

wrtg 1374: first-year seminar

😂 emojis, memes, & digital media 😂

22307 // TR 10:50am–12:05pm // Thompson 101

what is this course?

from the Undergraduate Bulletin:

The FYS in Diversity in Creative Works provides a small classroom environment for students designed to promote community, develop skills necessary for success, and reinforce the importance of written communication. Topics will vary depending on instructor.

Dr. Allison H. Hitt

office... Thompson 323
hours... MW 12–2pm
 TR 9:30–10:30am
 & by appt.
phone... 501-450-5607



ahitt@uca.edu

from me:

WRTG 1374 is an introduction to rhetorical analysis of popular visual and digital media. Often, we think of images like emojis and memes and infographics as silly or simply for humor. But these visual texts carry significant meaning and often convey critical messages on a diverse range of social, cultural, and political issues. In this class, you will engage you in critical thinking, reading, and analysis; reflect on the everyday visual media that we often uncritically consume; and create a diverse range of visual and textual documents for real-world audiences.

what will I learn? (what are the course goals?)

By the end of WRTG 1374, students should be able to do the following:

- rhetorically analyze visual documents
- think and reflect critically on how we shape and are shaped by visual media
- gain awareness of the social, cultural, and political messages that are communicated through visual media
- identify genres based on their rhetorical design conventions
- compose with attention to both content and design

what do I need?

We don't have a textbook. Instead, I will make readings available through Google Classroom (classroom.google.com), which you will access regularly this semester.

I expect you to be able to access readings in class, so you either need to print readings or bring a laptop/tablet to class in order to reference them.



Download the classroom app!

Access assignments and announcements through the Stream. The syllabus, course calendar, and class notes can be accessed from the About page.

what will we be doing this semester?

1. social media profile (5%)

We will discuss how our identities shape and are shaped by social media, and you will create a (mock-up) social media profile. 1-page reflection. **(due 9-13)**

2. emoji bundle (15%)

In 2015, 🙄 was named the Oxford Dictionary Word of the Year. You will create an emoji bundle using a blend of pre-existing emoji and some that you create to represent yourself or an issue that matters to you. 2-page reflection. **(due 10-6)**

3. meme critique (15%)

You will select a current political issue that matters to you—maybe it's a national issue, an Arkansan issue, a particular platform or candidate—and create a series of five memes that comment on that issue. 2-page reflection. **(due 11-3)**

4. infographic for first-year students (30%)

Finally, you will create an infographic that offers advice for incoming first-year college students. The content, visual design, and tone of the infographic are up to you but **must** be appropriate for the audience. **(due 12-8)**

5. reading responses (25%)

You will write five 2-page reading responses throughout the semester.

6. collaborative note-taking (10%)

Twice throughout the semester, you will sign up to take notes for the day and post them to the collaborative note-taking document on Google Classroom.

how will we be graded?

A: 90-100%	B: 80-89%	C: 70-79%	D: 60-69%	F: 59% & below
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what are Dr. Allison's expectations?

accessibility. I am committed to creating a learning environment that is inclusive to different learning and composing styles. Accessibility is a collaborative effort, and if we can work together to make the classroom more accessible, please let me know.

feedback. I will provide written feedback on your reading responses and projects. If you have questions about my feedback, email me or stop by my office hours.

late Work. Assignments are due by the time specified on Google Classroom. If you're struggling to complete an assignment, let me know as soon as possible.

NOTE: If you require an extension, I'm happy to work with you as long as you notify me before the project is due.

respect. You are expected to behave professionally in your contributions to discussions, feedback given to your peers, interactions with the instructor, and the work you do on class assignments. We will be discussing issues that may be new, weird, or controversial. I ask that you suspend judgment, ask questions about your assumptions, and be reflective of your ideas. **Remember, you do not have to agree with someone to treat them, their ideas, and their work respectfully.**

technology. Technology is an integral part of writing and researching, and you are welcome to bring a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to class for taking notes and completing in-class writing exercises.

You will be expected to check your email regularly and to respond promptly and respectfully (just as you will expect me to do). All email messages to me should include "1374" in the subject line.

File Format

Google Docs



File Naming

LastName_Assignment

example:

Hitt_Response1

what are UCA's expectations & policies?

academic integrity. The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the *Student Handbook*. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy. (<http://uca.edu/integrity/>)

writing department. Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional borrowing or stealing of another's words, thoughts, or ideas and passing them off as your own. If a student in a Writing Department course turns in a paper that includes an extended passage that has been a.) written for him or her by someone else for pay or as a favor, or b.) copied from a print or electronic source written by another author, even if some of the words have been changed, that student will immediately be dropped from the course, receiving a WF grade.

accommodations. The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, please contact the UCA Office of Disability Support Services, 450-3613. (<http://uca.edu/disability/eligibility-for-services/>)

attendance. If a student in the Writing Department misses two weeks' worth of classes—e.g., six classes of a MWF course—and/or a student in a MWF or TTH class misses a week's worth of classes consecutively without contacting the instructor, the instructor will drop the student from the course.

building emergency plan. An Emergency Procedures Summary (EPS) for Thompson Hall will be discussed during the first week of this course. EPS documents for most buildings on campus are available at <http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/>.

In the event of an evacuation order, classes that meet in Thompson 101 will exit through the west door and reconvene at the Harding Centennial Plaza fountain to await further instructions from campus police. In the event of a shelter in place order, we will lock doors and stay away from windows. In the event of a tornado, we will shelter in first floor stairwells, restrooms, or kitchen.

disruptive behavior. Any student whose behavior regularly interferes with the instructor's ability to conduct class and foster student learning (or who severely impedes the conduct of class) may be dropped from the class. Students dropped for disruptive behavior will receive a grade of WF, and a record of this disciplinary action will remain on the student's university file.

first-year seminar. This section is also designated as a First-Year Seminar (FYS) course. The purpose of the FYS is to provide a small-class learning environment to facilitate engagement in academic study at the collegiate level, make a connection to the university, and reinforce the importance of written communication skills.

lower-division core. This course is part of the Diversity component of the Lower-Division Core. Diversity courses promote the ability to analyze familiar cultural assumptions in the context of the world's diverse values, traditions, and belief systems as well as to analyze the major ideas, techniques and processes that inform creative works within different cultural and historical contexts. For more information, go to <http://uca.edu/core>.

student evaluations. Student evaluations of a course and its professor are a crucial element in helping faculty achieve excellence in the classroom and the institution in demonstrating that students are gaining knowledge. Students may evaluate courses they are taking starting on the Monday of the thirteenth week of instruction through the end of finals week by logging in to myUCA and clicking on "Course Evaluations."

title ix disclosure. If a student discloses an act of sexual harassment, discrimination, assault, or other sexual misconduct to a faculty member (as it relates to "student-on-student" or "employee-on-student"), the faculty member cannot maintain complete confidentiality and is required to report the act and may be required to reveal the names of the parties involved. Any allegations made by a student may or may not trigger an investigation. Each situation differs, and the obligation to conduct an investigation will depend on the specific set of circumstances. The determination to conduct an investigation will be made by the Title IX Coordinator. For further information, please visit: <https://uca.edu/titleix>.