



DEPARTMENT OF RHETORIC  
AND WRITING

## **Rhetoric 1311.21 Composition I**

Class Location: Dickinson Hall 201

Class Meeting Times: MWF 9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

Instructor: Stephanie Williams

Department Office: SUB 100H

Instructor Office: SUA 100 (coded door; must knock)

Phone: 501-747-8596 (text okay, include name/class)

General Office Hours: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

(Also available by appointment. Email first.)

Email: [shwilliams1@ualr.edu](mailto:shwilliams1@ualr.edu)

## DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

This class is offered through the Department of Rhetoric and Writing. If you have any questions or concerns that instructor cannot answer/address, please contact Dr. Brian Ray, Director of Composition and/or Dr. Joyce Carter, department chair.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite for 1311: Prerequisite: A minimum ACT English score of 19, a minimum SAT I verbal score of 450, RHET 0310, or RHET 0321. Practice in writing, with an emphasis on personal, expressive writing, as well as transactional writing. 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.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The Department of Rhetoric and Writing has adapted the following outcomes for composition courses from the outcome statements of the Council for Writing Program Administrators. Course objectives are also aligned with the [UALR General Education Core Curriculum](#) and [Core Competencies](#). The program conducts assessments of student portfolios every semester to ensure we are following the following guidelines. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- A. Demonstrate basic rhetorical ability by completing texts for at least 3 different rhetorical situations, with each one written appropriately for that context. (E.g., personal essay, literacy narrative, exploratory source-based paper.)
- B. Demonstrate awareness of basic proofreading and editing skills by completing finished drafts that follow appropriate conventions of grammar punctuation, usage, and spelling.
- C. Revise and reflect on all major projects [at least 3] effectively, based on instructor feedback, peer review, and self-assessment. (E.g., evidence of improvement on global & local issues plus a substantial reflection essay.)
- D. Produce at least one final draft that effectively integrates electronic and print sources into the writer's own text and documents them effectively. (E.g.,

exploratory paper that uses primary and secondary sources located through library databases to pose and answer a question.)

- E. Effectively use different software programs and applications to compose and revise documents in different modes and mediums. (E.g., an e-portfolio site or blog with working links that is eye-friendly, readable, and navigable.)
- F. Demonstrate awareness of multiple genres by producing at least one effective text in a professional, public, and non-essay genre. (E.g., portfolio contains a press release, an opinion-editorial essay, and a design for a billboard ad or PSA.)

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

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The McGraw-Hill Guide: Writing for College, Writing for Life. Third Ed. Duan Roen, Gregory R. Glau, Barry M. Maid. 2013. ISBN: 978-0-07-340592-6  
Access to CONNECT COMPOSITION program administered by McGraw-Hill  
(available with purchase of textbook)

## OTHER MATERIALS

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- Computer/word processor/internet/Blackboard access
- Personal blog (we'll discuss this during the first week of class)
- USB flashdrive or cloud storage (recommended)
- Pens and/or pencils for writing
- Folder/binder for printed materials (optional)

## MAJOR GRADES & ASSIGNMENTS

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### **Major Projects (40% of overall grade):**

During this semester you will complete a total of three (3) major projects. The projects are briefly identified below with the final deadline listed; a detailed assignment information sheet for each project will be provided and discussed during class sessions. 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).

- Project 1 – Memoir/Narrative (100 points)
  - **Final due on Monday, February 13**
- Project 2 – Analysis (150 points)
  - **Final due on Monday, March 13**
- Project 3 – Proposal (200 points)
  - **Final due on Wednesday, April 26**

### **CONNECT Assignments (20% of overall grade):**

You will complete a number of assignments through the CONNECT program. These assignments include (but are not limited to) learning modules, quizzes and short answer and/or reflective essay writing. These assignments range from 20 to 200 points per

assignment. As of the beginning of the semester, 770 points have been planned in CONNECT.

**Daily Work (20% of overall grade):**

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.

- In-Class Assignments and Homework (will vary)
  - 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 assignments can range from 5 to 50 points per assignment. This work will be announced in class and/or via the Blackboard course/course listserv.
- Attendance/Participation (120 points)
  - You are expected to attend every live 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.

