

# English 3303: Argumentative and Persuasive Writing

(a.k.a. The Class Formerly Known as Advanced Expository Writing)

Spring 2016

## Course Objectives

**Welcome to English 3303.** This course is an advanced writing workshop that focuses on the analysis and production of texts written for specific rhetorical situations and discourse communities. There will be an emphasis on genre, persuasion, and rhetoric, and we will practice writing in various types of expository, narrative, persuasive, and academic writing. We will be approaching “argument” in the understanding that all writing is, to an extent, argument. Writing seeks to persuade readers that particular information—about an issue, society, or the self—is true. In this course, we will focus on genres that go beyond the traditional academic genres of summary/response, evaluation, and problem/solution to examine what it means to “write true”—how do we present ourselves as writers and the communities and issues around us in ways that are ethical, accurate, and sensitive? We will explore various types of genres and how changing the format of writing changes the way the information is communicated and received. Additionally, we will discuss what value our personal stories and the stories of places and communities have in the larger world, as well as how these types of writing can be instruments of argument and persuasion. How can “writing true” in these particular genres change minds and present ideas in this societal moment, perhaps in ways that other forms of writing cannot?

## Course Materials

### Texts:

*Writing True: The Art and Craft of Creative Nonfiction*, Sondra Perl & Mimi Schwartz (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

Course readings posted on Canvas

### Course Materials:

A notebook, binder, and/or folder for notes and handouts

Lined paper for in-class writing (loose leaf or perforated)

A two-pocket folder for turning in major assignments

*A binder for the final ethnology project*

## Major Assignments

*Your final grade will be based on the following percentages:*

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Daily Work/Participation   | 20% |
| Personal Narrative (2/5)   | 20% |
| Genre Swap Project (2/24)  | 15% |
| Ethnography Project (3/22) | 35% |
| Final Exam (5/4)           | 10% |

Due dates presented on the syllabus are tentative. An assignment calendar will be provided for each major assignment with definite deadlines. Specific guidelines for each major assignment will be distributed as well. **You must complete all major assignments and the final exam in order to pass the course.**

### Instructor

Sara Kelm

### Office

Draper 246.18  
(Carroll Science 4<sup>th</sup> flr)

### Office Hours

MWF 10-11a  
TR 9:30-11:30a  
& by appointment

### Email

[sara\\_kelm@baylor.edu](mailto:sara_kelm@baylor.edu)

### Course Information

English (ENG) 3303.01  
MWF 11:15-12:05p  
Carroll Science 213

### Final Exam

Wednesday, May 7  
9-11a

*All course policies, guidelines,  
and regulations are subject to  
change at the instructor's  
discretion.*

## Minor Assignments

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**Daily Work:** This will take the form of discussion prompts, reading responses, in-class activities and short writing assignments, and reading quizzes. Homework must be typed, unless it is completed in class. Daily work, along with participation, is 20% of your final grade. If you miss a class period, you will not be able to make up any daily work unless you have checked with me in advance.

**Discussion Prompts:** For each class that has assigned reading, you will write a half-page, single-spaced, typed discussion prompt. For each of the readings asterisked on the assignment sheet, you will (1) pose at least one thoughtful question for each of the assigned readings, (2) highlight one point of interest or provocative idea from each of the assigned texts, and (3) mark a key passage from each of the assigned texts that you would like to explore together. Please list your questions, ideas, and passages under headings that include the writer's name and text's title.

**Reading Responses:** In these one-page, single-spaced typed reading responses (300-500 words), you will highlight points of interest that you'd like to examine in greater detail and identify connections between key ideas in the texts you read and concepts we are exploring in class. The purpose of these responses is to provide you with an opportunity to initiate discussion about one or more of the assigned texts or engage in invention work for a project.

**Class Participation:** This class will lean heavily on discussion of texts, and as such, your participation is necessary for the success of the class. Repeated absences will lower your participation grade (refer to absence policy at the end of the syllabus). Simply being physically present is not enough; you must engage with the material and other class members. Civility is expected at all times. If you struggle to understand the purpose of an assignment or activity, please talk to me during office hours. If you are having trouble with a reading or writing assignment, I encourage you to seek help from me; do not let yourself fall behind.

*The grading in this course will be based on the following grade scale:*

|                   |                         |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>A</b> (100-93) | <b>A-</b> (90-92)       |                   |
| <b>B+</b> (89-87) | <b>B</b> (86-83)        | <b>B-</b> (82-80) |
| <b>C+</b> (79-77) | <b>C</b> (76-70)        | <b>C-</b> (76-70) |
| <b>D</b> (69-60)  | <b>F</b> (59 and below) |                   |

You are always welcome to talk to me about a grade received on an assignment. However, **you must wait 24 hours before coming to talk to me.**

## Classroom Policies

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- **Office Hours:** While I expect to be on campus during my office hours each week, I occasionally use that time to run errands around campus. Thus, it would be wise to send an email and let me know if you are planning to stop by during my office hours. That way, I can be sure to be available. If we have set up a meeting or conference and you do not attend, I reserve the right to award you an unexcused absence.
- **Readings:** Many readings will be uploaded to Canvas, and it is your responsibility to access and read those before class. Whenever there are assigned readings, you must bring a copy of the reading to class. The copy may be electronic, but if I have any doubt that you are looking at something other than the reading, you will lose credit for participation without warning. I recommend printing readings if at all possible.
- **Technology:** Print assignments well before class to prevent last-minute scrambling. You may bring laptops to class refer to readings, but they should be put away during lecture and classwork time. Yes, that means you must take notes by hand, unless we have discussed your individual reasons for using a computer to take notes. No other electronic devices should be seen or heard during class. If I hear or see a cell phone, I will count you absent without warning. Lastly, expect electronics to break when you need them most. Back up your work regularly on GoogleDrive, Box, or a flash drive.

