

Texas A&M - Central Texas
ENGL 330-110
Advanced Composition
Fall 2018
(80691)
ONLINE

Instructor

Dr. Geoffrey Stacks
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*I only teach online courses and don't live locally, so the only way to get a hold of me is to email me or to send me a message through Canvas.

Course Description

ENGK 330 is an advanced composition course designed to enhance proficiency in critical reading and thinking and in expository writing on issues relevant to the Humanities and Fine Arts. The course will use analysis of a variety of texts and critical approaches to provide both practice and models for essay writing strategies, structure, and research methods.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to

- Demonstrate close reading skills and analysis of a variety of texts
- Evaluate research as it makes and supports academic arguments
- Introduce coherent arguments in writing through strong thesis statements
- Develop clear and consistent academic paragraph structure and essay organization
- Present a thorough review of the scholarship and literature about an academic subject
- Prepare and produce a documented academic essay (conference paper) on a defined topic using primary and secondary sources
- Create an abstract and present their final essay to the class

Required Texts

There is no required text to buy, but I will provide readings on Canvas throughout the semester.

Grade

- Exercises (20% of final grade)
You will be asked to write several exercises throughout the semester. The term "exercise" covers a variety of assignments, from short responses to posts in the Discussion Board to more formal short writing assignments.
- Annotated Bibliography (15% of final grade)
In preparation for your final research project, you will be asked to write an annotated bibliography that summarizes and critiques sources you have found.
- Essay 1 (15% of final grade)
Essay 1 (a Diagnostic Paper; 500-750 words) will ask students to make a very focused

argument employing academic paragraph structure and using textual evidence to support its claims and analysis.

- Essay 2 (20% of final grade)
Essay 2 (1000-1500 words) will ask students to put forth and sustain a thesis-based claim about a specific topic by employing academic paragraph structure and using textual evidence to support its claims and analysis.
- Essay 3 (30% of final grade)
The Documented Conference Paper (2500 words) will ask students to develop a thesis-based argument about a topic within each student's particular discipline. This formal conference-length paper will demonstrate clear academic essay and paragraph structure, use textual evidence to support its claims and analysis of the topic, and incorporate multiple secondary scholarly sources.

Technology Requirements

For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. All of course will take place through Canvas. We will communicate through Canvas and sometimes through email. Note: Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement. Please make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.

Late work

All assignments must be completed and turned in/uploaded/submitted before the day and time on which they are due. I will deduct 10% for each day (24 hours) the assignment is late. For example, if an assignment is due at 11:00 p.m. on a Tuesday, then at 11:01 p.m., it's a day late. At 10:59 p.m. on Wednesday night (the next day), it's still just one day late. Then at 11:01 on Wednesday night, it becomes two days late and so on.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University - Central Texas expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty. Depending on the severity of a student's act of academic dishonesty, a student found to have committed any of the above infractions will receive nothing less than a zero on the assignment on which the infraction occurred and nothing more than expulsion from the university. A minor infraction includes but is not limited to improper citations or allusions to a source never cited. A major infraction includes but is not limited to the undocumented lifting of a phrase from a source that finds its inspiration some place other than the student.

Disability Support Services

If you have or believe you have a disability, may wish to self-identify. You can do so by providing documentation to the Academic Support Programs Coordinator. Students are encouraged to

seek information about accommodations to help assure success in this class. Additional information can be found at www.TAMUCT.org/StudentAffairs