



English 1302-23, CRN 82902

Composition II

Evans 358

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Evans 304

Office hours: T/Th 11-12 and by appointment

Catalogue description

A continued study of writing skills in English, emphasizing more complex methods in the writing process than ENG 164 ENGL 1301. This course prepares students to write academic essays and research papers. An oral component is also included. Prerequisite: ENG 164 ENGL 1301. Credit 3.

Course objectives

Students will:

- 1.) understand the persuasive nature of language,
- 2.) respond appropriately to different rhetorical situations and constraints,
- 3.) use the recursive nature of writing (pre-writing, writing, revision, editing) to improve their own texts,
- 4.) further strengthen their critical thinking skills,
- 5.) find, evaluate, analyze and synthesize secondary sources on a topic,
- 6.) integrate and document the ideas of others using the conventions of MLA,
- 7.) strengthen their oral presentation skills,
- 8.) strengthen their ability to build consensus and work within a group.

Textbook and supplies

- 1.) Glenn Cheryl and Loretta Gray, *The Hodges Harbrace Handbook* or similar style guide.
- 2.) Other readings assigned based on the needs of the class.
- 3.) Students should bring a laptop computer to class on any day on which a group assignment is due. It is recommended that students bring laptop computers on other days as well. If this creates a difficulty please see the instructor for alternatives.

Reading and assignment schedule Fall 2017. Specific readings will be determined by students and instructor collaboratively.

Week one

Thursday, August 24

Introduction

Week two

Tuesday, August 29: Brainstorming methods

Thursday, August 31: **Individual homework assignment due at beginning of class – Brainstorming assignment.** Building consensus.

Week three

Tuesday, September 5: In class writing: **Group proposal due at end of class – what have we chosen and why?**

Thursday, September 7: Plagiarism, paraphrase, citation concepts.

Week four

Tuesday, September 12: Defining research problems 1 – what do we know, and what do we need to know? What is the larger picture?

Thursday, September 14: Building a bibliography and evaluating sources. **Individual research proposal due.** What do we know about the topic and what do we need to know? Why is this topic important? What are the most important questions that need to be answered?

Week five

Tuesday, September 19: Building a bibliography. **Group assignment due at end of class: Bibliography.**

Thursday, September 21: Summary and paraphrase, lecture and practice.

Week six

Tuesday, September 26: Writing summaries.

Thursday, September 28: **Research paper #1 due.** Research and reporting back in groups.

Week seven

Tuesday, October 3: Incorporating sources. – How to incorporate quotes. Intro to synthesis.

Thursday, October 5: **Research Paper #2 due.** Research and reporting back in groups.

Week eight

Tuesday, October 10: Group work time on synthesis.

Thursday, October 12: **Group paper due at end of class: Background and Contexts essay.**

Week nine

Tuesday, October 17: Defining critical questions.

Thursday, October 19: **Individual papers due.** What does the research tell us the critical questions are? **Group assignment due by end of class: Critical questions.**

Week ten

Tuesday, October 24: Developing thesis statements. Intro to PowerPoint presentations.

Thursday, October 26: Solving the problem – what is our thesis? **Group thesis essay due by end of class.** Work on Powerpoint if time allows, creating slides for Background and Contexts and Critical Questions.

Week eleven

Tuesday, October 31: Group discusses any modifications necessary to thesis essay. MLA citations.

Thursday, November 2: Group time to fix bibliography. **Group assignment due at end of class – corrected bibliography – final.** Work on Powerpoint if time allows, creating slides for Background and Contexts, Critical Questions, Thesis and Bibliography.

Week twelve

Tuesday, November 7: **Group compiles rough draft of project due by end of class.** Work on Powerpoint and begin to write presentation if time allows.

Thursday, November 9: Writing abstracts. Methods of revision. Plan presentation.

Week thirteen

Tuesday, November 14: Methods of editing. In-class editing and revision. Edit research project and Powerpoint.

Thursday, November 16: Methods of editing. In-class editing, revision and formatting. . Edit research project and Powerpoint.

Week fourteen

Tuesday, November 21: In-class editing, revision and formatting. **Final versions due for Critical Questions essay, Background and Contexts essay, Thesis essay. Bibliography should already be complete.** Last chance to work on presentations and Powerpoints.

Thursday, November 23 – no class, Thanksgiving

Week fifteen

Tuesday, November 28: Presentations, groups one and two. **Individual abstracts due groups three and four.**

Thursday, November 30: Presentations, groups three and four. **Individual abstracts due groups one and two.**

Finals week

Please consult final examination schedule.

Grade breakdown

Assignment by groups – these will be turned in in class:

Group proposal (due 9/5)	5%
Group bibliography (due 9/19)	5%
Background and Contexts essay (due 10/12)	5%
Critical questions (due 10/19)	5%
Thesis essay (due 10/26)	5%
Powerpoint (due 11/28)	5%
Complete project (due 11/21)	<u>10%</u>
Total:	40%

Assignments by individuals – these must be completed as homework:

Brainstorming assignment (due 8/31)	5%
Individual research proposal (due 9/14)	5%
Research paper #1 (due 9/28)	10%
Research paper #2 (due 10/5)	10%
Critical questions (due 10/19)	5%
Individual abstract (due 11/28)	10%
Individual presentation grade (11/28)	10%
Final examination	<u>5%</u>
Total:	60%

Specific instructions will be distributed in advance of the due dates.

