



RANGER COLLEGE
ERATH CENTER
STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

COMPOSITION 1

ENGL 1301

3 credit hours

semester year

INSTRUCTOR:

W. Everett Chesnut, Ph.D.

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<p>“The unexamined life is not worth living.” -- Socrates</p>	<p>“Life is a banquet, and most poor fools are starving themselves to death!” -- Auntie Mame</p>
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I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

II. Course Description

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis. Credit 3 semester hours.

III. Required Background or Prerequisites

All students must have passed the writing portion of the TSI test or its equivalent.

All students should have basic proficiency with word processing programs, e-mail programs, the Internet, and electronic database access without any need for instruction.

<p>“A man who has lived in many places is not likely to be deceived by the local errors of his native village; the scholar has lived in many times and is therefore in some degree immune from the great cataract of nonsense that pours from the press and the microphone of his own age.” -- C. S. Lewis, <i>Weight of Glory</i></p>
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IV. Required Textbook and Course Materials

Title	The Prentice Hall Reader, 12th ed	Publisher	Pearson
Editor	George Miller and Jon Miller	ISBN #	978-0-13-442541-2
Additional supplies and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Standard college tools, including bringing paper & pen to class daily ✓ By second class week, a minimum of two study buddies in class ✓ A proactive, academically assertive but respectful attitude ✓ Competence with Blackboard, SafeAssign, and the Ranger e-mail system ✓ Self-discipline and an inquiring mind 		

V. Course Purpose
FCA: Communication

Courses in this category 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 involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

VI. Learning Outcomes

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Critical Thinking Skills (CT) – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication Skills (COM) – Effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS) – The manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teamwork (TW) – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social Responsibility (SR) – Intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Personal Responsibility (PR) – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

VIII. Methods of Instruction

This is a multimedia class, and as such, it may include assigned readings, electronic documents, interactive lectures, discussions, videos, in-class examinations, group projects, etc. Students are expected to maintain access both to computer writing programs and to Ranger Campus e-mail. Students will be expected to use Blackboard throughout the semester as part of their coursework.

IX. Methods of Assessment

Each assignment addresses one or more of the Core Objectives.

OUT OF 100 POSSIBLE POINTS:

Syllabus Exam: 20 questions (10 points)

To earn a passing grade, every one of the 20 questions must be answered fully; there will be no partial credit for incomplete answers. Note that this assignment is worth nearly a full grade level, so failing to turn in a complete copy may reduce a final grade of 'A' to a final grade of 'B'.

Major Papers: two papers, each one of more than four pages (20 points apiece)

To earn a passing grade, each major paper must adhere to college-level standards of thesis statement, essay structure, paragraphing, organization, mechanics, grammar, diction, word choice, spelling, etc. Papers will also be graded on thoroughness: papers should demonstrate clarity and depth and avoid presenting mere lists of unfocused, wandering ideas or vague, unexplained assertions.

Papers must extend past four pages onto a fifth page. Papers which fail to reach the minimum length will be penalized; papers which are less than a page and a half will receive zero points.

Papers will do not follow the requirements for the specific assignment will receive a grade of F.

No A-grade, B-grade, or C-grade paper uses cuss words or biased or prejudicial language.

No A-grade, B-grade, or C-grade paper uses the word "mankind" instead of "humanity" and never uses "he" or "him" or "his" to refer to the generic or average human being

No A-grade, B-grade, or C-grade paper adheres to stereotypes or offensive language, including but not limited to racism, religious bigotry, sexism, homophobia or heterocentrism, antiquated gender norms, age prejudice, or ethnocentrism.

An A-grade paper remains focused on clarifying and proving its thesis statement, is thorough and engaged in the paper's topic, and makes good use of relevant quotes and references.

An A-grade paper never sounds like an advice column or self-help book and never uses second person (you/your) anywhere. An A-grade paper never uses first person (I/me or we/us) except possibly in the concluding paragraph. An A-grade paper never uses slang or jargon or regional colloquialisms unless unavoidable, and in such cases, said terms are defined for the reader.

A C-grade paper merely fulfills the assignment, doing only what is required and nothing more, lacking depth in the responses, and/or is weak in one or two elements of the writing itself.

An F-grade major paper has failed to fulfill the assignment or has multitudes of problems with the writing itself, including but not limited to numerous run-together sentences and fragments, poor paragraphing, and inappropriate diction and/or word choice.

