**The University of Texas at El Paso**

**Department XXXX**

**Syllabus**

**ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS SAMPLE**

**WITH THE INTEGRATION OF UTEP EDGE PRACTICES**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

## **\*** RWS 1302: Rhetoric & Composition II

CRN: 12345

Term: Spring 2024

Delivery Method: Online

Meeting Day and Time: Mondays, 10:30 am-11:50 am

Zoom Link:

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor first and last name, Title

Written Communication: Specify your preference of communication (e.g., email and Blackboard)

Phone Number: (915)123-4567

Office Hours:

* Virtual: Days and times (Specify if by appointment only), through (Specify the video conferencing options)

**Course Information**: What this class is about and what we will do

**\* COURSE DESCRIPTION**

RWS 1302 is a required 3-credit core course for all majors. The primary goal of RWS 1302 is to develop students’ critical thinking skills in order to facilitate effective communication in all educational, professional, and social contexts. This effective communication is based on an awareness of and appreciation for discourse communities as well as knowledge specific to subject matter, genre, rhetorical strategy, and writing process.

The class presents an approach to communication that helps students determine the most effective strategies, arrangements, and media to use in different rhetorical contexts. It teaches students a systematic approach for analyzing rhetorical situations and then producing a variety of documents and presentations while gaining more confidence and fluency in visual, oral, and written communication. In addition, because communication is central to being an active and engaged member of society, the course also provides a space for informed advocacy.

Students enrolled in RWS 1302 should have successfully completed RWS 1301.

**\*COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Bythe end of the course, students will be able to:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student Learning Objective | Outcome |
| Demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal | Teamwork Skills |
| Draw on existing knowledge bases to create “new” or “transformed” knowledge | Critical Thinking Skills |
| Engage as a community of writers who dialogue across texts | Communication Skills |
| Address the specific, immediate rhetorical situations of individual communicative acts | Social Responsibility |

**\* REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Writing In Transit book cover


Comer, D. K. (2015). *Writing in transit.* Fountainhead Press.

ISBN: 978-1-59871-803-4

First-Year Composition Program (2018). *The First-Year Composition handbook*. (An e-book)

ISBN: 978-0-692-75953-0

**\* ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

Assignments for this course are assessed according to rubrics. You can find these rubrics by clicking on the appropriate assignment link in Blackboard and choosing to “View Rubric” from the button beneath the Points Possible for the assignment.

Grade Distribution:

1000-900 = A 899-800 = B 799-700 = C 699-600 = D 599 and Below = F

* 200 points: Genre Analysis
* 200 Points: Literature Review Research/Primary Research Report
* 150 Points: 8 Community Engagement Hours and Reflection Essay
* 200 Points: Documentary Final Project
* 150 Points: E-portfolio
* 100 Points: Participation

Genre Analysis: To deepen our understanding of discourse community concepts, students will be asked to analyze both traditional and multimedia documents as genres.

Literature Review/Primary Research Report: Students will conduct primary and secondary research on a social, political, or ethical issue and will then write a literature review that synthesizes the arguments as they pertain to the questions of inquiry.

Community Engagement: Students will identify and participate a community engagement opportunity (preferably related to their research topic) and write a reflection essay.

Documentary: Students will plan, write, film and edit a documentary film advocating a position on a current issue related to the Literature Review/Primary Research Report.

Website/E-Portfolio: Students will create, design, and maintain a website that presents their work from the semester.

Participation: For this online course, students will be required to participate in weekly discussion boards – both an initial post and responses to your peers. Students will also have a collection of smaller assignments throughout the week that will work to build toward the larger projects. Each of these activities will be given point values that add up to the total 100-point participation grade. These points cannot be made up, so students are expected to stay active in the course by logging in at least three times a week.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](about:blank) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](about:blank) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

**Course Communication**: How we will stay in contact with each other

Because this is an online class, we won’t see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

* **Office Hours**: We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Blackboard Collaborate using this link: [insert link] and during the following times:

Mondays: 1-2 p.m. Mountain Time

Tuesdays: 10-11 a.m. Mountain Time

Thursdays: 4-5 p.m. Mountain Time

* **Email**: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
* **Discussion Board**: If you have a question that you believe other students may also have, please post it in the Help Board of the discussion boards inside of Blackboard. Please respond to other students’ questions if you have a helpful response.
* **Announcements**: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

**NETIQUETTE**

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It’s possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

* Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.
* Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
* When reacting to someone else’s message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
* Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

**Course Policies**: What do you need to do to be successful in the course

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the learning activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

* Reading/Viewing all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
* Participating in engaging discussion with your peers on the discussion boards (grading rubric provided in the “grading information” area of each forum)
* Participating in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions
* Other activities as indicated in the weekly modules

Because these activities are designed to contribute to your learning each week, they cannot be made up after their due date has passed.

