

English 1301
Dr. Shaun Clarkson

Email: shaun.clarkson@brazosport.edu
Phone: (979)230-3331
Office: B-221

Textbook: *The Little Seagull Handbook*. Third Edition. Ed. Richard Bullock, Michael Brody, and Francine Weinberg. ISBN: 978-0-393-60263-0

Weekly reading assignments from the textbook will be posted in the “Unit Overview” files found on D2L.

Evaluation:

10%	Participation
10%	Review
15%	Rhetorical Analysis
5%	Memoir
15%	Research Plan Presentation
10%	Annotated Bibliography
25%	Research Paper
10%	Final Exam

Weekly Schedule:

Week One: Discussion of syllabus and expectations. Diagnostic essay. Writing as process. Introduction to rhetorical situation: topic, purpose, angle, audience.

Week Two: Writing within a discourse. Writing for different audiences. Brainstorming ideas and choosing appropriate topics.

Week Three: Describing and Evaluating. Effective peer-review strategies. Revising and editing.

Week Four: Rhetorical strategies: ethos, pathos, logos, identification, fallacies. Analyzing advertisements and culture.

Week Five: Debating a claim. Persuading and refuting.

Week Six: Writing stronger introductions and conclusions. Using the paramedic method to rescue sentences.

Week Seven: Writing about yourself. Formulating a research question. Evaluating sources. Conducting online research. Using a library.

Week Eight: Evaluating sources. Conducting online research. Using a library.

Week Nine: Designing documents. Presentation skills. Using images effectively.

Week Ten: Presentation of student research plans. Active note taking and constructive critique

Week Eleven: MLA style. Annotating citations. Incorporating research.

Week Twelve: Quoting and paraphrasing. Research groups. Narrowing your thesis and cutting material.

Week Thirteen: Works Cited Page. MLA formatting. Thanksgiving break.

Week Fourteen: Writing about literature. Overview of literary terms. Short story discussion. Look ahead to final exam and English 1302.

Week Fifteen: Review of course material. In-class essay strategies.

Technology & Skills

Since this class will take place entirely online, you will need access to a computer with Internet (preferably high-speed Internet) access. For one assignment, you will need to record video and/or audio for a presentation, so an internal microphone and/or webcam would be optimal, though you could also use a smartphone or digital video camera. Some of this equipment may be checked out at the Brazosport College library. To be successful in this class, you should have a strong working knowledge of the D2L virtual campus, word processing software, and basic online tasks like downloading files, emailing, and using Dropbox.

Attendance Policy

You must engage with and complete each activity (for example, posting and replying in discussion forums, watching instructor videos, taking quizzes, reading texts, etc.) for each unit to receive full credit for attendance and participation. Each activity you fail to engage with will count as one absence and any activity you make substantial progress through without completing will count as half an absence. You have three “free” absences, but each subsequent absence will bring your overall grade down by 10 points. Each activity has a specific deadline, so you will not be able to take “time off” or make up work at the end of the semester. Keep in mind, I can see who has engaged with an activity AND how long you’ve engaged with that activity, so do not try to cheat the system by clicking on the links but not engaging with the content.

Discussion Posts

Each unit will have at least one discussion topic activity. Unless otherwise stated in the instructions you must post two items: one direct response to my prompt that must be at least 100 words and one reply to someone else’s post that must be at least 50 words. In order to receive full credit, these posts must be thoughtful and substantive. In other words, don’t just say “I agree with Sally” or “I like your post.” If you’re having trouble making the word requirement, ask yourself some *why* questions: Why is the post so effective or ineffective? Weak discussion posts will hurt your participation grade and incomplete discussion posts will count as absences. Each unit's discussion will close after two weeks, so make sure you have posted before the deadline. I will try my best to assess your these discussions the Monday that these discussions close. Some discussions (like peer-review activities and end-of-semester topics) will have shorter windows, so make sure you read the prompts carefully and pay attention to the deadline.

Peer Review

Each week that a major assignment is due, we will have a peer review activity via the discussion forums so that you can get useful feedback from classmates and offer your own help with other drafts. To ensure you and your classmates have time to act on those suggestions, you must post your own draft and respond to other drafts at least 24 hours before the deadline to turn in the assignment. If you fail to finish this activity before the 24-hour cutoff, you will need to make an appointment with the Brazosport Writing Center to have a tutor look over your assignment. Email me that you met with a tutor, and when that tutor reports your visit, I will give you credit for the peer-review activity.