- **Sustenance:** No food or drinks are allowed in class, but I will make exceptions for water and coffee/tea. I will not hesitate to change this policy if there are issues.
- **E-mail:** The majority of my communication will come through e-mail or Canvas announcements. I expect you to **check your Baylor e-mail daily**, and you can expect me to do the same. E-mails should be professional and polite, with a subject, a greeting and a closing. I reserve the right to not respond to e-mails that do not follow this professional format. I do not use the Canvas inbox; please use the Baylor e-mail to contact me.
- **Canvas:** All materials (PowerPoints, hand-outs, readings, etc.) for this course will be uploaded to Canvas. You are responsible for checking your Baylor e-mail and/or Canvas for information, updates, and class materials, particularly if you have missed a class period. Make sure you have the appropriate Canvas notification settings. All major assignments will be uploaded to Canvas and Turnitin.
- **Late Work: I do not take any late work, except for major assignments.** Late major assignments will lose one half of a letter grade for each day that they are late. The assignment is not turned in until all documents (both electronic and paper) are handed in. If the assignment is turned in after class on the day it is due, the highest it may receive is a 90%. Each day after that, it will lose half a letter grade. For example, if a paper is due Monday but is not turned in until Thursday, the highest grade the paper may earn is a C+ [78%]. In extenuating circumstances, the student should make arrangements with me as soon as those circumstances are known.
- **Writing Center:** I strongly recommend visiting the Writing Center (Carroll Science, Room G-06). This service is provided free of charge by Baylor University and is available to all students. While Writing Center tutors cannot proofread or edit your papers for you, they can help with outlining, thesis development, sentence structure, organization, clarity, MLA citation, and other writing skills.
- **Honor Code:** I take plagiarism very seriously. All students should be aware of Baylor University's Honor Code (located at <http://www.baylor.edu/honorcode>) and should take special care to avoid engaging in conduct that violates the code. Incidents of plagiarism are grounds for immediate course failure. Some examples of such behavior are:
  - Claiming all or part of another writer's work
  - Copying/pasting large segments of writing from other sources (especially without proper citation)
  - Turning in work that was done in a previous or contemporaneous class (including high school and current Baylor courses)
- **Turnitin:** All essays must be uploaded to Canvas. With the goal of deterring behavior that violates Baylor's honor code, this course will use Turnitin.com in conjunction with Canvas to check the originality of each major assignment students turn in. Instructions on how to use Turnitin.com will be given in class. Students agree that by taking this course, all required papers, exams, class projects, or other assignments submitted for credit may be submitted to turnitin.com or similar third parties to review and evaluate for originality and intellectual integrity. A description of the services, terms and conditions of use, and privacy policy of turnitin.com is available on its web site: <http://www.turnitin.com>. Students understand all work submitted to turnitin.com will be added to its database of papers. Students further understand that if the results of such a review support an allegation of academic dishonesty, the course work in question as well as any supporting materials may be submitted to the Honor Council for investigation and further action.

*A Note on Teacher Comments:*

When a paper is returned to you, it will contain multiple comments and/or corrections throughout your writing. Although it is tempting to look only at your grade, you will be expected to take my comments into account for future assignments. Never be discouraged by the number of comments on your work.

Even experienced writers have editors.

## Attendance Policy

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- The College of Arts and Sciences Department policy for attendance states that students must attend **75%** of class meetings to receive credit for the course. This is approximately **twelve** absences, and includes both excused and unexcused absences. Attendance will not be posted on Canvas; you are responsible for keeping track of your absences and tardies. You may contact me and check my records if you are uncertain about the numbers of absences and tardies you have accumulated.
- **Excused absences:** Excused absences include those necessitated by university-sponsored activities, illness, family, or personal emergencies that require you to miss class or leave school. If you have an excused absence, you must bring a note from the proper authority stating the dates and reasons for your absence.
- **Unexcused absences:** Obviously, skipping class is an unexcused absence. Other ways of accumulating unexcused absences are the following: (1) sleeping in class, (2) working on assignments not related to ENG 3300 while in class or using an electronic device without permission, or (3) failing to attend the entire class meeting by arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving class early.
- Do not be late. **Three tardies will equal one absence.** Additionally, if you are more than 10 minutes late, I will count you absent. If you leave early, I will count you absent. If we've already taken a quiz by the time you arrive, you cannot take the quiz. Your participation grade will also be affected by repeated tardies. Be present.
- **You are responsible for the material you miss because of an absence.** Check Canvas to review PowerPoints and assignments, and be prepared for the next class period's assignments.
- Again, I do not take late work. If you miss a quiz, you miss a quiz.

### *Revision*

- You have the opportunity to revise **either** or **both** of the first two major assignments. You can receive up to one letter grade higher than your original grade. Please note that by revision I mean rethinking, restructuring, and rewriting. Simply changing the sections that I've marked will not necessarily raise your grade. You must revise all aspects of the assignment (if there are multiple parts to the original assignment.)
- You must also write a cover letter to me that explains the changes you made and your rationale for doing so. Include the original graded draft with your revision. These revisions will be due near the end of the semester; I will provide you with a specific deadline.
- Late penalties cannot be made-up in the revision. If you fail to turn in an assignment, you cannot re-submit it for the post-grade revision. *I reserve the right to require revisions in cases where work is unsatisfactory.*

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### Syllabus Contract

*Please cut from syllabus, sign/date this section, and bring it to the next class meeting.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), have carefully read and understood the policies put forth in the syllabus for Sara Kelm's English 3303 class, taught Spring 2016. I understand that I will be held to these policies and that if I have any concerns about them, it is my responsibility to ask for clarification.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_