

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

RHET 2863 Introduction to Writing Studies

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1213 Composition II or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

This course provides a survey of the history, key concepts, and practices in the field. Students read and write a variety of informal and formal essays, with special focus on history/theory from Rhetoric and composition. Changing forms of writing and cultural attitudes toward writing, as well as application of concepts to students' own writing are addressed.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Respond to and analyze short nonfiction readings or historical/theoretical texts on Rhetoric and writing, including a consideration of how those texts helped shape the discipline.
2. Produce focused, developed, and well-edited short works of nonfiction in a few subgenres (narrative, ethnography/auto-ethnography, memoir, biography, history, informal essay, analysis, or cultural criticism, etc.) which allow students to demonstrate and apply their knowledge of disciplinary concepts.
3. Produce works that demonstrate an understanding of both Rhetorical theory and composition theory and an ability to apply such theories to a variety of discourse occasions and existing texts.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills Goal: 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. Writing processes
- B. Genres
- C. Technology and multimodal texts
- D. Discourse communities
- E. Intertextualities
- F. Intersubjectivities
- G. Visual Rhetoric
- H. Cultural studies