The University of Texas at Austin
OnRamps

TEXAS Liberal Arts
The University of Texas at Austin
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Rhetoric and Writing

Introduction to Rhetoric: Reading, Writing, and Research
OnRamps RHE 306
Courtesy Copy: Calendar C, Fall 2019

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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

RHE 306 is a writing seminar course in argumentation that situates rhetoric as an art of civic discourse. It is designed to enhance your ability to research and analyze the various positions held in any public debate and to advocate your own position effectively to a target audience. You will also explore the ethics of argumentation, explaining what it means to "fairly" represent someone with whom you disagree, or how responsibly to address a community with particular values and interests. Your work in this course will help you advance the critical writing and reading skills you will need to succeed in college and in your professional careers. Scholars in this course can expect to read and write daily. This course meets the core curriculum requirement for Texas Core Curriculum (TCC) code 010 or Texas Common Course Number (TCCN) ENGL 1301.

A. **Course Pre-requisites:** Completion of a high school English II course meeting Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards or an equivalent.

B. **Course Learning Outcomes**

The readings, discussions, and writing assignments in this course are designed to teach students how to:

- Identify, evaluate, construct, and organize effective arguments
- Read critically
- Research using a variety of tools and applications

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* Are you wondering what titles like "Faculty Lead" or "Instructor of Record" mean? To learn about what different staff members do, please see the Appendix at the end of this syllabus titled "University Course Staff Roles."
f Voicemail Etiquette Tip—this is a professional office number, not a cell phone—you cannot text it. When leaving a voicemail include your name, the matter you are calling about, and a return phone number.

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- Evaluate the quality of sources

- Integrate source material into your own writing

- Advocate a specific position responsibly

- Conduct library and web-based research and document sources

- Produce a clean, efficient style and adapt it to various rhetorical situations

- Edit and proofread your own and others' prose

C. Course Format and Procedures

This course features daily reading, writing and research both in and out of class to build your skills through regular practice. You can expect to engage in an essay cycle that includes invention, research, drafting, peer review, revision, interpreting feedback, making a revision plan, and more revision. Other features of the course include class discussions which can take place orally or on discussion boards. Take each part of the essay cycle seriously and you will not only do well in the course, but will develop and take with you a powerful process for understanding and producing persuasion whenever you find yourself in the position of stakeholder on an important issue.

D. Course Schedule

Student Deadline	Assignment Name	Estimated Grade Return (by 11:59 pm Central)
Monday, September 30, 2019, 9:00 pm CT	Student Orientation	Monday, October 7, 2019
Friday, September 13, 2019, 9:00 pm CT	FORMAL RESEARCH SUMMARY: A Revision of RS2* or RS3* (FRS)	TBA
Friday, October 4, 2019, 9:00 pm CT	MAPPING A CONTROVERSY ESSAY with Peer Review (MC 1.1)	Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 9:00 pm CT	MAPPING A CONTROVERSY REVISION with Revision Worksheet (MC 1.2)	TBA
Friday, November 15, 2019, 9:00 pm CT	PERSUASIVE ESSAY with Peer Review (PE 2.1)	Monday, December 2, 2019
Friday, December 13, 2019, 5:00 pm CT	PERSUASIVE ESSAY REVISION with Revision Worksheet (PE 2.2)	Tuesday, January 7, 2020

*RS2 and RS3 refer to Research Summary 2 and Research Summary 3

2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Materials and Devices

- **Canvas Learning Management System:** OnRamps provides an online learning environment in Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) for all students in this class. You will have

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access to multiple Canvas courses for the purpose of the dual-enrollment experience: the OnRamps high school course, the OnRamps college course and an Orientation course.

