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Course information is available through Blackboard

Prerequisite: Score of 7 or below on Writing Proficiency Assessment (WPA).

Course Goal:
RWS 280 engages students in using key rhetorical concepts as a mode of inquiry and invention as they develop reading and writing proficiency in academic disciplines and other contexts.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Develop an effective process of reading for comprehension.
2. Develop an effective writing process—including prewriting, drafting, revision, and self-evaluation.
3. Analyze the elements of academic texts—particularly argument, genre, audience, context, purpose, and strategies.
4. Articulate in writing key rhetorical concepts.
5. Explore the significance of texts to oneself and one’s educational project.

COURSE MATERIALS
Required Texts

Strongly Suggested
A good college level dictionary.

Other Materials:
Outside readings linked via Blackboard—these readings must be printed out or brought to class digitally.
Lined paper for in-class work.

COURSE WORK
All course work is designed to help students develop their rhetorical knowledge, critical thinking and reading skills, and their abilities as academic writers. This work includes developed essays worked on both in class and at home, and short writing assignments analyzing the rhetoric of assigned texts. Most assignments will be posted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to download copies of each assignment.

Developed Writing Projects (650 points – prologue paper worth 100 points, papers two and three each worth 200 points, final writing project worth 150 points)
Four major essays will be assigned. In addition to understanding the arguments and rhetorical strategies of other writers, students will need to identify and understand their own rhetorical choices and strategies. Each writing project will include several pre-work short writing assignments which will factor into the overall score of the project. Credit for these portions of the project is only given for work turned in on time. *Revision is allowed for the first two essays, if all requirements and deadlines are met*. Developed Writing projects will be turned in to Turnitin using Blackboard. More information will be provided in class.

Project Process Papers (125 points—four short papers – three worth 25 points and one worth 50 points.)
These short papers will include process writing assignments (for instance, describing your writing process), as well as assignments in which you will consider yourself in relation to the texts we read for class. The final paper will be a reflection of the writing you have done in the course. Part of the goal of both these types of assignments is to help you in locating yourself as a writer, both academically and in other areas of your life. Guidelines for this project will be presented in class.
Quizzes (100 points—Approximately 7 quizzes will be given, each worth between 10-20 points. The total possible points will equal over 100 points, so if you do well on all quizzes you can exceed the points possible.) Quizzes will ask specific short answer questions about information presented in assigned readings and/or information presented in class. Most quizzes and reading responses will be given in class, but some may also be turned in via Blackboard, before class. In-class quizzes are closed book, but you may use one page of handwritten notes. **Quizzes are assigned with the intention of supporting class work and discussion and only count for credit when completed in class and you stay the entire class period (unless assigned via Blackboard)—may not be made up or taken early.**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION (125 points)**

Class Participation essentially means being actively engaged with the work of the course. A perfect score of 125 for class evaluation would mean you attended every class with all work due for that day (this includes having the course text or other assigned materials), received “Outstanding” on any credit/no credit work, and contributed positively in all small group work. But an “A” doesn’t mean perfection. It means most of the time, you meet these standards.

**In-Class Activity**

As stated below in the absence policy, simply being in the classroom doesn’t equal being engaged with class work. Students who are actively engaging in this course will always have class materials (including texts, printed (or digital) copies of assignments and any assigned pre-work) with them in class. Because we will use the class texts and other assigned readings in class, I will make keep track of whether or not students bring texts to class. Any activity not directly related to class during class time will lower the class participation portion of a student’s grade.

**Project Process Writing**

For each Developed Writing Project out of class work will be assigned as part of the process of generating material and information for the paper. I will mark this work in class when it is due. **This work will all be turned in to me at the end of the semester. Be sure to keep all your process work.**

**Meeting with the course tutor**—we are fortunate in this course to have a tutor assigned to work with students individually. When I ask that you meet with the tutor, you need to contact him/her that week. Bring the tutor meeting report form to your appointment. I may ask that some students attend conferences more often others. Students attending their conferences with work will receive full credit for this portion of Class Participation. Missing a tutor appointment with less than 24 hours notice counts the same as a class absence.

**Small Group Workshops**

Students will work in groups throughout the semester. Additionally there will be small group workshops for two developed writing projects. Missing a workshop or attending without a developed draft will mean an automatic 20 points off your class participation score. More importantly, you lose the opportunity for feedback before turning in your final work.

