud-based/online, such as Google drive with your UALR email, and/or USB thumb drive).

COMMUNICATION POLICY

UALR email must be used to transmit correspondence. **You are expected to check your UALR email regularly.** I will use the class discussion listserv (see above) and Blackboard for class-wide communication. I may also use Twitter for reminders.

Personal computer failure is frustrating; however, the late work policy will be implemented. I strongly urge you to back everything you produce up to an external source, e.g. your Google drive or another cloud. Please keep in mind that last minute problems occur when functioning in last minute situations.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This class is offered through the Department of Rhetoric and Writing at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Brian Ray, Director of Composition at bcray@ualr.edu or (803) 319-6428.

RHET 1311 Composition I

Prerequisite: A minimum ACT English score of 19, a minimum SAT I verbal score of 450, or a grade of C or higher in RHET 0310 or RHET 0321. Students will focus on organizing and revising ideas and writing well organized, thoroughly developed papers that achieve the writer's purpose, meet the readers' needs, and develop the writer's voice. Final course grades are A, B, C, or NC. Students must complete this course with a grade of C or greater to take RHET 1312. Three credit hours.

Outcomes for First-Year Composition: *The Department of Rhetoric and Writing has adopted the following outcomes for first-year composition courses from the outcome statements of the Council for Writing Program Administrators.*

- **Rhetorical Knowledge:** *Rhetorical knowledge* is the ability to analyze contexts and audiences and then to act on that analysis in comprehending and creating texts. Rhetorical knowledge is the basis of composing. Writers develop rhetorical knowledge by negotiating purpose, audience, context, and conventions as they compose a variety of texts for different situations.
- **Critical Thinking, Reading, and Composing:** *Critical thinking* is the ability to analyze, synthesize, interpret, and evaluate ideas, information, situations, and texts. When writers think critically about the materials they use—whether print texts, photographs, data sets, videos, or other materials—they separate assertion from evidence, evaluate sources and evidence, recognize and evaluate underlying assumptions, read across texts for connections and patterns, identify and evaluate chains of reasoning, and compose appropriately qualified and developed claims and generalizations. These practices are foundational for advanced academic writing.
- **Processes:** Writers use multiple strategies, or *composing processes*, to conceptualize, develop, and finalize projects. Composing processes are seldom linear: a writer may research a topic before drafting, then conduct additional research while revising or after consulting a colleague. Composing processes are also flexible: successful writers can adapt their composing processes to different contexts and occasions.
- **Knowledge of Conventions:** *Conventions* are the formal rules and informal guidelines that define genres, and in so doing, shape readers' and writers' perceptions of correctness or appropriateness. Most obviously, conventions govern such things as mechanics, usage, spelling, and citation practices. But they also influence content, style, organization, graphics, and document design.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You may miss no more than four (4) class periods without penalty (other than missed participation points; see below) during the semester. Beginning on the fifth (5th) day of missed class up to the tenth (10th) day of missed class, your overall grade will be reduced by five (5) points for each class period missed. On the eleventh (11th) day of missed class, you will receive a grade of “NC” or “No Credit” for the course. The only absences that will be excluded from this policy are those required to fulfill military duties or by a University-sanctioned activity, such as athletics; instructor requires written notice of such dates at the beginning of the semester and IN ADVANCE of the absence. Please note that participation is a part of your grade (as described below); you must be present to participate.

POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES

As a classroom community, we all value the time and presence of one another; this is why it is very important not to interrupt someone’s learning experience. Our discipline is technology-enriched and you will be encouraged to use a variety of technologies in and out of class this semester. However, if instructor determines that you are checking e-mail or on social networking sites, etc. in a way that is not related to class instruction, you will be asked to leave and marked absent.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Major Projects/Portfolio (total 700 points):

During this semester you will complete a total of four major projects and one electronic portfolio. The projects are briefly described below; a detailed assignment information sheet will be provided and said detail will be discussed during class sessions.

The final deadline for each project is listed below. Each project will consist of at least one working draft, an in-class peer review session, and a reflection (these deadlines and dates will be announced in class and on the course schedule). Failure to participate in in-class peer review session will result in a deduction of ten (10) points from your final grade on the project.

