

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 1203 Composition I

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 0263 Transition to College Writing and Reading or required placement score.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Provides basic instruction in rhetoric and writing, analysis of texts, and critical thinking, as well as an introduction to academic research. (ACTS: ENGL 1013)

B. Additional Information

None.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Compose pieces of writing that are unified, coherent, and well-developed.
2. Edit one's own writing for conventions of standard usage and style.
3. Compose pieces of writing that properly use and incorporate credible source material.
4. Format writing assignments and document use of source material following MLA conventions.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Recursive writing processes (e.g., invention, drafting, peer review, instructor feedback, revision, editing, and proofreading)
- B. Analysis of the rhetorical situation (e.g., audience/purpose/text/context)
- C. Rhetorical strategies (e.g., logos, ethos, pathos)
- D. Structure, organization, and development of paragraphs and essays (e.g., topic sentences/thesis statements; introduction/body/conclusion; organizational patterns)
- E. Narrative, informative, and argumentative rhetorical structures (modes)
- F. Introduction to research (e.g., locating materials/resources in the library)
- G. Evaluation of sources and source material (e.g., sources located using internet search engines; sources provided by instructor)
- H. Introduction to summary, paraphrase, and quotation of source material
- I. Introduction to the use of source material to support and develop ideas
- J. Introduction to the incorporation of source material (e.g., signal phrases, quotation marks, and parenthetical citations when appropriate; works cited page)
- K. Avoidance of plagiarism
- L. Introduction to MLA conventions for formatting a paper and documenting the use of source material
- M. Editing for mechanical/grammatical correctness