Syllabus RWS 200 -- Spring 2016

Meets: T TH 1100-1215am (or) T TH 1230-145pm
Instructor: Robin Johannsen
Email: rjohanns@rohan.sdsu.edu
Office Hrs: T, TH 10-11; and by appt.
Office: Starbucks at Student Union

Focus for RWS 200: further practice in writing, reading, and critical thinking. Emphasis on rhetoric of written arguments in context and using multiple sources in writing. Continued attention to structure, cohesion, and rhetorical conventions.

Theme for Class: Politics of Propaganda
In this class to focus on the rhetoric of propaganda both past and present and how this effects the common man and/or the world. Focus on articles, political speeches, narratives and satire. This will also include auditory, video and graphic artwork that demonstrates propaganda.

TEXTS: None are required except the articles and speeches that I will assign on blackboard to be printed.

Policies and Procedures:

Attendance: Since this is a discussion-oriented course, your attendance is highly recommended. For any classes missed you will need to catch up on your own time; I advise getting homework/notes from another student in the class. I will accept late homework for up to one week. You are responsible for staying on top of this.

Note: In all aspects, if a problem or emergencies arise please contact me as soon as possible to discuss—it is best to talk to me to work out some arrangement as the worst I can do is say no. [I can make exceptions for real life issues.]

Electronics: I have found that laptops cellphones, tablets, etc. end up being useful in class as questions are in the course of discussions. That being said, electronics are to be used for class while in class, and you will be asked to turn off the device due to non-compliance.
Office Hours: I have office hours on Tuesday’s from 10-11 and Thursday’s from 10-11 (also listed above) and I recommend you use these times to discuss any question or concerns. I am also available by appointment and you can email me to set up a time and I am more than happy to help you with this process. Please bring all pre-writing, notes, and drafts to those meetings. It will assist in answering any questions you may have on the assignments.

Course Tutoring: SDSU has a Writing Center with an excellent staff of tutors to assist students in all courses. The Writing Center is located in Love Library, Room LA1103, which is next to the Circulation Desk starting Sept 2, 2014. For more information about hours and services visit (add weblink). Early in this semester we will have the Writing Center talk to us on their program and how it will help you with questions, issues, or struggles.

Respect: This class is about critical thinking which will emphasis questioning the information provided to you from sources all around you, including you own bias. This can rile your emotions but it is vital you listen and speak respectfully to others at all times. You cannot change a person’s mind if you shut them down or if you attack their beliefs and that is not effective rhetoric.

Plagiarism: As I am sure you have heard before, work done in the class should be original. If you are unsure if you are plagiarizing, SDSU’s library has an excellent tutorial on how to avoid plagiarism. Additionally, when citing someone else’s work, be sure to do it correctly, giving credit where credit is due. (We will go over how to do this.) There are serious consequences for plagiarism, ranging from grade reduction, failure, or even expulsion from San Diego State University, and I am required by the University’s policy to report any instances of plagiarism. To learn more about plagiarism, check our cheating and plagiarism policy. Please visit: http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/srr/cheating-plagiarism.html

Student Disability Services: In this course, every attempt will be made to offer reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need accommodations are recommended to notify me privately. If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Student-Athletes: I understand that student-athletes have demanding schedules. As your instructor, I want to help you do well in this course. You will not be exempt from course work, peer reviews, or participation; however, I am more than happy to work with potentially conflicting schedules in conjunction with Student-Athlete Support Services (SASS). For more information on SASS’ academic advising and tutoring services, please call (619) 594-4743.

Other Important SDSU Student Resources:
Academic Advising Center : SSW 1551, (619) 594-6668
ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS:

Essays: You are required to write three (3) papers ranging in length from four (4) to eight (8) pages. The first assignment I require a rough draft and a conferencing session. Papers are to be done in 1” margins, double spaced, 12pt font, in MLA format and this is required for all papers.

MLA format is found in *The Little Aztec* book and on this website: The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL): https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

Conferencing: We will meet at a scheduled time at a location to TBA, to review your first paper rough draft. This is to help you stay on track with the assignment and work on any issues that may arise.

Peer Reviews: We will “workshop” some of your drafts in class with your peers, where you will get feedback and provide feedback on their papers. This is a process that will help you in two ways: the first to see if you wrote what you intended (or not) and how that will be perceived by your audience and in reading another paper learn the editing process that you can apply to your own paper.

Class Participation: This is vital to the process in this class. Although, I do not expect you to speak up and contribute in every class session, it does mean paying attention, staying current on class assignments and being involved. You could be called on to answer a question at any time so please be prepared. As long as you’ve done your assigned readings and homework you will be fine.

First Essay (with rough draft and conference) 20%
Second Essay 15%
Digital Project 20%
Final Paper-Essay 35%
Homework/Class Participation 10%

Total Points Possible = 1000pts

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Legal Rhetoric: As always, changes to the syllabus are up to my discretion.
Schedule of Dates:

Jan 21st: Introduction/Syllabus
Jan 26/28: Review of 100:Begin Unit 1
Feb 2/4: Power of words
Feb 9/11: Continue Unit 1-prep for Unit 1
Feb 16/18: Conferences/Peer Review:First Essay Due
Feb 23/25: Begin Unit 2
Mar 1/3: Propaganda Past/Present
Mar 8/10:
Mar 15/17: Video Project Due
Mar 22/24:
Mar 29/31: SPRING BREAK WEEK
April 5/7: Second Essay Due
April 12/14:
April 19/21:
April 26/28:
May 5/7: Final Paper Due