**Absences**— the absence policy is listed below. It’s difficult to be considered as participating in class when one isn’t present.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Revisions**

Revising is an important part of this course because it is an essential part of the writing process. Revisions are allowed and encouraged on the first two papers, as long as you have been present at class workshops and have met all required due dates. Revising for an improved grade means significant change (re-visioning, not editing). **If you choose to revise an essay, you must make an appointment to see me before you begin no more than two weeks after the paper is returned with comments. Only one revision will be considered at a time. The last day to meet with me to discuss revisions is November 27**th.

**Absences**

In-class discussions and workshops are important components of this course; therefore, it is important that you attend class and that you come prepared and ready to contribute. Being present in class means being engaged with class activities. You may miss four classes without penalty. Missing more than five class meetings, for any reason, will lower your class participation grade 30 points for each absence. Missing no more than one class counts positively toward Class Participation. (Note: also see “small group workshops” regarding absences.) **IMPORTANT: I frequently hand out reading materials, give assignments, and make changes to the**
course calendar in class. You are responsible for getting this information from another student in class when you are absent. **Coming to class late and/or leaving early.** Because late arrivals and early departures can be disruptive, students are expected to be in class at the start of the hour and stay through the entire period. Missing a significant portion of a class meeting will be counted as an absence.

**Cell phones/laptops**

No cell phones out during class time (this goes for me too!). Laptops and tablets are great to have in class for note taking, online readings, and especially, looking up information during class discussions. If I notice your laptop on a page that doesn’t match class activities, I’ll ask you to close it down for the rest of class. If it happens more than once, I’ll ask you to stop using it in class for the semester.

**Late or Missed Work**

*Work is considered on time when turned in at the beginning of class, in class, on the day that it is due (or submitted to Turnitin by the assigned deadline).* Late work may take longer to be returned. Work may not be submitted by email unless specific arrangements have been made ahead of time. (Be sure to check your scores on Blackboard. At the end of the semester, if you have an assignment (ungraded) missing, it will be subject to late work policies.)

**Developed Writing Project:** Fifteen (15) points off for each class meeting past the due date.

**Developed Writing Project Pre-work:** half credit (maximum) for late work. (No credit after the paper is due.)

**Project Process Papers:** one assignment may be turned in one class meeting late. Otherwise, five (5) points off for each class meeting late.

**Quizzes:** no individual make up for missed quizzes or technical difficulty when taking a quiz on Blackboard. More points than possible will be given for quizzes. Therefore, doing well on all quizzes can take you over the possible points.

**No work that was due before the last day of classes will be accepted, for any reason, after the last day of regular classes.**

**Turnitin**

Some papers for this course will be handed in as hard copies and some will be uploaded to Turnitin via Blackboard. Instructions for submitting papers and then looking at comments once they are graded will be presented in class. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You may submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included. Another option is that you may request, in writing, that your papers not be submitted to Turnitin.com. However, if you choose this option you will be required to provide documentation to substantiate that the papers are your original work and do not include any plagiarized material.

**A few notes about plagiarism:**

(From SDSU Policy File IV-D-3) “Plagiarism shall be defined as the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting same to the University as one’s own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source. Plagiarism shall include but not be limited to (a) submitting work, either in part or in whole, completed by another; (b) omitting footnotes for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions that belong to another; (c) omitting quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, sentence, or part thereof; (d) close and lengthy paraphrasing of the writings of another; ...(f) submitting as one’s own work papers purchased from research companies.”

The minimum consequence for plagiarism in this course is a score of zero on the assignment. SDSU policy requires the reporting of any academic dishonesty to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. Needless to say, the best policy is to always turn in only your own work. In addition to using Turnitin as a teaching tool, I may also use it as a means of determining plagiarism if I have specific concerns about submitted work.
GRADING
Students must earn a grade of C (75% of total points for the class) in order to meet the SDSU Upper Division Writing Requirement. Students receiving grades of C-, D+, D, or D- will receive three units, but will not have satisfied the Upper Division Writing Requirement. Therefore students receiving these grades will be required to take RWS 280 again.

Total points possible for this course = 1000.
935 - 1000 = A    900 - 934 = A-
865 - 899 = B+    835 - 864 = B
800 - 834 = B-    765 - 799 = C+
735 - 764 = C     700 - 734 = C-
665 - 699 = D+    635 - 664 = D
600 - 634 = D-    Below 600 = F

A Note about Blackboard Gradebook
What you see on Blackboard is what I have in my gradebook. If a score is missing and the work has been passed back, you need to show me the graded work in order to have your score counted. Any ungraded work submitted after grades have been posted is subject to Late Work policies.