Mini-Papers: four half-page introductory paragraphs (5 points apiece)

To earn a passing grade, each introductory paragraph must adhere to its assigned rhetoric mode: definition, classification/division, comparison & contrast, or process analysis. Furthermore, each

introductory paragraph must be no less than a full half a page in length and must end with a thesis statement appropriate to its assigned rhetoric mode. Each such introductory paragraph also must adhere to college-level standards of mechanics, syntax, spelling, word choice, etc.

Out of Class Exams: two exams with extra copies brought also to class (5 points apiece)

To earn a passing grade, each exam must have complete answers to all the questions or exam assignments. An incomplete exam will receive a failing grade; a mostly incomplete exam will receive a zero score. Each exam must adhere to college-level standards of mechanics, syntax, spelling, word choice, etc.

Classroom Activities: Class participation, in-class exercises, and pop quizzes are together worth a total of 15 points

At the end of the semester will be a Final Exam worth 5 points.

Grading scale: A = 90-100% B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = Below 60

Every out-of-class assignment must be both submitted to SafeAssign on Blackboard and handed in class on the due date. Never e-mail from any e-mail address other your Ranger College one.

<p>"A definition is the enclosing of a wilderness of idea within a wall of words." -- Samuel Butler</p>	<p>"To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best day and night to make you like everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight and never stop fighting." -- e. e. cummings</p>
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X. Course/Classroom Policies

ABSENCES

The days when students had to petition to have an absence forgiven are long gone. Instead, each student has a pool of six and only six unauthorized absences. Students are not expected to explain why they were absent, nor is an instructor expected to grant additional absences beyond the pool of six. So long as each student has no more than those six unauthorized absences, there will be no penalty to your final grade.

If the student goes beyond the pool of unauthorized absences (in effect missing over 20% of the class sessions), the instructor may choose to drop the student with a grade of F.

Unauthorized absences are counted from the first day of class as listed in the College Calendar, regardless of the date of the student's registration.

If you are absent, it is entirely your responsibility to initiate contact with your study buddies for this class to obtain from them any class notes, hand-outs, and other information and materials from the missed day's lecture and classroom experiences. Do not contact your instructor and ask what you may have missed when you were absent; of course you missed something, and it is wholly your responsibility to take care of that, not your instructor's. Contact instead your study buddies.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Adult behavior is expected from all students at all times. During class, please do not talk out of

turn nor make use of your phone or any other electronic device without the explicit permission of the instructor for that particular moment. The only thing in front of the student during class should be paper, pen, notebooks and hand-outs, and textbooks.

Students must have specific permission to make use of any sort of recording device in the classroom. **If a student uses a recording device without specific permission, the instructor may choose to drop the student with a grade of F.**

Misconduct, including sleeping in class or consulting a smart phone, may be punished by immediate dismissal from the class session, which will then count as an unauthorized absence, even if it occurs within minutes of the end of the class session.

Always come to class fully prepared. This includes having read thoroughly any assigned readings beforehand and arriving with paper, pen, and textbook or hand-out.

Each individual student is fully responsible for fully participating in this course. These responsibilities include individual and group class participation, in-class examinations, assigned readings and other out-of-class preparations, Blackboard activities, and assigned papers. Students are expected to ask intelligent and relevant questions in class whenever they are confused or otherwise uncertain about classroom discussion and/or assignments.

Neither technological difficulties nor shyness mitigate such responsibilities.

BE A RESPONSIBLE TOOL-USER!

Check your Ranger College e-mail directly at least once every morning of the semester, even if you have forwarded from your Ranger College e-mail address to another e-mail address. Missing an important e-mail because you had not checked your Ranger College e-mail does not constitute an excuse; a failed attempt to e-mail an assignment because you chose to e-mail it from an e-mail address other than your Ranger College e-mail does not constitute an excuse.

For security purposes, only e-mails from a Ranger College e-mail address can be assured of any response from the instructor.

All phones must be shut off throughout class. No laptop computers, smart phones, or anything similar may be used during class without express instructor permission. No technological recordings are allowed during class time, whether auditory or visual or anything else. Studies have shown that students benefit more from notes taken by hand than they do from notes taken using a computer or smartphone or anything similar.

