

# Rhetoric 115; Fall 2004

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office hours: TR 10-11 am

## Course Overview:

According to the XU course description booklet, the purpose of English 115: Rhetoric is to provide the student with an “intensive theoretical and practical study of discourse.” Throughout the course of the semester, you, we, will attempt to accomplish both of those goals by studying the theory and application of rhetoric. You will do so by critically reading, thinking and writing about the topic of your choice both within a group and individually. The result of this course will be a completed online group portfolio due during final’s week.

## Course Goals:

- To better understand rhetoric: its theory, application, and terminology
- To improve your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills
- To enhance your ability to communicate in a variety of different modes and genres, including creating documents using Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, FrontPage, and other technologies
- To understand the rhetoric of online spaces
- To develop and accomplish long-term writing project goals
- To learn how to work with others to meet those writing projects goals
- To better understand your own writing process
- To gain confidence in approaching many future writing projects by learning how to read and to interpret the rhetorical situation and where to turn for assistance
- To improve your ability to search for and interpret multiple texts for use in your writing projects

## Expectations:

- You will come to class every day on time and will be prepared to work.
- You will remember that you and your classmates are adults and should treat each other and me with respect.
- You have regular access to a computer with a word processing program.
- You have access to and regularly use e-mail.
- You have basic research skills in regards to the Internet, the library catalogue, and some library databases.
- You understand and can effectively use standards of basic writing, such as grammar, mechanics, sentence and paragraph structure, organization, etc.

## Attendance and Late Assignments:

I expect to see you in class everyday, but I understand that sometimes things prevent you (and me) from being here; therefore, you may miss three classes during the course of the semester. It does not matter why you are absent, so please use them wisely! After your third absence, your final course grade will be lowered by a third. For example, if you have a 94 at the end of the term, at four absences, your final course grade will become an 89. If you miss five classes, it becomes an 86. You must be present the day on which an assignment is due. No exceptions!

I **DO NOT** accept late assignments unless I am informed of problematic circumstances beforehand. Please turn all assignments in the day they are due. If you do not arrange an alternative due date with me before the assignment is due, you will receive a failing grade on that assignment.

**Plagiarism:**

Passing off someone else's working as your own is considered plagiarism. As the Internet becomes increasingly more important in how we write and how we conduct research, often allowing us easy and convenient access to written and visual texts, it sometimes becomes confusing as to whether what we are doing is plagiarism or not. If you have any questions about plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask. I take every case of plagiarism seriously and I will not hesitate to give you an "F" for the semester for plagiarizing; therefore, it is in your best interest to understand plagiarism.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Over the course of the semester, you will complete several writing assignments. Below is a brief description of those assignments and how they will impact your total grade for the course.

Group Website 20%

By the end of the semester, your group will have completed a website on the topic of your choice. You will work on the components all semester and your Group Website grade will be based on your final product. *This part of your grade is based solely on the effectiveness of your website.*

Literacy Autobiography 15%

Your first major writing assignment will require you to create an online literacy autobiography that details your personal journey through literacy.

Website Proposal 5%

The website proposal has two parts--topic proposal and design proposal--and will serve as your plan for creating your group website.

Annotated Links 5%

You will create a list of sources--online and hardcopy--that you have described that will be of interest to visitor of your website.

Introductory Essay 20%

The group introductory essay is the main component of your group website and serves to introduce and cover the main aspects of your topic.

Critical Essay 15%

Each group member will write an essay that closely examines some aspect of the larger group topic.

Presentation 10%

At the end of the semester, each group will give a presentation in which they explain the rationale for their topic choice and site design.

Homework 10%

You will be expected to turn in reading responses to the assigned homework. You will receive full credit for your homework as long as it demonstrates that you read and have thought about the assigned material. If it is clear that you just jotted down anything right before class, then you will receive no credit for your homework. To prevent you from doing your homework in class, all homework must be typed. I will not accept lat homework for any reason.