You are expected to access Canvas daily for readings, assignments, discussion boards, and quizzes. **You will submit all of your college work in the Canvas OnRamps College Course.** College Assignments are **not** accepted via email. Late assignments are **NOT** accepted, and the Canvas system will lock you out at the beginning of the minute of the assignment deadline, or the access window close time, whichever is later. All Canvas deadlines are in Central Time. You are responsible for reading course information, including assignment instructions and due dates, that is posted in Canvas. You are also responsible for frequently checking your Canvas Inbox and viewing course announcements. URL: https://onramps.instructure.com

- **OnRamps Student Portal:** You will access the OnRamps Student Portal throughout the semester to view and make decisions about your current OnRamps distance college course enrollment(s), including whether you are eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit and whether you wish to accept or decline college credit, if earned, at the end of the course. URL: https://onramps.utexas.edu/portal

B. **Email:** Email is an official means of communication at UT Austin. OnRamps staff will use email to communicate course, enrollment, and credit information to you. It is your responsibility to keep your email address updated in Canvas and the OnRamps Student Portal at all times. Email returned to OnRamps with "User Unknown" is not an acceptable excuse for missed communication. You are expected to check email frequently in order to stay current with OnRamps-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. Regular email management will also minimize the risk that the inbox will be full, causing the email to be returned to sender with an error. Undeliverable messages returned because of either a full inbox or use of a spam filter will be considered delivered without further action required by OnRamps. Failure to check email is not acceptable reason for missed communication or missed deadlines.

C. **How to Succeed in this Course: College Level Behaviors**

Encourage your OnRamps classmates to join you in establishing the following college level habits.

- **Visit the OnRamps Writing Consultant.** College students seek resources outside of class. OnRamps provide an on-line writing consultant for Rhetoric students. You can drop in and even bring a study partner. See the Course Announcements in Canvas for more details about how to access this service.
- **Use the Library.** Indulge your curiosity regularly with our extensive collections. Rhetoric students have remote library privileges to access e-books, databases and more at www.lib.utexas.edu. This privilege takes effect at the end of your second full week of class. Simply search for items, click on electronic resources that interest you, and log in with your UTEID and password when prompted.
- **Time management**. Past students in this course repeatedly report that they wish they had done three things differently: started their assignments earlier, managed their time better, and had 'not procrastinated.' They have solid reasons for this advice: college courses go about three times faster than high school courses and require about three hours of self-led learning for each hour of online or teacher-led learning. Protect your academic time from

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extracurricular activities by blocking out reading and writing time in advance using your major assignment deadlines as a guide.

- **Studies show that smart phones reduce your cognitive capacity even when you aren't using them. Don't bring brain draining devices to class.** Instead, leave the phone out of sight, turn it off, or hide it in the bottom of your backpack. Read this study to understand why: journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/691462.

- **Pay attention to mandatory requirements.** A mandatory requirement is a minimum standard that you have to meet **before** your work can make it into the passing range for a grade. In other words, you don't get "points" for these things. You have to do these things before you even qualify to start getting points. To use a sports metaphor, before you can win a football game, the team has to show up with its uniforms, equipment and all players need to be in the correct field positions. Only then does the referee allow play to begin for points. For this course, you have five mandatory requirements:

    1. Complete the OnRamps Student Orientation.

    2. Include citations for **every** work cited on **every** assignment.

    3. Complete all peer reviews.

    4. Each essay has mandatory minimum requirements listed.

    5. All projects must fall under the First Year Topic research umbrella described in Unit 1, or you may be asked to start over.

- **Check your email regularly.** The Rhetoric Course Staff sends emails with important information such as notifications if your paper upload is missing, enrollment deadlines, tips for conducting research, and every once in a blue moon, an extra credit opportunity.

- **Be the boss of your computer.** Know your passwords at all times. Learn how to use word processing software. Figure out how to use help guides and tutorials to figure out the features of programs you use. Learn how to convert documents to file formats like .docx and .pdf. Learn to use professional databases. Not only will information literacy help you succeed in this course, it will help you on the job market.

D. **Assignments & Grading**

Your final college course grade will be determined based on your performance on the following take-home essay assessments and peer review assignments. All of these assessments will be uploaded through Canvas course assignments as .doc or .pdf attachments.

