COURSE DESCRIPTION
ENG 132 – Research and Argument: “Continued study and application of the writing process and the skills of writing with a focus on the forms of argumentative writing and on research methods, such as gathering, evaluating, summarizing, synthesizing and citing source information. Prerequisite: C in English 131. Must earn a C or higher to be admitted to any English 200-level course.” College Bulletin, 2012-2013.

About This Class
You are attempting a daunting task. Along with all of the other facets of your busy lives, you have embarked upon a journey to transform yourselves into better writers – in less than four months. Successfully navigating the path you have chosen will require certain deeds on your part. This goal may best be accomplished by activities such as focused, analytical reading, serious discussion, forming ideas that are well-considered, crafting arguments that are logical, and drafting, revising, and editing our work until it communicates coherently what we intend.

Writing is an active process. Despite the fact that we are often called upon to submit our best efforts to date, rarely is any piece of writing ever truly “finished.” Most, if not all, written work can be improved upon. As noted, an important part of this process is reading, in a focused and critical manner, the best efforts of other writers and discussing what we find there. Therefore, this class will consist of equable amounts of reading, discussion and writing. This course is not a literature class; however analyzing the written arguments of other writers can help us understand why we write and how to do so effectively.

Regarding the aspects of writing that can be taught, one-half is science, and the other is art. Although it takes application, the science can be learned; art, however, requires the doing, the act; the only way to become a good writer is to write, write, and write! The nature of this class demands active participation, and you will see results if you put forth effort. When I ask you to create a draft - do it! When I ask you to critique or revise a passage, do it! No excuses. I say again, the art requires the doing. Those who do not accomplish the obvious and expected tasks associated with this process cannot truly claim to care about their writing or this class. No doubt their grades will reflect this
Occasionally I ask you to work collaboratively, with minimal supervision. If you do not make good use of these sessions, then you are hurting yourself. I expect you to engage in the class discussions by asking questions and offering thoughtful comments relevant to the issue at hand, and to do so in a courteous manner. The nature of our endeavor makes rudeness or abusive language intolerable. That being said, you will have some (hopefully) interesting and spirited discussions with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, and you may hear something you do not like. If you feel yourself getting offended, first remind yourself how fortunate you are to live in a country where people have the right to speak what they believe to be the truth, and then proceed to tell them exactly how they are wrong.

**Texts and Materials**

- The Brief Penguin Handbook
- *Lumberjacks Write*
- Pen and Paper

**Course Requirements**

In this class, you will be asked to produce logical, thoughtful, well-composed pieces of argument. These assignments are based on various topics that will emerge from the assigned readings and our in-class discussions.

These papers will include, but are not necessarily limited to, a *synthesis and critical analysis essay*, wherein you summarize and analyze the argument of another; a *comparative analysis* essay, wherein you discuss the similarities and differences of multiple arguments on a single topic; a *critical analysis*, wherein you analyze the goals and tactics of a visual text (film); a *researched argument*, wherein you argue a particular view of a literary work; and a *final exam* in the form of an in-class timed essay wherein you analyze and explain a piece of text.

All papers composed outside of class require MLA format and are due at the *beginning* of class on the dates assigned. Any work submitted after the call for papers will be considered late. No late work will be accepted. All work must be submitted by hardcopy. Students are also required to submit an electronic copy, on time, through D2L to the *Turnitin* comprehensive plagiarism detector. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade (0 points) on the paper in question. Again, no late work will be accepted. If you are absent when a paper is returned, then it is your responsibility to come to my office and retrieve the work in question.

**Course Calendar**

The class will be divided into four sections based on the four major paper assignments. Each assignment will take *approximately* four weeks to complete. The film analysis will take slightly less time; the synthesis and critical analysis will take slightly longer. The general schedule, however, will be one major paper due each month, along with the relevant daily work such as rough drafts, peer critiques, thesis submissions, *et cetera*. 
Grading Policy

Semester grades will be the sum of the major paper grades, the daily grades, and the final exam. Each major paper will constitute one grade, with grammar, content, and style contributing equally to each grade. Each major paper is worth a maximum of twenty (20) points; the final exam is worth a maximum of ten (10) points, and each daily exercise is worth a maximum of two (2) points – for a total of one hundred (100) possible points. After your semester grade is determined, attendance points will be deducted or added. Feel free to come and see me about your writing, your grade, or for any other reason, during office hours.

