English 132.009
Research and Argument

Semester: Spring 2016
Course number/section: ENG -132.009
Meeting place: Ferguson 171
Meeting time: MWF 11 – 11:50am
Instructor: Ms. Kirstie Linstrom
E-mail: linstromke@sfasu.edu
Office: Ferguson 275, phone: 2165
Office hours: MW 8am-9am and 1pm-2:30pm and by appointment

Prerequisites:
A grade of C or higher in English 131.

Required Texts:
Lumberjacks Write—you should have a copy of this from your 131 course
Prentice Hall Reference Guide 8th Edition by Muriel Harris and Jennifer L. Kunka
Materials and readings on D2L; these MUST be PRINTED and brought to class on days we are scheduled to discuss them

Course Description:
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.

Course Outcomes:
General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:
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, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Comparative Rhetorical Analysis</td>
<td>February 19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Comparative Rhetorical Analysis</td>
<td>February 19th</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>Comparative Rhetorical Analysis</td>
<td>February 19th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Comparative Rhetorical Analysis</td>
<td>February 19th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**English Program Learning Outcomes**

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

**English 132 Learning Outcomes**

ENG 132 learning outcomes are the goals that students must meet as part of the Freshman Composition core curriculum requirements, which include:

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); a research essay is the culminating writing of this course; students will learn appropriate research methodologies, how to evaluate secondary sources, and to synthesize the ideas of others in their arguments.

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 persuasive, analytical, and argumentative methodologies. Students will write several essays; the culminating assignment will be an argumentative, research-based essay, and rubrics will assess such concerns as development and exploration, mechanical clarity, interpretation or expression of ideas, and effective use of research methodologies.
3. Ability to show appropriate acquisition of CORE objective 3 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 4 skills. These skills include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making. Students will have opportunity to examine numerous secondary sources, to determine the credibility and value of those sources, and to understand how argumentative methodologies bear responsibility and consequence.

Students entering English 132 should:

- be able to formulate a thesis statement.
- understand the meaning and relationship of claim, evidence, and analysis.
- know and apply the concepts of the rhetorical situation (speaker, audience, purpose, message, context) and the rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos).
- understand what makes a unified and coherent paragraph and be able to write one.
- produce mechanically sound essays with only minor grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.
- understand what constitutes plagiarism
- be proficient in MLA basics: page formatting, quotation, citation, and Works Cited lists.

Assignments:
Each assignment is due at the beginning of the class. You must turn in a hard copy during the first 15 minutes of class AND you must submit a copy online to D2L (Dropbox). If you fail to submit the online copy, 10 points will be deducted each day it is late (meaning each day the university meets for classes). I typically give you until 11:59pm to submit your assignment online, so you have ample time to submit each assignment. There will be a separate Dropbox for each assignment on D2L. If you do not know how to submit an assignment online, please ask me or a peer. Not knowing how to submit to Dropbox WILL NOT serve as an acceptable excuse for not turning in an assignment.

Comparative Rhetorical Analysis:
This essay will compare two assigned articles and the arguments the authors make. The Comparative Rhetorical Analysis essay will be 5-6 pages in length. More information and details will be provided closer to the due date.

Group Presentation:
The students will work in groups to synthesize the two articles assigned to them. They will also create a classroom discussion over the topic they are assigned. The presentation will be 18-20 minutes. More information and details will be provided closer to the due date.

Argument Synthesis:
Using rhetorical skills the student learned in English 131 concerning Ethos, Logos, and Pathos (and a recap in class), the student will write 6-7 page paper synthesizing three sources provided by the
instructor and include an argument of their own. The student should choose a side and use support to back up his or her claim. More information and details will be provided closer to the due date.

Research Proposal:
The student will propose a research concerning a topic approved by the instructor, and write a 1,000-word Research Proposal presenting his or her topic. Each student will have a non-binding “yes” from the instructor before presenting their proposal for final approval and a grade. No grades will be given on the Research Proposal until the instructor has approved the topic; likewise, the student should not pursue any research on the topic, beyond briefly looking for information on the topic, before this approval is given. More information and details will be provided closer to the due date.

Annotated Bibliography:
Employing research techniques learned in class, the student will find 10 sources for their proposed research topic and summarize its content and how the topic of the source will aid in their own argument for the Research/Argument Paper. More information and details will be provided closer to the due date.

