Course Syllabus
ENG 1302-Written Argument and Research
Spring 2013

Instructor Contact Information	
Instructor	Allyson Jones, M.A.
How to contact me	I respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays. I actively monitor the eCollege Virtual Office and my email account during my virtual office hours.
Virtual office hours	10:00 a.m-11 a.m. MWF
Email Address	allyson.jones@tamuc.edu

Course Description

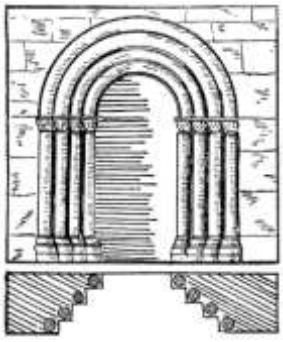
English 1302 provides students with advanced training in communication skills emphasizing the writing and reading of argumentative prose and adapting writing to alternate audiences. Students will write weekly, including such texts as informal reflective pieces, summaries of and responses to argumentative texts, argumentative papers, and longer papers integrating separate research activities.

Course Theme: Rereading and Reconstructing the World

Rereading the World
In his "Allegory of the Cave," Plato argues for the pursuit of knowledge. Plato's quest for knowledge involves looking beyond the "shadows" of reality, that is, the world as it presents itself to us. In this course you will be asked to examine the shadows cast by an issue of importance to you. These "shadows" are the material evidence left in the wake of an issue or event, such as literature, music, historical documents, and secondary scholarship. As you select and read sources that provide such evidence, you will look for ways to enlighten—or cast light upon— the issue at hand. What larger conclusion or truth can you draw from examining these shadows?

Reconstructing the World
Plato's philosophies serve as the foundation from which much of Western thought has developed. However, subsequent philosophers have argued that there is not one universal truth to be sought after, as Plato implies. These thinkers argue that reality is subjective—that is, it is what individuals make of it. From this point of view, you could think of the research project you will conduct this semester as an opportunity for you to construct new meaning from your research and thinking about an issue.

Putting it Together
Perhaps you should think of the research process of a combination of the related activities of rereading *and* reconstructing the pieces of our world into meaningful arguments. As you sort out competing perspectives and sources of information, remember that you are in a sense united with all of the other voices who have weighed in on your issue by a spirit of civil academic debate about ideas that matter.



Course Objectives

- Practice locating and verifying the credibility and usefulness of primary and secondary sources
- Develop rhetorical reading skills and the ability to weigh various perspectives on an issue
- Formulate an original argument incorporating primary and secondary source material
- Practice writing argumentatively and rhetorically for academic audiences

Required Materials

Textbooks	• *From Inquiry to Academic Writing*, Second Ed. Stuart Green and April Lindinsky. ISBN-10: 0-312-60141-7 • *A Writer's Reference*, Seventh. Ed. Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommer. ISBN-10: 0-312-60143-3
Technology	• Computer with Internet connection and Microsoft Office Word • Flash drive • myLeo email account that you check daily during the school week

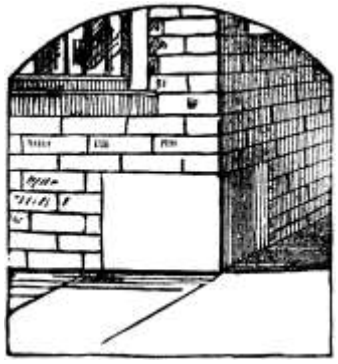
Graded Assignments

WA=Writing assignment

Course Introduction Quiz	5%
Discussion Board Posts	20%
WA1: Issue Exploration Essay	10%
WA2: Research Proposal	15%
WA3: Annotated Bibliography	15%
WA4 Draft (5 pages)	10%
WA4: Final Research Essay	25%

Grading Scale:

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



Assignments

Course Introduction Quiz (5%)
Due: Sunday, January 20th at 11:59 p.m.

After you have reviewed the introductory videos on the main page of the course and read the syllabus, take the course introduction quiz. The videos and quiz are designed to familiarize you with the course. The quiz is listed under week 1.

Discussion Board Posts (20%)
Due: every Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Most weeks, you will participate in a class discussion about the content we are covering. By responding to the discussion topics and engaging your classmates' responses, you will work together to make sense of and form opinions about readings and begin to build your own arguments for your research paper.

Some weeks, the discussion board will serve as a virtual peer review session for sections of your research paper or a venue for other "in-class" activities.

I will chime in on the discussion board throughout the week. Please be sure to read all of your classmates' posts as well as mine. Your classmates and I may not always post

responses up to the midnight deadline though, so if you like to get responses to your ideas, post as early as possible.

Requirements:

- **One main post** each week (at least 250 words but longer if necessary)
- **At least two quality responses to classmates' posts** each week. These may include comments, rebuttals, or questions. I encourage interactive threaded discussions in which you talk back and forth about a topic.
- Entries should be proofread for grammar and usage. Your language does not need to be as formal as language you would use in an essay, but respect your classmates by making clear and coherent posts.
- Post only under your section number (91W, 92W, or 93W). To check your section number, pull up your semester schedule in myLeo.
- It is okay to disagree—in fact I encourage friendly academic arguments—but you may not use abusive language or attack anyone. Let's keep our discussions civil and respectful.