**Final Digital Portfolio (20% of overall grade):**

The first-year composition program at UALR utilizes a programmatic course portfolio 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.

- Final – Digital Portfolio (200 points)
  - **Final due by 11:59pm on Sunday, May 7**

**BLACKBOARD**

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Most materials for this class, including reading assignments, major and minor writing projects, handouts, and additional documents will be provided through the course Blackboard shell. If you need hardcopies of any materials for any reason, please notify me as soon as possible.

## COURSE POLICIES

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### **CLASS CONDUCT & BEHAVIOR**

Your conduct affects your participation grade, as outlined in the participation rubric. Civility will be expected. Showing up prepared, on time, silencing your cell phone, and actively participating in class are essential to your success as a student in this class and at the university. I will treat you with respect, and I expect that you will do the same for all participants. Respect includes paying attention and not interrupting when someone has the floor—and it includes avoiding rudeness and slurs directed at individuals or groups. Failure to adhere to this and the policies of the UALR handbook will result in dismissal from the class, and could result in more serious action.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication will be conducted through your UALR email account along with other correspondence from the university. Check your email account often. I will respond to emails as soon as possible. Likewise, the best way to contact instructor outside of class is via email (listed at top of syllabus).

### **PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE**

Participation is necessary if you are to succeed as a writer. Furthermore, attendance and punctuality are critically important to your success in this class. You may miss six (6) class days without penalty (other than missed participation points described above). Any absences beyond the initial six (6) days will result in loss of one half-letter per additional absence. Excused absences include: official university functions in which you participate (i.e., student athlete); emergency events that result in hospitalization of you or an immediate family member; death of an immediate family member; other significant medical conditions beyond your control. Documentation is *required* for me to excuse these absences. Any other situations will require consultation with Academic Affairs.

### **DEADLINES AND LATE POLICY**

Deadlines must be met. If you have a good reason for missing a deadline, you will need to let me know by email or in person as soon as possible *in advance* of the deadline. Otherwise, I accept late work at my discretion on an individual basis. Computer problems are not reasonable excuses for missing deadlines. Save your work on a cloud system and use computer labs on campus when needed.

### **REVISION POLICY**

Revision is a critical part of the writing process. You are required to submit revised and polished versions of your work by the final portfolio deadline date, as part of your portfolio.

### **PUBLIC NATURE OF THE WRITING 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.

### **USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL**

The content in this course, and any third party content contributors (e.g., publishers, etc.) is copyrighted. This course content is available to you during the semester in which you are enrolled in the course. You may not modify, copy, reproduce, republish, upload, post, transmit, or distribute, in any manner, the material in this course, including text, graphics, audio, video, code and/or software without the expressed written permission from the copyright holder.

### **BASIC ELECTRONIC LITERACY**

- Success in college requires familiarity with basic software and document sharing. See your instructor if you're unsure of how to do the following:
- Use email with attachments
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats
- Use common productivity software programs such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Upload and download files
- Update browser and computer settings
- Interact with Blackboard Course Tools

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

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### **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**

Your success in this class is important to me, 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](http://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 online course materials for this class, please notify the instructor 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

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

The Link: <http://ualr.edu/cssc/link/>

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/>

Disability Resource Center: <http://ualr.edu/disability/>

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/>

Green Dot Initiative: <http://ualr.edu/greendot/>

Advising: <http://ualr.edu/advising/>

Registration: <http://ualr.edu/records/>

Financial Aid: <http://ualr.edu/financialaid/>

## IMPORTANT DATES

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Classes Start	Jan 9
Last Day to Drop	Mar 7
MLK Day	Jan 16
Project 1 Due	Feb 13

Project 2 Due	Mar 13
Spring Break	Mar 20-26
Project 3 Due	Apr 26
Last Day to Withdraw from All Classes	May 1
Consultation Day	May 2
Final Exam Period	May 3-9, see <a href="http://ualr.edu/records/final-exams/">http://ualr.edu/records/final-exams/</a>
Final Portfolio Due	May 7
Semester Grades Due in BOSS	May 12

### COURSE SCHEDULE

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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.