WRTG 1310: Introduction to College Writing

T/Th 9:25–10:40am | Thompson 201 | CRN 24708

What is this course?

From the Undergraduate Bulletin: Part of the lower-division UCA Core (general education) program and required of all students during the first semester they are eligible to enroll. This course introduces students to the writing process, focusing on audience, invention, and arrangement, and will be conducted as a workshop. Prerequisite: ACT score of 19 or higher or completion of UNIV 1300 with a grade of C or higher.

In WRTG 1310, we will think, read, and write critically about issues that are important for you and members of your community. You will be introduced to college writing by reading and considering multiple perspectives, evaluating sources, and writing in different genres for different audiences.

Objectives

1. **Rhetorical Knowledge:** an understanding of writing as a purposeful activity that responds to the needs of academic audiences, takes different formats and structures, and adopts different tones and levels of formality depending on the rhetorical situation.

2. **Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing:** an ability to engage thoughtfully in an ongoing conversation with the ideas of others, including the interpretation of personal experiences and secondary sources

3. **Processes:** development of flexible strategies for generating, revising, editing and proofreading your work and the work of others

4. **Conventions:** demonstration of appropriate writing conventions, e.g., structuring and developing ideas, adopting an appropriate tone, integrating source material, and producing clear and error-free writing

To read the full list of WRTG 1310 course objectives, visit the School of Communication website: [http://uca.edu/communication/first-year-writing-2/course-descriptions-and-goals/](http://uca.edu/communication/first-year-writing-2/course-descriptions-and-goals/)
**Texts & Materials**

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.

**Assignments**

1. **Narrative Essay (10%)**: First, you will write an essay that maps your understandings of academic writing and rhetoric and your experiences with writing (whether creative, public, personal, or academic). 3-4 pages. *(due 1-30)*

2. **News Analysis (20%)**: Choose a current issue (i.e., something in global, national, or local news) and analyze how it is represented across three different news organizations: one from a liberal organization, one from a conservative organization, and one from a bipartisan/neutral organization. 4 pages. *(due 2-27)*

3. **Local Issue Argument (30%)**: You will research an issue in your local community and conduct at least one interview with someone who has a connection to or expertise in the issue. Along with the interview transcript, you will write an essay that makes a claim, contextualizes the issue, and incorporates your primary research and secondary research from local news sites. 6 pages. *(due 4-5)*

4. **Multimodal Reflection (20%)**: There are two components to the final project. First, you will reflect on academic writing and what you learned in WRTG 1310 by creating a multimodal text, e.g., a flyer or poster, infographic, brief video, comic, etc. Then, you will write a reflection that describes your media and content choices. 2 pages. *(due 5-1)*

5. **Rough Drafts & Homework (20%)**: Writing is a process that benefits from feedback. You will submit rough drafts for each of the four major assignments (10%) and complete homework that is scaffolded to help with the major assignments (10%).

**EXTRA CREDIT**: Take detailed class notes (5 pts/day) for up to 25 points. Attend academic success workshops (5 pts/session) for up to 25 points.

**How will we be graded?**

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wrtg 1310, spring 2018 syllabus
What are Dr. Allison’s policies?

Accessibility. I am committed to creating a classroom environment that is respectful of and inclusive to different learning and writing processes. If we can work together to make the class more accessible, please let me know.

Feedback. You will receive many different kinds of feedback during this course. Some will come from your peers, some will come from me, and both are important. Feedback from multiple perspectives allows you to see how others understand your ideas. I expect you to be constructive and generous with your feedback.

Late Work. Assignments are due by the time specified on Google Classroom. You can request an extension for one major project by emailing me: ahitt@uca.edu

Respect. We will be working with content and issues that may be unfamiliar, so I ask that you suspend judgment and be reflective of your ideas and assumptions. You do not have to agree with someone to treat them and their work respectfully.

Technology. You are welcome to bring a laptop or tablet to class for notes and peer review, but I expect you to be responsible with your technology use. If you stare at your phone or laptop for the entire class period, you will be asked to leave.

What are UCA’s 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/)

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 a WRTG course misses two weeks’ worth of classes—e.g., four classes in a TR course—and/or a student 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/](http://uca.edu/mysafety/bep/).

In the event of an evacuation order, classes that meet in Thompson 201 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 W, and a record of this disciplinary action will remain on the student’s university file.

**Lower-Division Core.** This course is part of the Communication component of the Lower-Division Core. Communication courses promote the ability to develop and present ideas logically and effectively in order to enhance communication and collaboration with diverse individuals and groups. ([http://uca.edu/core](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 is made by the Title IX Coordinator. ([https://uca.edu/titleix](https://uca.edu/titleix))

**Withdrawal.** March 30 is the final date to officially withdraw from Jan. 11–May 4 classes or the university with a W grade unless already dropped for non-attendance. After this date, only grades of A, B, C, D, F will be received.