Late Paper Policy

Ten points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. This includes weekends and holidays. Deadlines are firm and clearly stated, so even papers turned in shortly after the deadline will be counted late. After 5 days, you may turn in the assignment at any time, but the

highest grade you can receive would be a 50. I will assess the paper out of 100 just like any other and then divide that grade by two.

Assignments

All assignments must be turned in via D2L's dropbox system (unless otherwise specified) using .doc, .docx, .pdf, or .rtf file formats, and you should expect to receive feedback roughly two weeks later. If your paper is less than half the minimum word count, you will receive a zero. If your paper is below the minimum word count but more than half of the minimum word count, I will perform simple division to find your highest possible score. In other words, if you turn in 750 words for a 1,000 word assignment, the highest possible grade is a 75.

Communication

You are responsible for all information found on our D2L page, presented in video lectures, or sent via email. I highly recommend you set up your phone to automatically receive and notify you of these emails. I will try to respond to your emails within 24 hours, but if I haven't responded by that time, email me again to make sure I received your message.

Revisions

You may revise one paper this semester to potentially receive full credit. Email me the revised paper AND include it in the "Revisions" dropbox. Please also include a short cover letter directing me to substantial changes you've made and why you think the paper is improved. I recommend you meet with me to discuss your first draft before turning in the revision. You cannot make up points deducted from late papers or plagiarized papers. In other words, if your original paper was two days late, the highest grade you could receive would be an 80.

Grammar and Spelling Problems

This is not a course in grammar, so assignments are expected to be relatively error-free when turned in. Make an appointment at the Student Success Center if you need help from a tutor or find websites like the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) for electronic resources.

Content Note

This is a college-level class, and we will be dealing with texts that may make you uncomfortable, upset, or offended because of the language or content. You are, however, expected to engage with the texts in a professional manner and be respectful in discussions.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students can write compositions that are well developed which includes organizing ideas effectively (with an introduction, support and conclusion), establishing a clear, narrowed, sophisticated main idea with content that is "college level" and details that are full and complete, and maintaining focus on the central idea. Assessment: 4-8 compositions (passing with at least 70%)
2. Students can write compositions that are clear and communicative: using Standard English and corresponding grammar, sentence structure, mechanics, punctuation, diction, etc., and using a style appropriate to the reader while making rhetorical decisions based on audience awareness. Assessment: 4-8 compositions (passing with at least 70%)

3. Students can write compositions that follow MLA guidelines such as formatting the essay, using parenthetical documentation, constructing a correct works cited page, understanding the nature and consequences of plagiarism, writing a paper free from argument fallacies, and making critical judgments regarding the validity of an argument (written in documents or spoken in a classroom setting). Assessment: 1-4 compositions (passing with at least 70%)
4. Students can conduct different methods of research necessary for a college student (library, online, field, etc.), evaluate a source according to their rhetorical needs, and integrate the source into their own work without losing their writing voice. Assessment: 1-4 compositions (passing with at least 70%)
5. Students will analyze a work and write a composition appropriate to the instructions, indicating their understanding of the work in a timed, final exam. Assessment: final exam (passing with at least 70%)

Academic Honesty

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct including academic honesty. The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

Students with Disabilities

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor at 979-230-3236 for further information.

Title IX Statement

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Kelli Forde Spiers, Director, Student Life and Title IX Coordinator
Office J-117D; 979-230-3355; kelli.fordespiers@brazosport.edu

Victoria Young, HR Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator
Office C-114; 979-230-3303; victoria.young@brazosport.edu

Student Services Provided by the College:

Information about the Library is available at www.brazosport.edu/~lib/Information.htm or by calling 979-230-3310.

Information about study skills and tutoring for math, reading, writing, biology, chemistry, and other subjects is available in the Learning Assistance Center (LAC), see www.brazosport.edu/~lac or call 979-230-3253.

To contact the Math/Life Science Department call (979)230-3225.

The Student Services area provides the following services

Counseling and Advising 979-230-3040

Financial Aid 979-230-3294

Student Activities 979-230-3355

To reach the Information Technology Dept. for computer, email, or other technical assistance call the Helpdesk 979-230-3266.