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Assessment	Description	% Course Grade
PERSUASIVE ESSAY REVISION with Revision Worksheet (PE 2.2)	(4-6 pp) This revision assignment entails a goal-oriented revision of the Persuasive Essay that demonstrates substantive improvements in the particular areas suggested by UT grader feedback.	30%
MAPPING A CONTROVERSY REVISION with Revision Worksheet (MC 1.2)	(4-6 pp) This revision project re-thinks and rewrites the Mapping a Controversy Essay, demonstrating substantive improvements in the particular areas based on revision feedback provided by the UT grader	25%
PERSUASIVE ESSAY with Peer Review (PE 2.1)	(4-6 pp) The persuasive argument essay targets a particular audience and venue. The essay leverages strategic research to convince the audience that they should believe, think, or do something about a particular and current controversy of the student's choice. A successful essay will demonstrate effective matching of its claims, evidence, and reasons to the ideological and decorum expectations of the target audience. The writing process includes a mandatory peer review of a draft. The essay is expected to meet MLA citation and works cited standards.	20%
MAPPING A CONTROVERSY ESSAY with Peer Review (MC 1.1)	(4-6 pp) This research paper analyzes a contemporary controversy, its background, exigency, and the various stakeholders and viewpoints that are involved in the controversy. The paper requires research into at least three stakeholder viewpoints. The essay is expected to fairly summarize and represent major viewpoints. Students bring a draft to class for a mandatory peer review. The essay is expected to meet MLA citation and works cited standards.	14%
FORMAL RESEARCH SUMMARY: A Revision of RS2 or RS3 (FRS)	(1 page, single-spaced) Research and summarize the argument made in a viewpoint article. MLA citation required.	10%
OnRamps Orientation	The OnRamps Orientation is a mandatory requirement for this course.	1%
Total		**100%**

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D.1. Grading Mandatory Minimum Requirement: Citations vs. Plagiarism

Citations for all paraphrased material and quotations are a mandatory minimum requirement to achieve a passing grade of D- or 60 on all college assignments for this course. Any college assignment found to contain uncited material or verbatim material reproduced without proper quotation attribution will receive a grade of zero (0, i.e. F), <u>regardless of the total points earned in any other rubric categories</u>. In exceptional cases, partial credit may be awarded contingent upon completion of a plagiarism tutorial and revision. In partial credit situations, the total potential assignment score will be capped at a maximum of 60 or D-. This grading policy does not release students from their responsibilities for academic integrity as outlined in the **Academic Integrity** section below. Under that policy, plagiarized work is **ALSO** considered for potential Academic Integrity Violations.

Tips for citation success:

1. Cite early. Carefully check that each quote and paraphrase has a citation before turning in your Peer Review Draft.

2. When summarizing or paraphrasing other people's ideas, ask yourself, *'Whose words are these? Does this need quotation marks? Is this too close to the original?'*

3. Clearly label all of your draft files and include your Works Cited list in your drafts so that when you are time crunched you have a back-up system.

D.2. Grade Penalty: Academic Integrity and Canvas Identity

All work submitted under a student's UT EID must belong to the student registered under the name associated with that UT EID. Any work not belonging to the named student for that UT EID will be reviewed for a possible Academic Integrity Violation. In the event that an investigation reveals that a student submitted their peer review partner's essay instead of their own, a penalty of up to 20% may be deducted from the grade for that assignment. The same penalty applies if it is found that a student gave away their login ID and password to another student to have them submit on their behalf. Be sure to save your files properly and take responsibility for your own work.

D.3. Rhetoric Grading Scale

Final grades will be calculated using the weighting above and will be assigned according to the plus/minus grade cutoffs listed below. (The University of Texas at Austin does not recognize the grade A+, therefore, any assignment grades transmitted to the high school will be numerically based). This course does **not** round, therefore, an 89.99999 is a B+.

A	*94.00 – 100*
A-	*90.00 – 93.99*
B+	*87.00 - 89.99*
B	*84.00 – 86.99*
B-	*80.00 - 83.99*
C+	*77.00 – 79.99*
C	*74.00 76.99*
C-	*70.00 – 73.99*

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D+	67.00 – 69.99	
D	64.00 – 66.99	
D-	60.00 – 63.99	*Minimum Eligibility Grade*
F	0.00 – 59.99	

D.4. Grading and Extension Requests

This course has hard deadlines and late work is not accepted. If you are in the hospital, have a religious holiday for a religion you practice, or have an emergency beyond your control that prevents you from submitting a college assessment during your scheduled time, you must request a deadline extension using the tab named "Extension Requests" in your OnRamps course. If you are incapacitated, your high school instructor is allowed to fill it out on your behalf. Likewise, if you are eligible to receive an accommodation as described in **Section 4.A**, appropriate lead time must be given to the instructor as per the policies indicated in this syllabus.

