

The UTD First Year Experience

Rhet 1101

Critical Thinking and Oral Communication

Syllabus

Section: 01

Instructor: Yolande' Evans

Office Hours & Location: By Appointment/JO5.504

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Required Materials:

- UTD Student Planner & Guide
- Cohen, Harlan, (2005). *The Naked Roommate*, Sourcebooks, Inc. Naperville.
- DiTiberio, John, K. & Hammer, Allen, L. (1993). *Introduction to Type in College*, CPP, Inc. Palo Alto.
- UTD student email account

Course Objectives:

- To connect you with the UTD campus community through department presentations, campus involvement, and interactions with peers.
- To help you discover your personal learning style and ways to use that knowledge to achieve greater success and enjoyment in your classes.
- To present tips, tactics, and techniques for more effective learning, emphasizing time management strategies, and critical thinking.
- To enhance your communication skills through opportunities for both oral and written expression.

Coursework & Grading Philosophy

- Rhet 1101 is a required course for all incoming freshmen as it has been effective in raising GPA's, retention from the freshman to sophomore year, and overall student satisfaction and success.
- UTD is a selective admissions institution with one of the highest average Freshman class SAT scores in the state, therefore performance and participation in Rhet 1101 is expected to reflect the caliber of students and academic standards of the university as a whole.
- The course objectives for Rhet 1101 represent goals which are fundamental to student success both inside and outside of the college classroom.

Course Requirements and Grading

• Class Attendance	250 points
• Weekly Blogs	50 points
• Academic Autobiography	100 points
• Oral Presentation: Campus Resource	100 points
• Oral Presentation: Expert Testimony	100 points
• Oral Presentation: Persuasive Speech	100 points
• Group Project & Presentation	150 points
• Campus Events Attendance (4)	400 points
• Quizzes (4)	100 points
• Final Exam	150 points

Total **1500 points**

1500	A+	1155 – 1199	C+
1395 – 1499	A	1095 – 1154	C
1350 – 1394	A-	1050 – 1094	C-
1305 – 1349	B+	1005 – 1049	D+
1245 – 1304	B	945 – 1004	D
1200 – 1244	B-	900 - 944	D-
		Below 900	F

***Rhet 1101 is a requirement for graduation. If you drop the course or fail it, you must take Study Skills (DRDG 0v94). It will be recoded as Rhet 1101 in order to give you credit for the course and enable you to replace your low grade or W.**

Class Policies

- Cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate and are not to be answered or used for text messaging during class time.
- Unless otherwise noted, laptops are NOT necessary for taking notes in class and should not be opened at any time.
- Food and drink should be kept to a minimum and put away once class begins.
- Arriving late is disruptive to class activities and may affect your attendance and participation grade. If you have a legitimate reason for being late, please inform your instructor ahead of time or immediately after class.

Class Attendance

This is a discussion-based class that involves collaborative learning and interactive exercises in order to explore a variety of topics relative to your transition to college life and The University of Texas at Dallas. Therefore, it is critical that you come to class to take part in the activities and contribute to the class dynamics.

For an excused absence, you must adhere to the following:

- All students participating on UTD competitive teams (athletic and intellectual) must bring an official Intercollegiate Competition Memo signed by John Jackson **prior** to any sanctioned absences. Students must inform the instructor of the impending absence **at least 2 weeks prior** to the absence. If this does not occur, it is at the instructor's discretion to excuse or not excuse the absence.
- Any anticipated absence arranged through Disability Services must be shared with the instructor **at least 2 weeks prior** to the absence. If this does not occur, it is at the instructor's discretion to excuse or not excuse the absence.
- Students observing a holy day must inform the instructor **before** the class day to be missed

Weekly Blogs

Each week your instructor will post a question or scenario for you to respond to with your thoughts, ideas, and concerns.

Academic Autobiography

You will write a 4 – 5 page paper about your life as a student thus far and considering where you want to go with your major and career.

Oral Presentation: Campus Resource

You are to make a 5 minute presentation to the class related to the campus resource that you visited.

Oral Presentation: Expert Testimony

You will prepare a 2 – 2½ minute talk about something familiar to you and that you would like to share with the class.

Oral Presentation: Persuasive Speech

You will give a persuasive speech that is to address a social issue. Your topic should take one side of an issue and you should support your position by presenting evidence.

Group Project & Presentation

You will work with a group of your classmates to explore issues related to making a successful transition to college life through *The Naked Roommate* and other sources. Your findings will form the basis of an 8 minute oral presentation to the class.

UTD Campus Exploration-Campus Events

You will attend a variety of 4 on-campus events. You will write a one-page reaction paper.

Quizzes

Following each departmental presentation, you will be given a brief quiz over the material.

Final Exam

You will be given an opportunity to demonstrate what you have gained over the course of the semester.

Written Assignment Format

All assignments are due **on the specified due date – NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!!** Also all work must exhibit the following format:

- A coherent essay that addresses all required elements of the assignment.
- Typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins.
- Students should include their name, section number, and date on all work.
- Papers should be free of typos, spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors.
- Vocabulary should reflect that of a college student, and writing style should be mature and cognizant of the instructor as audience.
- If submitted via email, papers must be sent as an attachment, from your UTD email account, following the above format **and submitted on or before the specified due date.**

Failure to adhere to any of the above will result in:

- A 10 % deduction for incorrect format.
- A 5 % deduction for multiple typos, spelling and grammatical errors.
- A 5 % deduction for poor language use and/or a disrespectful voice in the paper.
- **No points** for work turned in after the specified due date.

The University of Texas at Dallas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing **authorized documentation** through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.utdallas.edu/student/sliffe/hcsvc.html. Please visit the office of Disability Services in Student Union (1.610) or call at 972.883.2098 to obtain proper paperwork for this class.

Course Schedule (TR)

January (7)

- 9 First Day of Class, UTDAT
- 11 PLSI
- 16 Scavenger Hunt
- 18 **Oral Presentation: Academic Autobiography**
- 23 Public Speaking Importance/Good Oral Presentations/Develop Grading Rubric
- 25 A look at values: The Baroness and the Drawbridge
- 30 Class meets in the Galaxy Room – Study Abroad Fair

February (8)

- 1 DUE: Campus Events, **Counseling Center Presentation**
- 6 **Quiz: Counseling Center**, Syllabi Code Activity
- 8 **Oral Presentation: Campus Resources**
- 13 Making an Impression, Know Your Instructor Quiz
- 15 **Group Presentation #1** and follow-up discussion
- 20 UTD Website & SIS Exploration **Bring a laptop if you have one**
- 22 Handling Awkward Situations
- 27 DUE: Campus Events, **Judicial Affairs Presentation**

March (7)

- 1 **Quiz: Judicial Affairs**, **Group Presentation #2** and follow-up discussion
- 13 **Oral Presentation: Expert Testimony**
- 15 Time Management & Prioritizing
- 20 DUE: Campus Events, **Library Presentation**
- 22 **Quiz: Library**, **Group Presentation #3** and follow-up discussion
- 27 Critical Thinking and Group Dynamics: Farmer's Dilemma
- 29 **Group Presentation #4** and follow-up discussion

April (7)

- 3 **Oral Presentation: Persuasive Speech**
- 5 Critical Thinking and Decision Making – Mars
- 10 DUE: Campus Events, **Consumer Credit Counseling Presentation**
- 12 **Quiz: Consumer Credit Counseling**
- 17 Group Ad – Rhet 1101
- 19 Blog Re-Cap
- 24 **Final Exam**