

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3469
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3469
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

RHET 2863 Advanced Composition

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Students read and write a variety of informal and formal essays, with special study of elements of style.

B. Additional Information

The class continues the intensive writing practices of ENGL 1213 or ENGL 1233, increasing the expectations for analytical reasoning and creative style.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Write analytical and reflective responses to short nonfiction readings.
2. Write short works of nonfiction in three or four subgenres such as memoir, biography, history, informal essay, travel writing, nature or science writing, cultural criticism.
3. Use effective strategies for exploring, organizing, developing, and revising for content and structure.
4. Write a variety of sentence patterns for emphasis and rhetorical effect.
5. Choose appropriate and effective diction, and avoid trite language and expressions.
6. Use strategies and techniques to produce an effective, appropriate style of writing.
7. Use analytical and interactive skills by peer review and analysis of student work.

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. Developing an effective process of writing
- B. Tone
- C. Study and development of forms of nonfiction writing
- D. Elements of usage and style
- E. Analysis of short nonfiction prose