<u>Extracurricular activities, such as sports, are not acceptable reasons for a deadline extension in a College course.</u> Deadline extensions are decided on a case-by-case basis. Once a deadline extension has been granted, you must meet it. Unexcused missed work will result in a grade of 0 points, or an F. We will not be able to provide any deadline extensions once essay grades have been released, so be proactive in your requests and manage your time wisely.

D.5. Course Grade and College Credit:

You must earn a minimum average grade of D- on college assignments and assessments during the course eligibility period in order to be eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit. For this course, eligibility determination is concurrent with the final total weighted GPA of all assignments, including any academic integrity cases outstanding.

3. COLLEGE CREDIT

This is a college course delivered via distance education through a dual-enrollment program, which means you may earn credit through the UT Austin University Extension for RHE 306: Rhetoric and Writing in addition to earning high school credit.

Your high school Instructor is responsible for assigning high school grades and determining high school credit. The UT Austin Instructor of Record is responsible for assigning college grades and determining college course eligibility and credit. High school grades may differ from college grades, even on identical assignments, because of differences in high school and college expectations. Your high school grades and work will not contribute to your college grade.

A. Eligibility for the Opportunity to Earn College Credit

If you meet the minimum eligibility grade on college assignments and assessments completed during the first part of the academic term, you are determined eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit.

B. College Credit Process

The table below describes the college credit process. Throughout the year you will access the OnRamps Student Portal (https://onramps.utexas.edu/portal) to view information and indicate decisions about your college course enrollment. You can also access FAQs and important dates related to your college enrollment in the OnRamps Portal.

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Important Steps and Dates in College Credit Process

Step	Action	Dates
1	Eligibility: UT Austin Instructor of Record determines your eligibility for the opportunity to earn UT Austin credit based on grades on college assignments and assessments. Final Grade: UT Austin Instructor of Record issues final course grade. Visit the OnRamps Student Portal to view your final grade and find out if you earned college credit.	Saturday, January 11, 2020, 8:00 am CT
2	Credit Decision: You may elect to accept or decline any college credit earned. If you do not make a credit decision during the Credit Decision Period, OnRamps will determine credit as follows: • **C- or above:** You earned credit and *will* be issued a UT Austin transcript unless you decline credit in the OnRamps Portal. • **D+, D, or D-:** You earned credit and *will not* be issued a UT Austin transcript unless you accept credit in the OnRamps Portal. • **F:** You did not earn credit and will be withdrawn from the course. You will have no official academic record or transcript for the course at UT Austin.	Saturday, January 11, 2020, 8:00 am CT – Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 5:00 pm CT
3	Transcript: If you earned and accepted college credit, you may request an official UT Austin transcript through the UT Austin Office of the Registrar.	Wednesday, February 12, 2020

4. **POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

   A. **Students with Disabilities**

   If you receive high-school accommodations related to a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you may also receive certain accommodations in your OnRamps college course. Accommodations in an OnRamps course must follow accommodations in your Individual Education Plan or 504 Individual Accommodation Plan and be allowable under the university assessment practices. Accommodations are individualized and based on need and disability.

   You are strongly encouraged to provide information about your need for accommodations during registration at the beginning of the course or immediately following changes to your Individual Education Plan or 504. You must make your need for accommodations known to the UT Austin Instructor of Record prior to the due date for each assignment in order to access accommodations for that assignment. To do that simply fill out an extension request form in your Canvas left hand navigation for that Rhetoric course. There is an option included for Accommodations.

   Some examples of college-level accommodations that are allowable depending on the student's need and disability include extended test time (1.5x or 2x allotted time), test administration in a reduced-

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distraction environment, and permission to use a calculator when calculation is not the skill being assessed.

B.   Academic Integrity

OnRamps students are subject to the University's Core Values which includes academic integrity policies. The Core Values are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity and responsibility. Members of UT's community uphold these values by treating each other, and their work, with integrity, honesty, trust, fairness and respect. Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University's Honor Code:

> "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."