- Project 1 – Literacy Narrative (100 points)
 - **Final due Monday, February 15**
 - For Project 1, you will write a literacy narrative. See Chapter 1 for more information. A literacy narrative tells the story of how you became a reader and writer; see Assignment 1 on page 35 for more information. This project will be approximately 3-4 pages.
- Project 2a – Annotated Bibliography (150 points)

- **Final due Monday, March 14**
- You will also compile an annotated bibliography of the research you conduct on a serious topic related to your major. An annotated bibliography follows a very specific format and design; see Chapter 11 for more information. The length of your annotated bibliography is dependent upon the number of sources you discover during your research. You should strive to have at least ten sources and those sources must represent a variety of mediums.
- Project 2b – Informational Report (150 points)
 - **Final due Monday, April 11**
 - You will write a factual, informational report serious topic related to your major; see Chapter 2 and Assignment 1 on page 65 for more information. You must use the sources identified in your annotated bibliography (see above) but you may use other sources as well. This project will be approximately 4-5 pages, not including works cited.
- Project 3 – Rhetorical Analysis of an Argument (100 points)
 - **Final due Monday, May 2**
 - You will choose one of the argument readings in the back of your book (beginning on pages 691, 695, 699, 704 and 714) and write a rhetorical analysis of said argument. Your rhetorical analysis should carefully examine how the argument is effective or ineffective in achieving its purpose. See Chapter 8 and Assignment 2 on page 249 for more information. This project will be approximately 2-3 pages, not including works cited.
- Final – Digital Portfolio (200 points)
 - **Final portfolio due Friday, May 6 no later than 11:59 p.m.**
 - In lieu of a final exam, you will use *Google Sites, Weebly, WordPress or similar free web hosting application* to create a digital portfolio of your writing from the semester. You will create a portfolio of your work that cohesively presents a reflective argument as to how your work has achieved the outcome objectives for this class. You will make your projects (along with their preliminary drafts, revisions, etc.) available on one site. You will aim to create a portfolio that is aesthetically appealing, easily navigable, comprehensive, and applicable to the outcomes statement.
 - In the portfolio, you will analyze how you have responded to the course learning outcomes, the WPA OS 3.0. Essentially, the assertion in the portfolio is: “Here are the skills and knowledge that I have learned this semester, and here’s the evidence that I have acquired these skills and this knowledge.” The evidence in the portfolio is crucial; you should draw on all sorts of sources you’ve developed throughout the semester as evidence (i.e., work that demonstrates your learning: all drafts from each project, mini projects, and class/daily work).
 - The portfolio must include all (four) major projects or the portfolio will not receive a passing grade. It is recommended that your work on this portfolio throughout the semester. Please do not wait until the last few weeks of class to begin this project.

Course Participation/Additional Writing (total 300 points):

During the semester, you are expected to actively and relevantly participate in class. This includes keeping up with the reading, participating in class discussions, and completing additional writing assignments.

- Mini-Projects (210 points)
 - Writing is a learning experience. The only way to improve writing is to write; therefore, you will have regular in-class and/or homework assignments. These mini-projects and their respective deadlines will be announced in class. If you are not present for in-class assignments, you will miss points.
- Participation (90 points)
 - You are expected to attend every class, arriving on time and not leaving early, being prepared for and participating in class activities/discussion. Each class period is “worth” three (3) points: 1 point for being present; 1 point for being on time and not leaving early; and 1 point for participating. Absences or excessive tardiness will result in deduction of your participation grade.

Assignment Formats:

Besides in-class assignments (as specifically allowed by instructor), there will be no handwritten assignments. All typed assignments should be 12pt, double-spaced with one (1) inch margins unless otherwise stated.

All drafts of your work should be saved throughout the semester. In order to easily access your drafts and not save over them, please save your files with the following filenames:

1st draft = LastnameFirstiniital_AssignmentName_Draft1

2nd draft = LastnameFirstinital_AssignentName_Draft2

Final draft = LastnameFirstinitial_AssignmentName_Final

Example: WilliamsS_Project1_Draft1

This filename format should be used when submitting files to instructor.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be offered on Blackboard for a limited period of time or during class. If you miss an opportunity, it cannot be made-up.

GRADING POLICY AND SCALE

The **Course Requirements** detailed above total 1000 points possible for the semester. Your earned points on each requirement (plus any extra credit achieved) will be totaled and divided by the total points possible to compute a straight percentage grade (no weighed assignments). A letter grade will be assigned based on that percentage according to the scale below. A curve may or may not be implemented at the end of the semester.

A	=	100-90
B	=	89-80
C	=	79-70
NC	=	69-0

As indicated in the course description above, the only grades awarded in this class are A, B, C or NC (No Credit). Thus, a percentage of 70 or above (minimum "C") is required to receive credit for this class.

