English 1302: Composition II—Spring 2015

MW 3:30-5:30, Alief B125

Instructor: Ryan Siemers
Email: siemers.ryan@gmail.com
Office Hours: by appointment
Tutoring Hours: Mondays 1:00-2:30 at Alief; Saturdays 10:00-2:00 at Spring Branch

Required Texts
- Global Issues, Local Arguments, June Johnson, 3rd edition
- English 1302 Study Guide

Required Materials
- Two “blue book” exam booklets
- Ink pen for in-class writing
- Lined notebook paper or in-class writing (preferably non-spiral)

Prerequisites
Completion of English 1301 or an equivalent course.

Course Description
Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions.

Course Goals
English 1302 will build on the skills that you have learned in English 1301. Like 1301, in this course we will read, discuss, write, revise, and write some more. Unlike 1301, we will focus more on rhetoric (production and analysis), synthesis, and research. The course will culminate in a slightly longer researched argument.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
- Employ research in academic writing styles and use appropriate documentation style.
- Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources with focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.
- Select credible sources and analyze the rhetoric of sources.
- Consider rhetorical choices and employ effective rhetorical strategies for the genre of academic writing.

Instructional Methods
I will use a variety of instructional methods to help you become the best possible thinker, reader, researcher, and writer, including but not limited to mini-assignments to help you work through writing the major essays; collaborative work to improve your technical skills and your understanding of how an essay question can be answered; visual and multimedia work to enrich
your critical analysis abilities; and discussion prompts (paired with short in-class writings) to help
direct your critical thinking about assigned readings.

**Grading**
In-class work, quizzes, and homework 15%
Essay 1: Mini-Synthesis 15%
Essay 2: Rhetorical Analysis 20%
Essay 3: Researched Argument 25%
Midterm 10%
Final 15%

**Grading Scale**
A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 59 and below

**Assignment Policies**
Assignments that don’t meet the requirements explained below run the risk of getting an
automatic zero.

- **Readings** are mostly from the book but will sometimes be online. When readings are
  online, you are responsible for bringing printouts to class or bringing a laptop or tablet
  (not cell phone) that can access the readings. All readings must be completed by their
  assigned due dates.

- **Short written assignments/homework/groupwork/classwork**
  - Must be typed if out-of-class work (12 pt Times New Roman 1” margins), and
    stapled if more than one page.
  - Must be written in ink on non-spiral paper if in-class work.
  - No late work accepted (see “Attendance & Withdrawal Policies” for details).
  - *Not accepted via email.*

- **Quizzes.**
  - There will be quizzes over many of our readings.
  - *Make-up quizzes are not available.*

- **Three out-of-class essays**
  - Must be in MLA format, 12-point Times New Roman, double spaced, with 1”
    margins.
  - Submit via Turnitin.com. I’ll walk the class through that process when the time
    comes.

- **Two in-class exams** (midterm and final).
  - Bring a blue book to class for exams.
  - Exams must be written in ink.
  - Make-ups available at my discretion for religious holidays (by pre-arrangement, two
    weeks in advance, in writing and not via email) or for documented, unavoidable
    emergencies. Example of emergency: you are unavoidably hospitalized at the time of
    the exam. Example of not-an-emergency: you have a cold; you intend to travel on
    the exam date.
Course Policies

Assignment policies

- Assignments must meet requirements as outlined in this document, verbally conveyed in class, and explained on assignment sheets. Assignments that do not meet requirements will lose points. I also reserve the right to refuse to accept assignments that don’t meet requirements.

- **Students must turn in all three major essays to pass the course**, and must have a passing average on the midterm and final to make a C or better in the course.

- Late major essays will lose one letter grade (10 points) for each class period they are late until they hit an F (50 points). I stop deducting for lateness at that point, which means even very late papers are potentially worth a lot of points. **Late homework or classwork will not be accepted at all** (see “Attendance & Withdrawal Policies” for details).

Attendance and Withdrawal Policies

- You are expected to attend class. After three unexcused absences, your final course grade will be penalized by 5% per day you are absent.

- When you miss class, you are still responsible for what happens in class.
  1. Any work due the day you miss class is still due if you are not there.
  2. Any announcements (including changes in assignments or the syllabus) still apply to you if you are not there.
  3. You should contact another student in your section to find out what you missed and copy their notes. I am glad to meet with you during office hours to answer questions about anything that happened in class, but I won't email a summary of the class to you or re-teach that day's class in my office hours.

- Absences are excused for religious holidays only. This is also the only circumstance in which classwork and homework can be made up after an absence. To be eligible for a make-up of classwork/homework due to a religious holiday absence, you must email me two weeks in advance that you will be missing class for the religious holiday.

- **I will not automatically withdraw you from the class**, no matter how many classes you miss. The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you take the same course more than two times, you have to pay extra tuition. In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed. Consider this policy carefully when deciding from which classes to withdraw, and remember that it is your responsibility to withdraw from classes by the required due dates.
**Academic Honesty**

- From the student handbook: “Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by college district officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. **Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.** Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of “O” or “F” on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or referral to the college Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Students have the right to appeal the decision.”

- **Plagiarism** is using someone else’s ideas, arguments or research without giving credit through citation and/or using someone else’s words without giving credit through quotation and citation. **Collusion** is unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.