Students are fully responsible for the quality of any and all tools they choose to make use of, including Internet resources. If a student chooses to trust an Internet or computer resource to aid with his or her spelling, grammar, or citations, that student is fully responsible for the grade that results even if the Internet or computer source had provided faulty information (a fairly common occurrence). A key responsibility in the 21st century is developing the ability to appraise, verify, and otherwise vet any Internet or computer resource or tool. **Be a responsible tool-user!**

"To speak and to speak well are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks." -- Ben Jonson	"Two monologues do not make a dialogue." -- Jeff Daly
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XI. Course Outline/Schedule

WEEK	HOLIDAY?	CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
week one	SPRING: MLK Holiday	class introduction, initial concepts
week two	FALL: Labor Day	SYLLABUS EXAM DUE LAST CLASSDAY OF THE WEEK!
week three		lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week four		lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week five		MINI-PAPERS DUE LAST CLASSDAY OF THE WEEK! lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week six		lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week seven		lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week eight		MAJOR PAPER #1 DUE LAST CLASSDAY OF THE WEEK! lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week nine	SPRING: Spring Break	lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week ten		lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week 11		lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week 12		MINI-PAPERS DUE LAST CLASSDAY OF THE WEEK! lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week 13	FALL: Thanksgiving Break	lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week 14		lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week 15		MAJOR PAPER #2 DUE LAST CLASSDAY OF THE WEEK! lecture & class discussion on assigned readings/viewings
week 16		class conclusion, final concepts
x		FINALS WEEK

XII. Non-Discrimination Statement

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

XIII. ADA Statement

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu) and obtaining all necessary paperwork. It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.

XIV. Academic Integrity

Ranger College holds students to basic standards of honesty and integrity. Any assignment reflecting plagiarism, cheating, or other violations of academic integrity will receive a score of zero. A second violation must result in an automatic course grade of F for the entire semester in addition to any other consequences as mandated by Ranger College

Accidental plagiarism is still plagiarism and remains a violation of academic integrity; students are fully responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty such as plagiarism.

- Plagiarism refers to the use of the phrases, sentences, research, or original thoughts and ideas of another person or source without citing that source (i.e. without giving explicit and accurate credit to the original author alongside each and every one of the paraphrased or quoted passages). Examples of this include claiming purchased or copied prepared papers as your own work and copying or otherwise using any portion of the work of a fellow student, a tutor, a parent, or a spouse without explicitly citing that individual as a source.
- Cheating on exams or homework assignments of any kind (quizzes, midterms, finals, etc.) includes copying another student's answers, exchanging information with other individuals, using the Internet or other electronic resources without explicit permission from the instructor, using notes or books without explicit permission from the instructor, or gaining access to exams prior to the actual taking of those exams.
- Other examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, falsifying an exam or falsifying any excuse for missing a class and "double-dipping", i.e. reusing a paper submitted for a grade to a different class.

Helping anyone engage in any of the violations described above qualifies as academic dishonesty.

All rules and standards of academic integrity apply equally to all electronic media and tools. For example, failure to cite properly an Internet source constitutes a form of plagiarism.

For more information, consult the Student Handbook online under CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE -- Academic Dishonesty (PG. 38) and the penalties that may be imposed (PG. 43). .

XV. Formal Academic Papers Format

All written assignments will adhere to standard college paper format:

- ✓ properly paginated, with the student's last name and first initial followed by the page number in the upper right hand corner of every single page
- ✓ margins exactly 1" all around and only black ink on white paper
- ✓ the paper indicates quotes or paraphrases through the use of parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page to help avoid plagiarism
- ✓ on the first page (only): the student's name (last name first and first name last) in the upper left hand corner, then on the line beneath it the instructor's name (spelled correctly!) and title, then on the line beneath that the class title and regular meeting days and times, and finally on the line beneath that the due date written MLA style, with the date then the month (three letter abbreviation) then the year with no punctuation marks
- ✓ use of MLA format unless explicitly specified otherwise by instructor
- ✓ double-spaced
- ✓ either size 11 Courier New font or size 12 Times New Roman font
- ✓ new paragraphs are indicated by a 1/2-inch indentation, never by skipping an extra line

Paragraphs will be no longer in length than 2/3 a page. There will be two spaces, not one, between the end of one sentence and the beginning of another. Essays will have a recognizable thesis statement at the end of the introduction.

Avoid the use of the first person (I/Me/My and We/Us/Our) and the second person (You/Your) unless otherwise specified. Formal papers should be written objectively, in the third person.

Language must be inclusive according to the highest of modern 21st century standards. No generic statement will utilize only the male pronoun (he/him/his). Similarly, the term "humanity" will be used for all references to the human species, never "mankind", except in direct quotes from research sources, and then only when its use is impossible to avoid.

Always retain personal copies of every assignment turned in to class. Always keep all receipts for SafeAssign and e-mail submissions.