**\* EXCUSED ABSENCES AND/OR COURSE DROP POLICY**

According to UTEP Catalog, “At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of “W” will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

**OR**

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar’s Office](about:blank) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

**ZOOM SESSIONS**

This class requires that you participate in scheduled Zoom sessions. The purpose of these sessions are for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in small discussion groups with your classmates. These sessions will be held at the following dates from 10:30 am-11:50 am.

Group A: August 28, September 24, October 15, November 12

Group B: September 3, October 1, October 22, November 19

Students are expected to, at least occasionally, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate.

**DEADLINES, LATE WORK, AND ABSENCE POLICY**

Major Writing Assignments

* Major writing assignments will be due on Sundays at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

Quiz and Blog/Discussion Assignments

* All quiz, blog, and discussion board assignments will be due on Sundays at midnight (11:59 PM). No late work will be accepted if the reason is not considered excusable.

**MAKE-UP WORK**

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points.If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

**ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

**INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

**\* ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students who become pregnant may also request reasonable accommodations, in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations and University policy. Accommodations that constitute undue hardship are not reasonable. To make a request, please register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](about:blank), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

**\* SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](about:blank).

**\*GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

AI prohibited

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](about:blank) or [DALL-E](about:blank), is ***not*** ***allowed*** for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

AI allowed only with prior permission from instructor

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](about:blank) or [DALL-E](about:blank), is ***only allowed*** ***with approval from the instructor BEFORE being used***. Without permission, you will be expected to think creatively and critically to complete assignments without assistance from these tools.

If given permission to use any of these tools, students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”

Generated using OpenAI. [https://chat.openai.com/](about:blank)

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

AI allowed with proper acknowledgement

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](about:blank) or [DALL-E](about:blank), is ***only allowed with proper attribution given for its use***.

Students must properly cite and give full credit to the program used upon submission of every relevant assignment. For example, text generated using ChatGPT must be cited:

Chat-GPT(version). Date of query (year/month/day). “Text of your query.”

Generated using OpenAI. [https://chat.openai.com/](about:blank)

A short paragraph describing how the tool(s) was/were used for the assignment must be included.

Using AI for brainstorming

Some AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](about:blank) or [DALL-E](about:blank), can be beneficial during the early brainstorming stages of an activity, and you are welcome to explore them for that purpose. However, keep in mind that AI-generated ideas are not your own and may hinder your ability to think critically and creatively about a problem. It is also important to remember that these technologies often “hallucinate” or produce materials and information that are inaccurate or incomplete—even providing false citations for use.

That said, you are not allowed to submit any AI-generated work in this course as your own. If you use any information or materials created by AI technology, you are required to cite it like you would any other source. Consider how this will affect your credibility as a writer and scholar before doing so. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

Free use of AI without acknowledgement

Use of AI technologies or automated tools, including generative AI such as [ChatGPT](about:blank) or [DALL-E](about:blank), is permitted in this class. Students must include a short paragraph, with each relevant assignment, explaining how the tool was used.

**\* CLASS RECORDINGS**

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. **You may not share recordings outside of this course.** Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

**TEST PROCTORING SOFTWARE**

Two course assessments (the midterm and final exams) will make use of Respondus Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first test.

Please review the following guidelines:

* The assessments will only be available at the times identified on the course calendar.
* You may take the test at any time during the 24-hour window.
* A reliable Internet connection is essential to completing the exam. If you must go to a location to take the exam (such as the library), be sure to follow their health and safety requirements.
* You have 2 attempts to take the test. Once the window closes, your answers will be saved, and no changes can be made. The higher score will be recorded.
* Respondus Lockdown Browser will require that all internet tabs are closed prior to the start of the test.
* Respondus Monitor requires a webcam and microphone.
* You will be required to show the webcam your student ID prior to the start of the test.
* Your face should be completely visible during the test. Blocking the camera will disable the test.
* No notes or textbook materials are permitted during the test. Respondus Monitor requires you to take a video of your surrounding area (desk, chair, walls, etc.)
* You should not have conversations with other people and/or leave and return to the area during the test.

**PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE**

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

**COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

**\*COURSE RESOURCES:** Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit https://www.utep.edu/advising/student\_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.

A qr code with a white background

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