- Please note that in this class, turning in writing originally completed for another course counts as scholastic dishonesty. **Do not recycle papers.**

**Classroom Conduct**

You will be expected to conduct yourself professionally in class, just as in any other job: be on time, be prepared, meet deadlines, do your fair share, and be polite. See below for specifics.

- **Classroom discussion should be civil and respectful to everyone.** Offensive language and behavior is not acceptable in the college classroom, just as it would not be acceptable in a workplace. It is possible to discuss all topics from any political point of view while adhering to this level of civility.

- **Aim for timeliness.** If you come in late, you should check with a classmate after class to see what you may have missed. If you miss the quiz because of lateness, there is no make-up available. If you come in more than 15 minutes late, I reserve the right to mark you absent for the day.

- **Do not leave early.** If you leave early, I reserve the right to mark you absent for the day.

- **Do not pack up early.** This is distracting and contagious. If you pack up early, I reserve the right to mark you absent, as you have essentially “left” class early.

- **Come to class prepared.** Being prepared means:
  - Reading and annotating materials before class so you are ready for discussion.
  - Bringing your books, paper, and pens to every class, along with any other required materials (e.g. drafts of your paper on draft workshop days).
  - Contacting another student if you were absent last time, so you can be prepared for the next class.

- **Respect everyone’s right to a non-disruptive learning environment.**
  - See “Electronic Devices” for policy on cell phones.
  - Please do not talk to each other while I am talking or when another student has the floor.
  - Disruption of class may result in your being asked to leave the class for the day. Repeated disruptions will be handled via the formal procedures in place at HCC, and can result in your expulsion from the class.

- **Conduct expectations extend beyond the classroom.** Your actions (negative and positive) in office hours, email, instant messaging/chat/bulletin boards, listservs, course blogs, etc. should meet the same standards.
Electronic Devices

- **Laptops and tablets** are welcome if you take notes best by typing and/or use a slate and stylus to take electronic notes. That said, there is a “one strike” rule. The first time I believe that your laptop/slate is distracting you—or anyone else—you will lose the privilege of using it for the rest of the semester in my class.

- **Use of recording devices**, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations” (Official HCCS statement).

- **Cell phone** use is prohibited in class. I should not hear or see your cell phone at all, ever. If I do, I reserve the right to mark you absent for the day and to ask you to leave the class.

ADA Accommodations

- “Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office” (Official HCCS statement). For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713-718-5165 or the Disability Counselor at your college. You can also visit the ADA website by going to www.hccs.edu, clicking Future Students, scrolling down the page, and clicking on the words “Disability Information.” The Northwest ADA Counselor is Mahnaz Kolaini (713-718-5422).

Please give me your accommodations letter at the beginning of the semester.

HCC Student Services information

Student Services provides counseling from tutors with postgraduate degrees for the Northwest College student body. Counselors are available at each campus to assist students in creating class schedules, evaluating college transcripts, and completing degree/certificate plans. Student Services’ regular business hours are the same at both campuses: 8a-7p M-Th, 8a-1p F-Sat. Phone numbers: Katy Campus, 713-718-5751, and Spring Branch Campus, 713-718-5669. Kevin Fuller, M.A., is the counselor on-site at Alief (713-718-2838).

Library

The HCC Libraries offer assistance in finding and documenting resources. If you would like help with research, you can reach the Alief library at 713-718-6941. “Ask A Librarian” services are available at http://library.hccs.edu/learn_how/askalib.php.

Additional Support

- Free on-campus tutors (call for hours): Alief Writing Center (Phone# TBA); Katy Writing Center, Room 321, 713-718-5841; Spring Branch Writing Center, South Hall, Room 703, 713-718-5889.
- Free online tutoring: http://askonline.net
Course Evaluations Information

_EGLS3 – Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System_

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

**Note:** This syllabus is subject to change. I will announce any changes in class and post notification online along with the updated syllabus.
Course Calendar

All assignments and deadlines are tentative and subject to change.
Changes will be announced in class and online.

*GC* = Google Community

All other page numbers are from the *Global Issues, Local Arguments* reader.

**Week 1**

W Feb 18: Syllabus; Introductions

**Week 2**

M Feb 23: Parts of Speech; Sentences & Sentence Problems; Paragraphs; “On Paragraphs” *GC*

W Feb 25: Paragraph Activity; Sentence Concision Worksheet

**Week 3**

M Mar 2:

W Mar 4:

**Week 4**

M Mar 9: Peer Review of Mini-Synthesis; Bring hard copy of your Mini-Synthesis to class.

W Mar 11: **Essay 1 Mini-Synthesis due on Turnitin.com by noon.**

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 5**

M Mar 23:

W Mar 25:

**Week 6**

M Mar 30: Preparation and Review for Midterm Exam

W Apr 1: **Midterm Exam; bring blue book to class**

**Week 7**

M Apr 6: Peer Review of Rhetorical Analysis; Bring a hard copy of Rhetorical Analysis to class.

W Apr 8: **Essay 2 Rhetorical Analysis due on Turnitin.com by noon.**

**Week 8**

M Apr 13:

W Apr 15:
**Week 9**

M Apr 20:

W Apr 22:

**Week 10**

M Apr 27: Peer review of Researched Argument; Bring a hard copy of your Researched Argument to class.

W Apr 29: Essay 3 Researched Argument due on Turnitin.com by noon.

**Week 11**

M May 4: Final Exam Review and Preparation

W May 6: **Final Exam**; bring blue book to class