Research/Argument Paper:
The final paper for the class will be a Researched Argument Paper that will be 8-10 pages in length in which the student will develop a well-researched and sound argument concerning the topic approved by the instructor in the Research Proposal. This paper will require 8 to 10 sources. This paper will display the research and analytic skills the student has developed over the course this class and Eng 131. More information and details will be provided closer to the due date.

Quizzes/Daily Work/Homework:
Students will have quizzes over readings and class discussions, daily work, and homework. These grades will count toward 150 points of your final grade. Be sure to check the syllabus schedule each day for assignments.

Peer Review:
Peer Review is a very important component of this class. Peer review days are MANDATORY. There will be points deducted from the final assignment if the student fails to participate in peer review. Peer comments and suggestions will be due with the final draft of each assignment.

Participation:
Participation is worth 100 points of your overall grade. To receive the full 100 points, students must be participating in classroom discussions at least once a week. However, if it is obvious you did not complete your homework or the assignment being discussed, you will NOT receive your participation points. Trust me, I can tell!

Final Exam:
Students will create a presentation over their final research paper. More information and details will be provided closer to the due date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comparative Rhetorical Analysis</th>
<th>100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument Synthesis</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Grading:**

According to university policy, your final grade for the course will consist of a letter grade only (no plus or minus). Here is a general description of what is meant by each letter grade:

**A -** This grade denotes superior composition, content, style, and mechanics; thoughtfulness, originality, and excellence in topic development, including vividly concrete details, insightful examples, and sophisticated analysis and synthesis of subject matter. Writing is mechanically pristine with only the smallest grammatical defects present (such as a missing comma or a single typo).

**B -** This grade denotes very good composition, content, style, and mechanics; thoughtful and adequate topic development; clear and complete details and examples; and consistency in style. Slight problems may be present in one or two areas, but the paper shows strength in others. The paper is not heavily impacted by mechanical errors.

**C -** This grade denotes acceptable content, but style, organization and mechanics are uneven and need revision, OR the composition is lacking in content and does not sufficiently consider the subject matter as evidenced by inadequate topic development and lack of concrete details, AND/OR the ethos of the writer is damaged by mechanical errors.

**D -** This grade represents below average, unsatisfactory work. On essays and written responses, the paper (whether through lack of effort, revision, editing, or some other reason) is not clear or focused. The paper is very uneven in its content, organization, and style. The meaning of the paper is obscured by mechanical errors.

**F -** The student did not do the work that was assigned, or is guilty of academic dishonesty. See me as soon as possible.

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research/Argument Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes/Daily Work/HW</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Grade

900-1000 A
800-899 B
700-799 C
600-699 D
0-590 F

**All assignments should adhere to MLA guidelines: one inch margins all around, appropriate headers, double-spaced, written in Times New Roman 12 point font, with Works Cited attached to the back of the paper. Each assignment must also meet the minimum page and source requirement. Failing to meet these guidelines will result in a SIGNIFICANT negative impact on the assignment’s grade. If your spacing is NOT double-spaced and/or your font is not Times New Roman 12pt, I will reformat your paper to have the correct spacing and/or font. If the reformatted paper does not meet the minimum page count requirement, your essay will be counted as not long enough. I cannot stress enough that this will significantly impact the assignment’s grade.**
NOTE: If your grade is borderline, class participation, professionalism, and punctuality can raise your final grade whereas lack of participation, disrespectfulness, and tardiness can lower your final grade.

I am happy to discuss the evaluation of your work at least 24 hours after I have returned it to you. I will not discuss it until then. Certainly, I will not discuss a grade or an answer immediately after I handed it back to you in front of the entire class!

***Please be aware that ONLY students who master the coursework earn an A. I will not give them: a) for hard work (everyone should work hard); b) so you won't be put on probation or lose your scholarship (that is your responsibility, not mine); c) because I “like” you (I'm not in a position to like you personally); or d) simply because you ask. I only change grades in the event of a mathematical miscalculation. Do NOT email me at the end of the semester asking for a higher grade; I will not respond. Furthermore, you should be keeping track of your own grade. Do not email me at the end of the semester asking why you received the grade you did in the course UNLESS you believe it is mathematically wrong.

Attendance:
ADULTS MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. Successful students attend regularly, arrive on time, and stay for the duration of class. Please schedule all other appointments without being late or leaving early. Entering the classroom late is disrupting; three tardies is considered one absence. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be counted absent. Sleeping in class is unacceptable; you will be counted absent if you sleep in class.

