

# English 601: Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition

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Section 001 (88132) W in Colson G06 4:00 to 6:50  
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00 to 4:00  
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English 601 is an introduction to theories of written composition and the scholarly field, rhetoric and composition, which informs writing and rhetoric instruction in post-secondary departments of English. We will investigate the term theory—its multiple meanings and implications—and go on to consider a range of theories and theoretical elements that will challenge and complicate our understanding of written communication. Because there is more to cover than we could dream of accomplishing in 16 weeks, our whole-class project will be to locate concepts, theories, and theorists on a visual map of the scholarly field.

## Required Texts

Herrick, James. *The History and Theory of Rhetoric: An Introduction*, 5th ed. Pearson, 2013.  
Miller, Susan, ed. *The Norton Book of Composition Studies*. Norton, 2009.

## Requirements

You will write 25-30 polished pages over the course of the semester, plus drafts and additional research. Please see eCampus for a bit more detail.

- Reading notes (about 300 words due weekly)
- Exploratory essay (600-900 words)
- Conference paper proposal (600-900 words)
- Annotated bibliography (900 words)
- Conference-length paper (2,400 words)

In addition, each student must read his or her reading notes out loud in class twice during the term.

## Evaluation

I will evaluate your writing on a weekly basis using a scale of 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). I will look for evidence of cogent summary of the readings followed by some synthesis and integration of our key concepts for theory building.

## Policies

*Attendance:* Absolutely necessary and expected.

*Late work:* Not accepted and unprofessional.

*Social Justice:* WVU is committed to social justice. I share that commitment and expect to foster a learning environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. I will always welcome suggestions on how to promote a positive and open environment.

## Class Time

I think our class meetings would become quite dull if we literally just talked to each other about the readings for three hours. Therefore, what I'd like to do is use some of our early class time each week to practice some light rhetorical analysis. Then we'll discuss rhetorical history, take a break, and discuss the composition studies readings. Near the conclusion of the meetings we will take a look at our field maps (more on that later) placing key concepts, authors, and movements. Also, at the midterm point, I'm excited to screen *Resolved*, a film about high school debate that is bursting with rhetorical relevance.

## Deadlines

**Wednesday, Aug 28, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Sep 4, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Sep 11, online**  
Exploratory essay due

**Wednesday, Sep 18, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Sep 25, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Oct 2, online**  
Conference paper proposal

**Wednesday, Oct 9, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Oct 16, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Oct 23, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Oct 30, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Nov 6, online**  
Annotated Bibliography Due

**Wednesday, Nov 13, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Nov 20, online**  
Reading notes due

**Wednesday, Dec 4, online**  
Conference Paper Due

## English 601: Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition

	<b>Rhetorical</b> (History and Theory of Rhetoric)	<b>Composition</b> (Norton Book of Composition Studies)
Week 1 – Aug 21	Introduction	
Week 2 – Aug 28	<b>Overview of Rhetoric</b> Chapter 1	<b>Composition Studies</b> Fulkerson; Hesse; Hairston
Week 3 – Sep 4 (Labor Day)	<b>Aristotle</b> Chapter 4	<b>General Histories</b> Riley Parker; Crowley; Blake Yancey
Week 4 – Sep 11*	<b>Plato and the Sophists</b> Chapter 2 and 3	<b>Composing Processes and Preparation</b> Emig; Sommers
Week 5 – Sep 18	<b>Contemporary Rhetoric: Texts, Power, and Alternatives</b> Chapter 11	<b>Research Developments and Methods</b> Braddock; MacNealy; Warshauer Freedman
Week 6 – Sep 25	<b>Contemporary Rhetoric: Context, Story, and Display</b> Chapter 10	<b>Interactions Among Gender Race, and Other Marked Identities</b> Jones Royster; Reynolds; Jarratt
Week 7 – Oct 2* (Mid-Semester)	Screening of <i>Resolved</i>	<b>Specialized Pedagogies</b> Bruffee; George; Selfe, Hawisher with Lashore & Song
Week 8 – Oct 9	<b>Contemporary Rhetoric: Arguments, Audiences, Advocates</b> Chapter 9	<b>Theories</b> Foster, Bizzell, Ede & Lunsford
Week 9 – Oct 16 (Fall Break)	<b>Roman Rhetoric</b> Chapter 5	<b>Classroom Practices</b> Welch; Moore Howard; Corbett
Week 10 – Oct 23	<b>Rhetoric in Christian Europe</b> Chapter 6	<b>Genres</b> Russell; Kinneavy; Bloom
Week 11 – Oct 30	<b>Renaissance Rhetoric</b> Chapter 7	<b>Textual Analysis</b> Williams; Connors; Gee
Week 12 – Nov 6*	<b>Enlightenment Rhetoric</b> Chapter 8	<b>Anglo-European Histories</b> Bryan Horner; Miller; Brereton
Week 13 – Nov 13	Choose 1 text related directly to your research project	<b>Composition Studies</b> Stewart; Kitzhaber; Parker
Week 14 – Nov 20	Choose 1 text related directly to your research project	<b>Composition Studies</b> Tremmel; Faber & Johnson-Eilola; Selfe
Week 15 – Nov 27 (Thanksgiving)	No Course Meetings	
Week 16 – Dec 4*	Conclusion	

\* Denotes project-related writing due.

*Notes on the schedule:* Rather than moving chronologically through the history or rhetoric I've placed many issues in contemporary rhetoric in the first half of the term because they will be particularly useful as you think about your research projects. The Composition readings are arranged according to the Alternative Contents listed on page xxv of the *Norton Book of Composition Studies*.