Writing Assignments (WAs) (75% total)

The writing assignments (WAs) are designed to scaffold your semester-long process of composing an eight to ten page research paper about an issue of your choice. These WAs include an issue exploration essay (10%), a research proposal (15%), an annotated bibliography of sources (15%), a draft of the research paper (10%) and the research paper itself (25%). Because the first three WAs represent steps toward composing your final paper, it is probable that the final paper will include ideas or even wording from previous WAs. For example, a summary of a source's argument that you wrote for the annotated bibliography might be incorporated into a body paragraph of your final essay. That is acceptable. As long as you are thoughtfully shaping and revising your project over time, I fully expect the WAs to support and contribute to the final project.

The individual prompts for the WAs are located in Doc Sharing and under the Assignment tabs for the weeks for which they are assigned (see the calendar below for deadlines).

Late Work Policy

Any assignments submitted late will be docked a letter grade. I will not accept late WAs (1-3) after April 7th. Since the WAs build on each other, it is especially important for you to turn your work in on time.

Procedures for Submitting Assignments

All WAs must be submitted to the eCollege Drop Box as .doc or .docx or .rtf files. If you compose in a program besides Microsoft Word, you must convert your files to this format before submitting them.

Statement on Behalf of Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Student Disability Resources & Services

Reading and Assignment Calendar

Week 1 Mon. 1/14 –Sun. 1/20	Required readings: • Week 1 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 1) • "The Parable of The Cave," Plato (Doc Sharing) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, January 20th at 11:59 p.m. • **Course Introduction Quiz due Sunday, January 20th**

	at 11:59 p.m.
Week 2 Mon. 1/21- Sun. 1/27	Required readings: • Week 2 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 2) • "Chapter 1: Starting with Inquiry" (1-15) • Rodriguez, "Scholarship Boy" (15-22) • Graff "Disliking Books" (22-26) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, January 27th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 3 Mon. 1/28- Sun. 2/3	Required readings: • Week 3 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 3) • Loewen, "From *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*" (383-404) • Winslow and Bradford, from "Mourt's Relation Or Journal of the Plantation at Plymouth" (hyperlinked on the week 3 tab. You will only skim this text.) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, February 3rd at 11:59 p.m.
Week 4 Mon. 2/4- Sun. 2/10	Required readings: • Week 4 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 4) • O'Reilly, "The Wonder Woman Precedent: Female (Super) Heroism on Trial" (442-57) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, February 10th at 11:59 p.m. • **WA1 due to Dropbox Sunday, February 10th at 11:59 p.m.**
Week 5 Mon. 2/11- Sun. 2/17	Required readings: • Week 5 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 5) • Lorber, from *Believing is Seeing: Biology as Ideology* (726-35) • "Chapter 4: From Identifying Issues to Forming Questions" (73-81 and 85-90)

	Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, February 17th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 6 Mon. 2/18- Sun. 2/24	Required readings: • Week 6 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 6) • Friedman, "While I Was Sleeping" (624-39) • "Chapter 5: From Formulating to Developing a Thesis" (99-104 only) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, February 24th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 7 Mon. 2/25- Sun. 3/3	Required readings: • Week 7 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 7) • Foer, from *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization* (639-49) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, March 3rd at 11:59 p.m. • **WA2 due to Dropbox Sunday, March 3rd at 11:59 p.m.**
Week 8 Mon. 3/4- Sun. 3/10	Required readings: • Week 8 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 8) • "Chapter 6: From Finding to Evaluating Sources" (120-38) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, March 10th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 9 Mon. 3/11- Sun. 3/17	**Spring Break** No required reading Assignments: • Optional extra credit discussion board due Sunday, March 17th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 10	

Mon. 3/18- Sun. 3/24	Required readings: • Week 10 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 10) • McIntosh, "White Privilege: The Invisible Knapsack" (350-58) • "Chapter 2: From Reading as a Writer to Writing as a Reader" (29-42 only) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, March 24th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 11 Mon. 3/25-Sun. 3/31	Required readings: • Week 11 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 11) • Tatum, "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" (358-73) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, March 31st at 11:59 p.m. • **WA3 due to Dropbox Sunday, March 31st at 11:59 p.m.**
Week 12 Mon. 4/1- Sun. 4/7	Required readings: • Week 12 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 12) • Mirabelli, "Learning to Serve: The Language and Literacy of Food Service Workers" (Doc Sharing) • "Chapter 9: From Introductions to Conclusions" (247-54 only) • Buschel, "100 Things Restaurant Staffers Should Never Do (Part 1)" (hyperlinked on the Week 10 tab) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, April 7th at 11:59 p.m. • Any late WA1s, WA2s, and WA3s will not be accepted after Sunday, April 7th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 13 Mon. 4/8- Sun. 4/14	Required readings: • Week 13 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 13) • Johnson, "Why Games Are Good for You" (481-95) • "Chapter 9: From Introductions to Conclusions" (254-66 only) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, April 14th at 11:59 p.m.

Week 14 Mon. 4/15- Sun. 4/21	Required readings: • Week 14 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 14) • "Chapter 9: From Introductions to Conclusions" (266-72 only) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, April 21st at 11:59 p.m. • **WA4 Draft due to Dropbox Sunday, April 21st at 11:59 p.m.**
Week 15 Mon. 4/22- Sun. 4/28	Required readings: • Week 15 Lecture (Lecture tab under week 15) • Walker, "Everyday Use" (Doc Sharing) Assignments: • Discussion board due Sunday, April 28th at 11:59 p.m.
Week 16 Mon. 4/29- Sun. 5/5	Assignments: • **WA4 due to Dropbox Sunday, May 5th at 11:59 p.m.**