Attendance Policy

Punctual attendance (physical and mental) is required, and roll will be checked at the beginning of the class. If you are not in class when roll is checked, do not expect to be counted present. If you fall asleep in class, do not expect to be counted present. If you text or engage in non-class-related activities, expect to be counted absent. Notes from parents, grandparents, doctors, coaches, etc. are not required and will make no difference with regard to attendance. If you are not in class, then you are absent. You have three “excused” absences; use them how you wish. “Excused” means daily work done in class that day can be submitted late if an appointment is made immediately upon return to class. Because, however, group discussion is such an important element of this class, excessive absences will adversely affect your grade. One point will be deducted from your semester grade for each unexcused absence. Any student who misses more than three weeks of class will receive a failing grade for the course, as per the university attendance policy. Students with perfect attendance will receive two (2) points toward their final grade.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

“Academic dishonesty” includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the
words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. (Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

Academic dishonesty carries a very heavy penalty: a definite F (in the form of zero (0) points), on the paper in question, a probable F in the class, and possible expulsion from the university.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**  
(Students with special needs should conference with the instructor ASAP.)

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

**General Education Core Curriculum**
This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L through LiveText, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment. LiveText accounts will be provided to all students enrolled in core courses through the university technology fee. You will be required to register your LiveText account, and you will be notified how to register your account through your SFA e-mail account. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another account and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder and your
spam filter for these e-mails. If you have questions about LiveText call Ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to LiveText this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to LiveText. Not every assignment will be collected for assessment every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in LiveText this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in LiveText</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Capstone Essay</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Capstone Essay</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Capstone Essay</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
<td>Capstone Essay</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Capstone Essay</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td>Capstone Essay</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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**Program Learning Outcomes**

This is a general education core curriculum course, and no specific learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course.

**English 131 Student Learning Outcomes**

ENG 131 learning outcomes are the goals that students must meet in the first semester of the two-semester Freshman Composition core curriculum requirement. The learning outcomes for ENG 131 are as follows:

1. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 1 skills. Students in compositions courses make application of these skills in the writing of personal, expository, and persuasive essays, which require students to make inquiries into and explorations of topics in creative, innovative, or analytical ways. Students are expected to complete readings, to engage in
course and group discussions, and to analyze, interpret and synthesize their findings resultant from these critical engagements into well-developed essays. Written assignments will evidence the students’ command of these considerations: effective engagement of audience (pathos), logical development of ideas (logos), and effective use of examples, expertise, or insight (ethos).

2. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 2 skills. These skills include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication. Following instruction about group interaction, students will engage in oral communication through class discussions and group work (orally in face-to-face courses, electronically in online courses). Students will have occasion to respond to visual medium, as found in assigned readings, lectures, power-point presentations, or other media dependent upon course materials. Students learn processes for writing that help them to form coherent, well-developed, well-organized, and unified discussions through a variety of writing methodologies, including personal, expository, and persuasive methodologies. Students will write at least four essays in composition courses, and rubrics will assess such concerns as development and exploration, mechanical clarity, and interpretation or expression of ideas.

3. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 4 skills. These skills include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Following instruction about peer review processes and small group work, students will perform peer mentorship on essay assignments and work together on group projects, which may include collaborative writing occasions, group presentations, or panel discussions. As peer review is the common teamwork experience, students will be required to share potentially diverse ideas with one another, to address those views in appropriate ways, and to help one another to finalize essays for submission.

4. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 5 skills. These skills include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making. Students will have opportunity to examine numerous readings, including essays written by classmates, to examine the credibility and value of those readings, and to understand how expository methodologies bear responsibility and consequence.