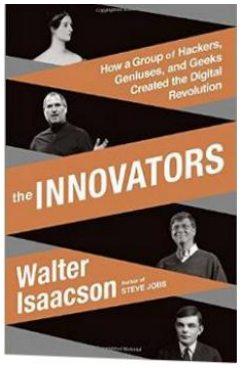
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2015



ENG 1302.91E: Written Argument and Research
"'Future More Vivid': The Rhetoric of the Visionary"

Instructor: Dr. Connie Meyer
University Email Address: connie.meyer@tamuc.edu
Alternative Email Address: conniemeyer17@gmail.com

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

Back to the Lake. 2nd ed. Thomas Cooley. W.W. Norton, 2011.ISBN: 978-0-393-91268-5

A Writer's Reference 7th ed. Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommer. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-312-60143-0

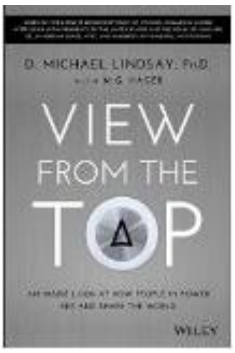
Course Description:

English 1302 provides students with advanced training in communication and research skills emphasizing the writing and reading of argumentative prose and adapting writing to alternate audiences. Students will conduct and evaluate research that results in a research project compiled from a series of smaller projects, including an exploratory essay, project proposal, annotated bibliography, and notes from fieldwork.

Course Theme:

Analyzing the Rhetoric of the Visionary

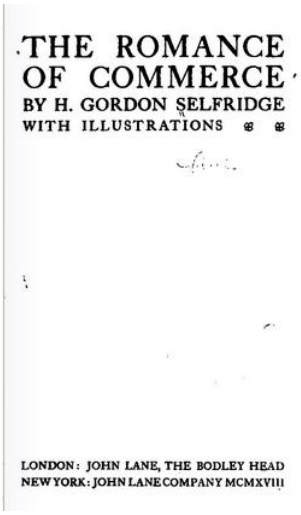
What constitutes a visionary and how does he or she envision a concept, create a viable system for it, and "sell" it to a culture? One of the pivotal steps in this process involves the written word or rhetoric that communicates these concepts to others – particularly those who wield the power to implement change. In this course, you will read selections from modern "visionaries" as you learn how to explore the "world" they created through an intensive research project. You will also read selections from your textbook that compliments these ideas.



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


THE ROMANCE
OF COMMERCE
BY H. GORDON SELFRIDGE
WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON: JOHN LANE, THE BODLEY HEAD
NEW YORK: JOHN LANE COMPANY MCMXVIII

Graded Assignments

WA=Writing assignment

Discussion Board Posts Class Participation	10% 10%
WA1: Issue Exploration Essay	10%
WA2: Research Proposal	15%
WA3: Annotated Bibliography	15%
WA4: Final Research Essay Final Project Presentation: "Commercial Success" Seminar	30% 10%

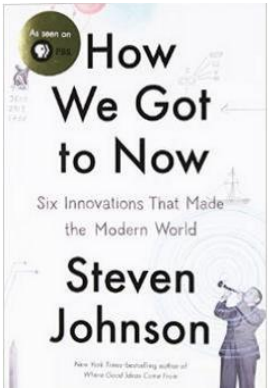
Grading Scale:

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

Assignments

Discussion Board Posts (10%)
Due: Every Applicable Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

On occasion, 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.



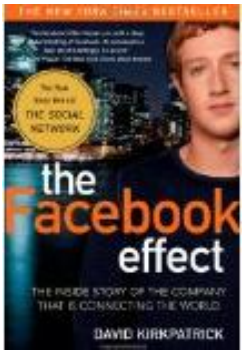
Some weeks, the discussion board will serve as a virtual peer review session for sections of your research paper or a venue for other "in-class" activities.

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** (at least 250 words but longer if necessary)
- **At least two quality responses to classmates' posts**. 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.
- 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) (70% 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%), and the research paper itself (30%). 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 will be 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 are subject to a letter grade deduction. Since the WAs build on each other, it is especially important for you to turn your work in on time.

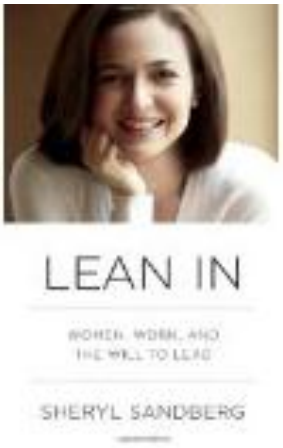
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need:

•Flash drive or other means (dropbox.com account, for example) of storing digital versions of the essays and other written material you generate (always, always keep a backup of everything you turn in!)

•A valid, working email address that you check often (everyday)

• Regular internet access (additional readings available online)



•Access to a computer with a word processing program and a printer (assignments must be typed and printed)

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Some texts for this course exist exclusively online, so you must have Internet access to read and/or view these texts.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact you instructor with any questions you may have. Your instructor's communication preference is e-mail, and her address is: connie.meyer@tamuc.edu

Grievance Procedure:

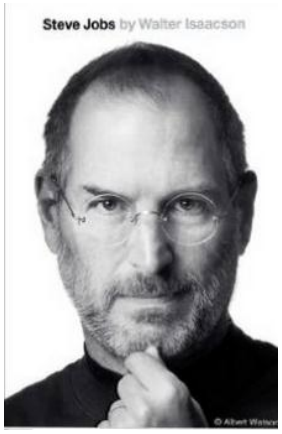
Students who have concerns about their writing course or instructors should speak *first* to the instructor about those concerns. If the student is unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation, the next person in the chain of command is the Dean of the University College, Dr. Ricky Dobbs. Students should contact him at Ricky.Dobbs@tamuc.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

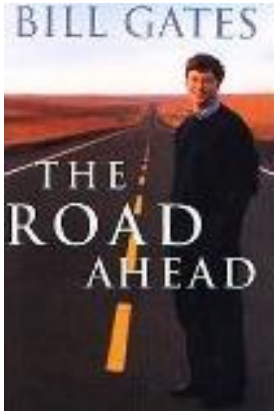
Course Specific Procedures:

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism can be described as the "wrongful appropriation" or taking credit for another writer's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions" and/or the representation of them as one's own original work. The official departmental policy: "Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonestly. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3])



You will be given more clarification about this topic in class, particularly on how to avoid inadvertent plagiarism. If you ever have any questions about a particular use of a source, always ask your instructor. They want you to avoid plagiarism, too, so they will help you do so whenever and wherever they can. Do what you can to take advantage of this support—to look innocent in addition to being innocent when it comes to charges of plagiarism.



Students guilty of academic dishonesty of plagiarism can expect to fail the assignment in question or the entire course depending on the nature of the incident. See your *Writing at Texas A&M University-Commerce* Guide (a required text for this course) for more information.)

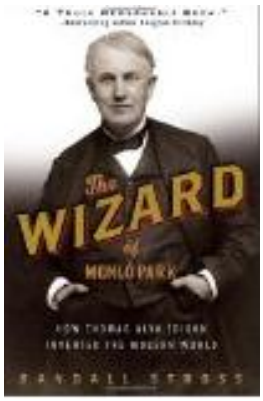
On University-Sanctioned Activities

To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, the First-Year Composition Program offers sections of this course at various times of the day and week. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved--athletics, etc.--please see your instructor after class on the first day.

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

Student Conduct

> All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).*