

**RHE 309S: CRITICAL READING & PERSUASIVE WRITING
SUMMER INTENSIVE 2015**

SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Laura Wallace

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COURSE GOALS

RHE309S teaches students how to analyze and write arguments, but it also introduces students to rhetoric as a civic art, one that prepares them to write to and for specific publics. The course aims to teach students:

- to identify, analyze, construct, and organize effective arguments;
- to read texts and images critically;
- to understand and critique the standards of argument in different communities;
- to conduct research and document sources;
- to produce a clear style adaptable to various rhetorical situations;
- to respond effectively to others' work;
- to revise, edit, and proofread their own work

TEXTBOOKS (available at the University Co-Op)

Textbook: *Reading and Writing for Civic Literacy (Brief Edition)* by Donald Lazere. Paradigm, 2009.

Handbook: *Easy Writer: A Pocket Reference* by Andrea Lunsford. Fourth Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.

COMMUNICATION

Homework assignments, grades and announcements will be posted on the class's **Canvas** site, accessible at <https://courses.utexas.edu/>. You can also message your instructor using Canvas.

The Summer Bridge program requires instructors to hold extra **office hours** for your benefit. Please use them! Asking a question or discussing a problem in person is often much more effective!

COURSEWORK AND GRADING

You will be graded on the following assignments this term:

Short Assignments	20%	Homework	10%
Essay 1.1	Advisory grade	Essay 1.2	10%
Essay 2.1	15%	Essay 2.2	15%
Essay 3.1	15%	Essay 3.2	15%

SUBMITTING WORK

Students will submit all writing assignments on Canvas. Please use a format I can open in Microsoft Word.

SAFER SPACE

In this classroom, we respect each other's opinions and beliefs. We recognize that our behavior affects each other. We respect each other's identities and backgrounds, and don't assume anyone's gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration status, economic background, survivor status, health, etc. If you need to step outside the classroom for any reason at any time, please do so.

OTHER RESOURCES

Undergraduate Writing Center <http://uwc.utexas.edu/> FAC 211 (M-Th 10-5, F 10-3)

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL) 512-232-5050 (your call is anonymous)

UT Counseling & Mental Health Center (512) 471-3515 SSB, 5th Floor

CMHC Crisis Line (24/7 help) 512-471-CALL (2255)

Gender & Sexuality Center <http://ddce.utexas.edu/genderandsexuality/> SAC 2.112

DEPARTMENT OF RHETORIC & WRITING COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Rhetoric & Writing has established this attendance policy for all RHE courses. Any questions or appeals concerning this policy must be made directly to the department Associate Chair. You are expected to attend class, to arrive on time, to have prepared assigned reading and writing, and to participate in all in-class editing, revising, and discussion sessions. Should you miss the equivalent of **six sessions** this semester, **excused or not**, you will fail the course. If you find that an unavoidable problem prevents you from attending class, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to let her know. When you must miss a class, you are responsible for getting notes and assignments from a classmate.

You will not be penalized for missing class on religious holy days. If you know you will have to miss class(es) for this reason, provide your instructor with the date(s) as early as possible. Please note that the University specifies very few other excused absences (e.g., jury duty).

SCHOLASTIC HONESTY

Turning in work that is not your own, or any other form of scholastic dishonesty, will result in a major course penalty, possibly failure of the course. A report of the incident will be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Students and filed in your permanent UT record. Under certain circumstances, the Dean of Students will initiate proceedings to expel you from the University. So, take care to read and understand the Statement on Scholastic Responsibility, which can be found below or online. If you have any doubts about your use of sources, ask your instructor for help before handing in the assignment. The Department (and the University) do not distinguish between intentional and unintentional plagiarism. The easiest way to avoid plagiarism is to cite as you go!

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. More information is available online at <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/>

EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Email is an official means of communication at UT-Austin, and your instructor will use this medium to communicate class information. You are therefore required to obtain a UT email account and to check it daily. All students may claim an email address at no cost by going to <http://www.utexas.edu/its/services/email/>.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

COURSE CALENDAR

Unit 1: Defining a Public		Reading due	Assignments due
Intro; Publics I	Monday July 13		Student information sheet (completed in class)
Example: Feminism as a public, Comparing definitions	Tuesday July 14	Mikki Kendall, "Beyonce's new album..." (BB)	HW: Write down quotations from Kendall's article that express her definition of feminism
Publics II Brainstorming	Wed. July 15		
Using & evaluating sources	Thurs. July 16		Citation Scavenger Hunt (use <i>Easy Writer</i>)
Research strategies: LIBRARY DAY	Friday July 17	Meet in PCL 4.102	Research Summary 1 due Choose your public
Paper 1 strategies, prep for peer review	Monday July 20		Research Summary 2 due
	Tuesday July 21	Peer Review for Essay 1.1	Bring at least 3 typed, printed pages of your Essay 1 draft
Writing Center presentation (in class)	Wed. July 22		Essay 1.1 due
	Thurs. July 23		

Unit 2: Rhetorical Analysis			
	Friday July 24	paper conferences	
Good arguments; audiences Analyzing a public's arguments; choosing a controversy	Monday July 27	Lazere, 32-40, 69-71 Ta-Nehisi Coates, "Letter to My Son" (link on Canvas)	Essay 1.2 due
Semantics & emotional appeals	Tuesda y July 28	Lazere 78-86, 88-89	
Understanding a community's common sense & commonplaces	Wed. July 29	Lazere, 125-136, 138-40	HW: Pick the article you plan to write about for SA3 and write a short paragraph applying one of the terms from the reading to an example from that article.
Appeals from authority (ethos)	Thurs. July 30		Research Summary 3 due
Logos & ideology	Friday July 31	Lazere 191-204	HW TBA

	Monday Aug. 3	Peer Review for Essay 2.1	Bring at least 3 typed, printed pages of your Essay 2 draft
Discuss revision; in- class radical revision	Tuesda y Aug. 4		Essay 2.1 due
The political spectrum	Wed. Aug. 5	Lazere 267-289	

Unit 3: Persuading a Public			
	Thurs. Aug. 6	paper conferences	
Tailoring your argument to your audience	Friday Aug. 7		Essay 2.2 due
Responsible refutation	Monday Aug. 10		HW: TBD (brainstorming for Essay 3)
Developing a persuasive ethos & style	Tuesda y Aug 11		
Evaluations & peer review	Wed. Aug. 12	Peer review for final projects	Bring at least 3 typed, printed pages of your final project draft
	Thurs. Aug. 13	Final celebration & debriefing	Paper 3.1 due
	Friday Aug. 14	Paper conferences	
	Monday Aug. 17		Essay 3.2 due by 10 PM

GRADING SCALE

This course uses UT's standard grading scale, below, for assignments and final grades. Plus/minus grading will be used. Please note that since the University does not allow a final grade of A+, a final grade between 98 and 100 will be reported as an A.

A+ 98-100	B+ 88-90	C+ 79-80	D+ 67-71	F 0-60
A 94-97	B 84-87	C 75-78	D 63-66	
A- 91-93	B- 81-83	C- 72-74	D- 60-62	