LATE WORK POLICY

In-class and/or participation assignments will not be accepted late and may not be "made up" if absent.

Drafts of Major Projects may be accepted up to one class period late for a deduction of five (5) points off the final project grade. Failure to submit a draft will result in ten (10) points deducted from the final project grade. Finals of major projects may be accepted up to three (3) calendar days (including weekends) late with a deduction of one (1) letter grade for each calendar day late. After the third day late, you will not receive credit for the assignment.

Technology malfunctions (i.e. email, Blackboard, printer ink problems) are not valid excuses for missed or late work. Points will be deducted accordingly. Personal computer failure is frustrating; however, the late work policy will be implemented. I strongly urge you to back everything you produce up to an external source, e.g. your Google drive or another cloud. Please keep in mind that last minute problems occur when functioning in last minute situations.

UALR POLICIES

Statement on Privacy and Writing / Public Nature of the Classroom: Please consider all writing for this class to be "public." Part of becoming an effective writer is learning to appreciate the ideas and feedback of others; in this course, our purpose is to come together as a writing community. Remember that all students will be expected to share writing with others. Avoid writing about topics that you wish to keep private or that you feel so strongly about that you are unwilling to listen to the perspectives of others. Additionally, the feedback that is provided is intended to help improve your writing; be open to the suggestions about your writing.

Classroom Community: The rules and regulations of University of Arkansas at Little Rock student handbook will be followed in our classroom. Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. An instructor may eject or withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process.

Academic Integrity Statement: University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, as set forth in the UALR student handbook and other university documents and publications, will be strictly enforced in this class. Any student who submits work that he/she did not produce for

the given assignment will be assigned a grade of zero points (F) for the assignment in question, and may possibly fail the class. In accordance with Section VI: Statement of Student Behavior, under the code of student rights, responsibilities, and behavior, the university defines academic dishonesty under the classifications of cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and duplicity. Cheating and blatant plagiarism in this class can result in disciplinary sanction.

Students with Disabilities Statement: Your success in this class is important, and it is the policy and practice of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to create inclusive learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have a documented disability (or need to have a disability documented), and need an accommodation, please contact me privately as soon as possible, so that we can discuss with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) how to meet your specific needs and the requirements of the course. The DRC offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process among you, your instructor(s) and the DRC. Thus, if you have a disability, please contact me and/or the DRC, at 501-569-3143 (V/TTY) or 501-683-7629 (VP). For more information, please visit the DRC website at www.ualr.edu/disability.

Web Accessibility Statement: It is the policy and practice of UALR to make all web information accessible to students with disabilities. If you, as a student with a disability, have difficulty accessing any part of the electronic course materials for this class, please notify me immediately.

Weather Policy: The UALR website, UALR email, the University's main telephone number (501.569.3000), and the campus emergency alert system are the official means of communicating all information concerning weather-related closing. Local television and radio stations will also be notified. Weather and road conditions vary from place to place. Employees and students are expected to exercise good judgment regarding the safety of travel when road conditions are affected by the weather.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

University Writing Center-provides support to writers throughout the writing process:
<http://ualr.edu/writingcenter/>

Counseling Services- provides confidential mental health and career counseling services for all UALR students: <http://ualr.edu/personalcounseling/>

Health Services- provides non-emergency medical care to all UALR students:
<http://ualr.edu/health/>

Technology Support is offered at both the campus level along with outside services. UALR offers support for students: <http://ualr.edu/itservices/> along with Blackboard help: <http://ualr.edu/blackboard/>

Ottenheimer Library-offers ask a librarian and research support: <http://ualr.edu/library/>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2016

January 11: First day of spring 2016 classes

February 15: Project 1 Final Due

January 18: University Closed / No Classes Meet (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

March 14: Project 2a Final Due

March 8 by 5pm: Last day to drop individual class (without refund)

April 11: Project 2b Final Due

March 21-27: University Closed / No Classes Meet (Spring Break)

May 2: Project 3 Final Due

May 2: Last day of classes

May 2 by 5pm: Last day to withdraw from all courses (without refund)

May 3: Consultation Day

May 3-10: Final Exams. See final exam schedule at <http://ualr.edu/records/final-exams/>

May 6: Final Portfolio due no later than 11:59 p.m.

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2016

Instructor will provide a tentative schedule for the semester. As we progress, some changes may be made to the content to be covered during a given week. While the dates and deadlines are not likely to change, adjustment may be necessary and unavoidable; in the event a change is needed, students will be notified as soon as possible.