

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2015
SYLLABUS

Course Abbreviation/Number/Title/Semester Hrs ENGL1323: College Writing I I 3Hrs			
Department of		English	Division of Liberal Arts & Life Sciences
Instructor Name:	<i>Dr. Sura P. Rath</i>		
Office Location:	<i>Founders Hall #261</i>		
Office Phone:	<i>972.338.1545</i>		
Email Address:	sura.rath@unt.edu		
Office Hours:	MW 9-10 a.m. & TTH 2:30-3:30 p.m.		
Classroom Location:	1323-001 Founders Hall #243 TTh 1:00-2:20 p.m.		
	1323-002 Founders Hall #213 MW 10:00-11:20 a.m.		
Course Catalog Description:	Computer Assisted College Writing: Writing as a means of critical thinking; emphasis on the process of perfecting the essay through multiple drafts		
Prerequisites:	3 credits of college English (ENGL 1313 or equivalent)		
Required Text:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing: A Brief Guide to Argument</i> 8th. Ed. Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau 2. <i>Elements of Style</i> 4th ed. by William Strunk and E. B. White 3. A good dictionary (Recommended: <i>American Heritage Dictionary</i>) 		
Course Goals or Overview:			
<p>Our goals in this course are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to read texts critically; b. to think logically; and c. to write effectively. <p>I will ask you to keep a portfolio of all your readings, to participate in class discussions with a spirit of inquiry and openness; and to write a research paper using the standard steps of preparing a bibliography, taking notes, multiple drafting, and revising.</p>			
Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, you will			
Be able read a text critically, examining the author's underlying premises and questioning them			
Be able to pick a subject and prepare a topic for a research paper, citing sources for support			
Be able to prepare a working bibliography by using multiple methods of library research			
Demonstrate the ability to take notes and organize ideas in coherent paragraphs			
Define qualities of effective writing: unity, coherence, and emphasis			

Course Evaluation Methods

Your performance in the class will be based on my evaluation of the following:

1. Portfolio: A thorough and detailed record of your readings. These should be maintained in a three-ring binder that serves as a portfolio of your notes, questions, queries, and reflections, etc., on everything you read.
2. Record of your attendance and class participation.
3. Your successful completion of the research project on time.

Successful completion of this course depends on your regular and punctual attendance, systematic completion of the steps of writing a research paper, and timely submission of all assigned work.

Grade points distribution for assignments:

TOPICS	TIMELINE
Portfolio of reading notes You will write summaries of twelve of the essays we read. I will collect the first six at mid-semester and the other six at semester end.	200 points
Participation in class discussions This class requires your regular and punctual attendance.	200 points
Research paper: Selecting a topic for a research paper, week 9	300 points
• Preparing a working bibliography, weeks 10	
• Note-taking, weeks 10-11	
• Preparing multiple drafts of a research paper, weeks 12-13	
• Documenting cited material (MLA and APA formats)	
• Revising the written text	

*Regular and punctual attendance is required for this class. To earn the full points for attendance, you will need to be present for all the meetings. For each unexcused absence, you lose ten points.

Grade Determination: *(grading will be on a ten-point scale)*

A > 90% B = 81 – 90 % C = 71 – 80 % D = 61 – 70 % F < 60%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office, Suite 115 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.

Assignment Policy: All assigned work is due **IN CLASS** on the day it is due. Homework, such as summaries/synopses of readings, should be typed double-spaced.

Exam Policy:

Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html for complete provisions of this code.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.

Optional Policies:

- ❖ Use of WebCT/Blackboard: **I do not use Blackboard.**
- ❖ Use of Cell Phones & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom: **Not allowed. All cell phones must be turned off or switched to "silence" mode. Anyone using the cell phone while class lecture/discussion is in progress will be marked absent for the day and asked to leave the class.**
- ❖ Food & Drink in the Classroom: **Please do not bring food and drinks to the class.**

- ❖ Use of Laptops is allowed. You may use your laptop to prepare drafts, but you must provide hard copies of drafts for peer review and for my comments.
- ❖ Grade of Incomplete, “I”: I do not approve of “incomplete” grades except in major health related disabilities. Medical documentation will be required.
- ❖ ALL DRAFTS OF YOUR WRITING MUST BE SAVED UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER.

Reading Schedule

Reading/Writing Schedule

Week	Beginning Date	Reading	Writing	Notes
1	8/24	Introduction to the course	Diagnostic Essay 1/20	Note cards.
2	8/31	Critical Thinking, pp. 3-39	Practice writing #1; pick a topic from pp. 31-33	Response paper 3 persuasive strategies: Ethos, Pathos, Logos
3	9/7 Monday is Labor Day	Critical Reading (continued) pp. 39-60 Building arguments from opinions, facts, and data. Selection of topics for short paper (1500 words; due 3/11)	Response paper 1	Summary Paraphrase Abstract Synopsis
4	9/14	Critical Reading, pp. 60-73	Response papers 2-3	
5	9/21	Critical Reading: pp. 74-91, 196-219	Practice writing #2. Topic selected from readings this week.	Deduction Induction Argument
6	9/28	Critical Reading, pp. 91-107	Group discussion On Monday	
7	10-5	I will be away at a conference this week.	Research on your own. On Monday: Library staff; on Tuesday: Career Center staff	Wednesday and Thursday no meeting
8	10/12	Critical Reading, 107-140	Response papers 4-5	
9	10/12	Visual Rhetoric, pp. 141-165. Bring your note cards on points of discussion to class.	Group discussion	Short paper due 10/15. This is the mid-term.

10	10/26	Critical Writing: format of a research paper	Schedule personal conference for topic selection	
11	11/2	Visual Rhetoric, pp.165-174.	Response Paper 6	Selection of term paper topic
12	11/9	Argument, pp. 179-196.	Completion of first draft of term paper Response Paper 7*	Peer review of term paper drafts
13	11/16	Reading of advanced texts, pp. 220-226 and 463-500	Revising/re-writing Developing arguments Literary writing	
14	11/23	Literary writing “The Unknown Citizen”	Response Paper 8*	Group critique of term papers
15	11/30	Presentation of term paper in class		Term paper due 12/3

- **Response Papers 7 and 8 must be written on two of the essays from pages pp. 220-226 and 463-500**

There will be no final examination for this class.

WHAT IS A RESPONSE PAPER?

A Response Paper is a critical response to the selections we read. It has three parts:

1. Summary of key points made by the author of the essay we read. You should identify at least 3-4 key points from the essay. Usually, you can get to them by looking at the thesis (major argument) and the topic sentences of main paragraphs. These are the author’s arguments in defense of her/his thesis.
2. In a short paragraph, explain your own position on this topic and whether you agree or disagree with the author of the essay. It will help if you can recognize the author’s assumptions that inform her/his position.
3. Explain why you agree or disagree with the author point by point.

The Response Paper should be a single page (250-300 words) each, and each entry should be based on one of the essays listed in our readings above.