Rhetoric & Composition II

1. Course Description from ASSIST:

English 1302 is designed to teach students how to initiate inquiry, engage in meaningful research, and produce effective researched arguments. To do this, students will get experience with primary and secondary research methods, engage in a variety of writing projects, and create at least one major research project. (Credit for this course may be obtained by qualified students through advanced placement or advanced standing examinations.)

Co/Prerequisites: A grade of 'C' or better in ENGL 1301 or ENGL 1387. 3.000 Credit hours 3.000 Lecture hours

2. Professor Contact Info:

Dr. Beatrice Mendez Newman  
Professor, Department of Writing and Language Studies  
Office: ELABS 208  
Email: beatrice.newman@utrgv.edu  
Office phone: 665-7384  
Office hours: T/T 8am-10:00 am  
Online office hours: most days throughout the day

3. Brief Overview: What We’ll do in ENGLISH 1302

English 1302 is fundamentally focused on inquiry, discovery, and research. However, we are going to create learning opportunities based on your interests and goals in order to make our research relevant.

Our general theme will be Educational Spaces: Possibilities and Potential. Within that theme, we’ll pursue projects that allow you to explore your educational persona by overlaying the real-world capabilities you bring to your educational spaces; then, we’ll consider how your school and real-world spaces allow you to project possibilities for career goals. So, essentially, you are the focus of our course.

To accomplish our learning goals (which are listed at the end of our syllabus), we will conduct individual and class research activities. A big chunk of our in-class work will involve analyzing the way film presents the possibilities and potentialities created by educational spaces.

In class activities: We will have a highly interactive, workshop-based class. I urge you to bring your laptop or tablet to class each day so that you can work and get instant feedback during our many in-class work sessions.
4. Course Work and Time Line

- This Course Map provides a visual representation of our course structure but you should look carefully at each unit tab to get an idea of the time and effort required for each segment.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
<th>Unit 2</th>
<th>Unit 3</th>
<th>Unit 4</th>
<th>Reflection Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Getting Oriented in English 1302</td>
<td>Film Analysis</td>
<td>Launching our research</td>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>Course Wrap Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 16-Jan. 25</td>
<td>Feb. 29-Feb. 15</td>
<td>Feb. 19-March 7</td>
<td>March 20-April 19</td>
<td>April 24-May 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Unit Content & Activities
  - 3 in-class scored activities
  - 1 micro essay

- Total Unit Points: 250

- Unit Content & Activities
  - 3 in-class scored activities
  - 1 micro essay

- Total Unit Points: 150

- Unit Content & Activities
  - 8 in-class scored activities
  - Research Portfolio

- Total Unit Points: 550

- Unit Content & Activities
  - 1 scored in-class activity
  - 1 mini essay

- Total Unit Points: 150

*The points, assignments, and time period shown for each unit may be adjusted to reflect learner needs.

- Each unit has a designated tab in our Blackboard menu. Each unit includes a unit overview, a “What’s Due When” schedule of unit activities, and a Content and Activities folder with all unit materials, assignments, and quizzes.

- Prerequisites: the assignments leading up to the culminating assignment for each unit are prerequisites, which means that you must complete the in-class assignments and other assignments to be able to access the major assignment submission area.

5. Course grade calculation:

Your final grade will be based on the percentage of points you’ve accumulated. The course map shows 1200 total points for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100%-90%</td>
<td>1200-1080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89%-80%</td>
<td>1079-960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79%-70%</td>
<td>959-840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69%-60%</td>
<td>839-720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59%-0%</td>
<td>719-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The TOTAL column in the My Grades tab on our Blackboard page shows you your current cumulative points. If you ever have a question about any grade or the TOTAL, you need to inquire about it immediately so that we can clear up any problems.

6. Materials Required:

- 1 book required *A Pocket Style Manual 8th edition*

You will absolutely NEED this support text all the way through our class. It provides essential information for conducting all levels of our research project.
7. Meet SOPHIE

SOPHIE—Success Oriented Policies, Help, Incentives, & Examples (SOPHIE) is a resource. You may know that the name Sophia means wisdom. There is a SOPHIE tab in our Blackboard menu. SOPHIE is our repertoire of important info that you need in order to effectively negotiate our day-to-day course dealings, such as deadlines, required formatting for assignments, consequences for failure to submit assignments, bonus point opportunities, email protocol, and several other topics. You need to check SOPHIE regularly to ensure you are meeting expectations for success.

8. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Student Learning Outcomes for Communication

English 1301 and 1302 are in the communication area of UTRGV’s core curriculum. Courses in this area focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses also involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. The following four student learning outcomes should be met in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility.