Attendance policy

- 1.) Participation in class is of critical important to this course. Students with more than 5 unexcused absences cannot earn an A in the course. Students will not be excused for work, routine doctor appointments, car trouble or traffic. To qualify for an excused absence, students must provide documentation. *Students who miss 25% of the course (eight class sessions) I consider to have not taken the course, and will automatically fail, regardless of work submitted, even if some of those absences are excused.* Late registration is not an exception. Note well:

late arrival and early departure from class may be recorded as an absence, as will inattentive or disruptive behavior (such as failure to bring the required text to class, visiting Facebook, using a cell phone, refusal to participate in class discussions, *etc.*). It is the responsibility of students who are tardy to check with me to make sure I have marked you present. Three tardies (a tardy is when you arrive after I have completed attendance) or early departures will constitute one absence.

- 2.) Athletes and others participating in SHSU events requesting excused absences must notify me well in advance of these events. Additionally, these students must hand in any assigned work *before* the due date. It is my expectation that students who intend to request days off to participate in such activities will, as representatives of the University, be extra diligent about missing classes at other times. To this end, please note that if you miss eight class sessions you will fail the course, even if some of those sessions were excused or for reasons out of your control.
- 3.) Students who miss class are responsible for getting the information on what we covered in class from another student, not the professor.
- 4.) You *must* attend class on days on which group assignments are due to get credit for the group assignment! (Think of them as test days.) The exception will be if your group intercedes for you, and demonstrates to my satisfaction that you have contributed significantly to the group assignment via work sent to them by email in advance, Skyping in to group meetings, meeting the group outside of class time, etc.
- 5.) Early departure: Much of this class time will be spent in workshop. The longer you are here the better your work will be. Please do not ask me if you may leave early, as it is disruptive to the whole class. Students are expected to take the initiative to work ahead on their projects and find places for improvement. Individual students who leave class early will not get credit for group assignments. Entire groups who leave early will have their work evaluated for thoroughness compared to the other groups' work at the end of class, and if it is less thorough, the group grade will be penalized accordingly. If you know you must leave early due to an extenuating circumstance, you must inform the professor and all group members at the start of class.

Late work and make up policies

- 1.) All individual writing assignments are due before the beginning of class. Individual writing assignments received late will lose one full grade (ten percent). They may be turned in for one week after the due date.
- 2.) Group writing assignments are due at the end of class on the listed dates. If your group cannot complete the assignment in the allotted time, they may be turned in before midnight on the same day with instructor permission.

Academic dishonesty policy

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work may be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, is grounds for immediate failure from the course, regardless of work previously submitted during the semester. **If you cheat, do not anticipate that you will be given a second chance.** Be advised that gross academic dishonesty (for example, buying or downloading student papers off the internet, texting during exams) not only will result in immediate failure from the course, but also will be reported to the Dean and disciplinary action will be pursued. If you have any questions or anxieties about what constitutes plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask me or to seek help at the Writing Center.

Classroom rules of conduct and expectations

Students are expected to

- Attend every class, be on time, and not leave early without prior permission. Quietly excusing oneself for a bathroom break is acceptable.
- Come to class prepared, having completed the day's reading assignment.
- Bring the textbook to every class session.
- Contribute to class discussions of the course material. Respectful debate on course subject matter is permitted and encouraged.
- Get notes from another student (not the instructor) for any classes missed.

Students will not

- Work on assignments for other classes.
- Use cellphones, check Facebook, emails or text messages or use other internet except if part of an in-class assignment.
- Use rude or hostile language, including language that is intolerant of the gender, race, religion, nationality or sexual orientation of others.

Cell phone policy

Students will not use telecommunication devices during class time without instructor permission; devices must be turned off (not set to vibrate) and must be stowed away (not on your desk, your lap, or in an open purse). Students who fail to comply with this policy in class may be marked absent, may not be given credit for participation on group assignments, and, with multiple offenses, may face expulsion from the classroom

or failure in the course. Students who fail to comply with this policy during an exam will be given zero credit for the exam and, if appropriate, be charged with academic dishonesty. If you believe you warrant special consideration (because of an imminent emergency), you may speak with the instructor *ahead of time* to get permission to use such devices.

Instructor evaluation

Students will be asked to complete a feedback form during the semester and an instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Students with Disabilities Policy

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the classroom

No visitors will be permitted in the classroom without the instructor's permission.

Recording and Intellectual Property

Students may not record lectures or discussions except as allowed by a Students with Disabilities accommodation sheet. I (Audrey Murfin) retain ownership of this syllabus, lecture notes, digital presentations, handouts given in class or on Blackboard, assignments and examinations. Students are prohibited from posting class material on the internet or disseminating it except with others enrolled in the class.