In practical terms, that means making sure that all of the assignments and exams you submit are your own work, unless it is assigned as group work. The UT Austin Instructor of Record or your high school Instructor will make it clear for each assignment or exam whether collaboration is allowed. Refer to **Part D: Assignments and Grading** in **Section 2** for further details about assignment types in your course.

> You are responsible for understanding UT Austin's Academic Honesty Policy which can be found here: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

You must respond to email requests from OnRamps staff for investigations of potential academic integrity violations. If you fail to respond to email requests about potential academic integrity violations from OnRamps staff, you may receive an academic disciplinary action.

Please see the sections **D.1. Grading Mandatory Minimum Requirement: Citations vs. Plagiarism** and **D.2. Grade Penalty: Academic Integrity and Canvas Identity** above regarding specific penalties related to Academic Integrity for this course. More information about academic integrity may be found in the OnRamps Orientation in Canvas.

C.   Student Code of Conduct

As a participant in the UT Austin OnRamps program, you are expected to uphold a high standard of integrity and ethical behavior. This includes using UT Austin resources in an appropriate, ethical manner for the purpose of learning. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Unauthorized use of institutional technology and services

- Providing false or misleading information about an academic record

- Engaging in violent or disruptive conduct, including hazing, stalking, or behavior that impedes, interferes with, or disrupts any University teaching, research, administrative, disciplinary, public service, learning, or other authorized activity.

Failure to abide by the student code of conduct may result in an academic sanction or removal from the course. For more information about standards of behavior, refer to The University of Texas catalog, Chapter 11, Student Discipline and Conduct: http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/

D. FERPA

All students in OnRamps are college students and subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a participant in the UT OnRamps program, it is important that you understand these rights as they apply to you.

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Under FERPA, university staff may not share information regarding a student's college coursework or academic standing (grade point average, academic transcript, academic probation, or discipline records).

- **Exceptions:**

    1. If the student signs a waiver stating that FERPA-protected information may be released to the student's parent/guardian, university staff may share the FERPA-protected information with the parent/guardian.

    2. If university staff share FERPA-protected information with high school staff, including the high school Instructor, and the student is under 18 years of age, then the high school staff may share that information with the student's parent or guardian.

    3. If university staff suspect a student presents a significant risk of harm to self or others, university staff may disclose FERPA-protected information with a student's parent/guardian, high school Instructor, principal, or other appropriate authority to ensure the safety of the student and/or other individuals.

For more information about FERPA, please visit the U.S. Department of Education: http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html

E. Student Grievance Procedures

If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities as a student in an OnRamps course, or wish to submit a complaint about your experience, you may contact OnRamps Support at support@onramps.zendesk.com or 512-232-6872.

F. University of Texas Libraries

Students in this course have online access to The University of Texas Libraries: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/.

To explore how to use the library website to find information you need, try the OnRamps Research Guide: https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/onramps.

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Appendix: University Course Staff Roles

- **UT Austin Faculty Lead:** A UT Austin faculty member who designs and oversees delivery of the OnRamps college distance course, and ensures its alignment to the course as it is delivered at the residential university campus.

- **Course Coordinator/Manager:** A UT Austin staff member and designee of the UT Austin Faculty Lead who serves as a primary subject-matter expert in the academic discipline of the OnRamps course and provides yearlong support to high school Instructors to ensure the course is delivered with fidelity. As a designee of the UT Austin Faculty Lead, the Course Coordinators/Managers assist with academic integrity investigations, send official University communication to students, and ensure students have access to all course resources and policies. An OnRamps Implementation Coach is a full-time UT Austin staff member and designee who may meet any of these described functions.

- **UT Austin Instructor of Record:** A UT Austin–appointed staff member who grades or oversees grading of college course work and determines student eligibility and credit award. The UT Austin Instructor of Record also investigates and resolves suspected incidents of academic integrity violations in the distance college course. The UT Austin Faculty Lead, Course Coordinator/Manager, or other UT Austin–appointed staff member may also serve as the UT Austin Instructor of Record.

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