• I will allow 6 excused and/or unexcused absences.
• Your participation grade drops 10 points per absence starting with the 7th.
• Students with more than 9 absences (excused or unexcused) who fail to drop the course will receive an F for the semester.
• The absences that count as excused will be documented family emergencies, university sanctioned events, and extreme medical issues (hospitalization).
• All excused absences must have proper documentation (i.e. a doctor’s excuse, documentation from coach on SFA letterhead, etc.). DO NOT have your coach, roommate, significant other, parent/guardian, etc. email me an excuse for your absence unless you are physically unable to contact me.
• Regardless of the reason for your absence, you are responsible for all information and work covered in class. If you missed deadlines or in-class work during an excused absence, it is your responsibility to find out what you’ve missed and arrange with me to make it up.
• In class assignments and activities cannot be made up unless you have a documented, excused absence.
• An excused absence does not also excuse the homework that is due for that day. You are responsible for all the work that is due for the class missed and the next.
• In case of an excused absence, homework must be turned in the next day you are in class.
• Do not expect me to notify you once you have reached an alarming amount of absences or tardies. It is your responsibility to keep track of when you are late or when you miss class.

I understand that you all have a life outside of school and sometimes you cannot attend class. Therefore, if/when you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from your fellow
classmates. Please DO NOT come by my office asking me to deliver a personal lecture, and please
dO NOT email me asking what you missed or if you missed anything important; all of the material
we will go over is important. I will provide you with a course schedule that tells you which notes you
need to get from a classmate. I strongly recommend that you get contact information from at least
two of your classmates.

Late Assignments:
I DO NOT accept late assignments. Major grades missed due to legitimate circumstances beyond a
student’s control may be made up if arrangements are MADE IN ADVANCE AND NOT AFTER
THE FACT. The university excuses students for serious personal illness requiring hospitalization
and family emergencies such as a death in the immediate family. Students are responsible for
providing satisfactory documentation in such situations. Extensions for major papers will be left to
my discretion, but students must see me 3 days prior to the assignment due date and present me
with a valid reason for me to consider an extension.

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.

Academic Integrity:
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.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty:
If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in my class, you will AUTOMATICALLY FAIL
the course and I will report you to the Dean of your college and my college.

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
Acceptable Student Behavior:
A recent policy from the Provost’s Office states, “Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate / inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.”

Individual Policies:
- Cell phones, head phones or ear buds, iPods or MP3 players, laptops, or any type of tablet is not allowed in the classroom unless your textbook is an electronic text. If I see or hear these items, you will be asked to leave. If you need to take a phone call for an emergency, you may step out of the classroom, but do not disrespect your classmates by answering the phone in class. If you are waiting on an important phone call (if a relative is in the hospital or anything of that nature) and need to leave your phone on your desk, please let me know before class begins.
- Unless you have my permission, do not bring any guests, children, or significant others to class. This is a safety issue.
- I do not mind if you bring drinks or snacks to class, BUT please do not bring pungent or loud food. This is very disruptive and I will ask you to leave.
- It is disrespectful to talk when I or your fellow classmates are speaking. Please raise your hand if you have something to say; DO NOT talk over someone.
- Pay attention! If you are sleeping, daydreaming, doing homework for another class, or simply not paying attention or participating, I will not ask you to leave, but you will be counted absent for the day. You are not wasting my time; you are wasting your own time.
- If you wish to contact me, send me an email. You MUST put ENG 132 and your section number in the subject line. I do not accept assignments via email unless I specifically give you permission to do so. Please construct your emails professionally. I will not respond to emails that are written in “text message” format.

Discrimination / Sexual Harassment:
At Stephen F. Austin State University, no faculty, staff, or student may discriminate against another on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability or disabled veteran status, and such acts will not be permitted in this class. For additional information, consult Human Resources for Policy E-46.

Students with Disabilities:
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/.

AARC:
Writing tutors are available in the Academic Assistance and Research Center on the first floor of the library. Drop-in tutoring is offered as well. You can also make an appt. by calling 468-4108. To schedule a weekly appointment, visit sfasu.edu/aarc and sign up ASAP.

AARC Hours
Walk-in tables: **Monday-Thursday** 3pm-8pm
  **Sunday** 4pm-6pm

**ABSENCE LOG**
Day 1: ______________ Day 2: ______________ Day 3: ______________
Day 4: ______________ Day 5: ______________ Day 6: ______________
Day 7: ______________ Day 8: ______________ Day 9: ______________

**PEER CONTACT INFO**
1—Name: __________________ Number: ______________ Email: __________________
2—Name: __________________ Number: ______________ Email: __________________