- Critical Thinking (CT). Students will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of written texts and other information sources by analyzing and evaluating the logic, validity, and relevance of the information in them to solve challenging problems, to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions, and to develop and explore new questions.
- Communication skills (COM). Students will demonstrate the ability to adapt their communications to a particular context, audience, and purpose using language, genre conventions, and sources appropriate to a specific discipline and/or communication task.
- Teamwork (TW). Students will collaborate effectively with others to solve problems and complete projects while demonstrating respect for a diversity of perspectives.
- Personal responsibility (PR). Students will demonstrate an awareness of the range of human values and beliefs that they draw upon to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes for the First Year Writing Program Sequence

The following statements describe what we want our students to know, think/value, and do when they finish the First Year Writing Program and successfully complete 1302 with a "C" or better.

1. The student improves his/her writing by engaging in processes of inventing, drafting, organizing, revising, editing, and presentation (CT, COM, PR).
2. The student writes with a purpose and composes texts in genres appropriate to his/her purpose and audience (CT, COM).
3. The student productively interacts with his/her peers, engaging in small group activities regularly and in which students give one another feedback on their writing (COM, TW, PR).
4. The student thinks critically about his/her position in the context of a larger ongoing conversation about the issue he/she is investigating (CT, COM, PR).
5. The student finds, evaluates, and uses appropriate sources for research (CT, COM, PR).
6. The student finds, evaluates, and uses appropriate sources for research (CT, COM, PR).
7. The student meaningfully integrates and correctly documents information from sources (CT, COM, TW).
8. The student is aware of the ways technology affects writing (CT, COM).

English 1302 is designed to teach students how to initiate inquiry, engage in meaningful research, and produce effective researched arguments. To do this, students will get experience with primary and secondary research methods, engage in a variety of writing projects, and create at least one major research project.

Course Goals for English 1302

In addition to building on the goals of English 1301, English 1302 is designed specifically to help students:

1. see research as a process of sustained inquiry into a question that matters to them (CT, PR; WPSLO 2, 6)
2. develop a research question from a broader topic or issue (CT, COM; WPSLO 1, 4, 6)
3. learn a process for doing research that can be adapted from discipline to discipline and adapted as information technologies change over time (CT, COM, PR; WPSLO 5-6, 8)
4. learn how to find, analyze, evaluate, and use appropriate sources for their research, including primary and secondary sources (CT, COM, TW, PR; WPSLO 6-8)
5. learn strategies for reading scholarly texts (CT, COM; WPSLO 4, 6)
6. learn how to summarize complex arguments (CT, COM; WPSLO 1, 6-7)
7. think critically about their positions in the context of a larger ongoing conversation about the issues they are investigating (CT, COM, TW, PR; WPSLO 4, 7)
8. understand the complexities of arguments (CT, COM; WPSLO 4)
9. learn how to make a claim based on their research and their own ideas and support that claim with evidence (CT, COM, PR; WPSLO 1-2, 4, 6-7)
10. learn how to integrate and document information from sources into their own work meaningfully and correctly and to recognize that different disciplines have different conventions in this regard (CT, COM, PR; WPSLO 1, 5, 7)
9. UTRGV INFO and Policy Statements

Calendar of Activities
Include in this section a table or list that provides information for students regarding important dates, assignments or activities. The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at https://my.utrgv.edu/home at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for spring 2018 include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Last day to add a course or register for spring 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 12 – 17</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – NO classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30 – 31</td>
<td>EASTER HOLIDAY – NO classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Study Day – NO class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4 – 10</td>
<td>Spring 2018 Final Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11 – 12</td>
<td>Commencement Ceremonies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The UTRGV disability accommodation, mandatory course evaluation statement and sexual harassment statement are required on all syllabi. Additional policy statements are optional, such as those covering attendance, academic integrity, and course drop policies.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 862-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

- Spring 2018 Module 1: February 14 – February 20
- Spring 2018 Module 2: April 11 – April 17
- Spring 2018 (full semester): April 11 – May 2

ATTENDANCE: Recommended on all syllabi; may be modified by the instructor as long as it is not inconsistent with UTRGV policy.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: Recommended on all syllabi. As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, AND VIOLENCE: Required on all syllabi. Do not modify.

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this class through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS: Recommended on all syllabi; may be modified by the instructor as long as it is not inconsistent with UTRGV policy.

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop rule” so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES: Recommended on all syllabi.

Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Student Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 862-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCRI 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWNK 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)