Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:
WR 436

Name of Course:
Themes in Writing and Rhetoric: [Varying Themes]

Catalog Description:
Advanced, integrated studies focused on rotating themes and the application of theories of rhetoric, literacy, writing, and/or culture. Course may be repeated for credit.

Credit Hours:
3

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:
Link to the EOU Bookstore: Eastern Oregon University Bookstore (opens in new tab)

Prerequisites:
WR 222 and junior standing or consent of instructor.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Define terms and concepts associated with the content of this course.
2. Apply key terms and concepts from course readings.
3. Conduct research on an issue related to the course content.
4. Compose projects that identify a specific audience and purposefully respond to a specific rhetorical situation.
5. Analyze practices and/or texts from the standpoint of theories identified in class texts.
6. Evaluate text, media, or events through the lens of rhetoric, writing, or literacy studies using approaches specific to the course content.

Course Requirements:
Assignments and means of assessing course learning outcomes will vary according to course theme. The course discussion board will provide a space to engage in conversation about course readings and films with instructor and classmates, and to complete "lower stakes" assignments designed to further students' understanding of key terms and ideas. Directions for discussion board assignments will vary and will be posted weekly. In general, students who complete these assignments thoughtfully, according to directions, and on time will receive full credit. Students who post late, superficially, and/or off topic will lose some or all points for that week's assignment. Students whose posts do not demonstrate that they have read and made an effort to understand the week's reading will also lose points. Students will write two essays during the term: a 3-5-page narrative and an 8-10-page rhetorical analysis. More specific directions will be posted on Canvas. All formal written assignments will be evaluated for focus, development,

organization, conventions, and fit to rhetorical situation, as well as demonstration that students understand and can effectively apply underlying course concepts.

Grading Policies:
Weekly Assignments (discussion board assignments and peer reviews) [General course outcomes 1, 2, 5, & 6] 30%
Essay 1: Narrative (3-5 pages) [General course outcomes 4, 5, & 6] 20%
Essay 2: Rhetorical Analysis (8-10 pages) [General course outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6) 40%
Original Messaging Assignment [General course outcomes 2, 3, 4, & 5) 10%

Means of Assessment:
Most weeks, assignments will be due no later than midnight on Wednesday and no later than midnight on Saturday. The two due dates per week are meant to facilitate discussion and peer review (giving time both to post and respond to others). They are also set up with students who work full-time during the week in mind. If you are planning to do all of your work for the course on the weekends (possible, though not advised), you'll have Saturday to do the work due by midnight that night, and then Sunday to devote to anything due by the following Wednesday. You are of course welcome to post any day or time before the due date, and more than welcome to contribute more frequently to course discussions than the minimum required.

Brief Outline of Course:

General Education Category and Outcomes:
NA

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:
NA

Writing Center Statement:
The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University (opens in new tab).

Classroom Decorum:
NA

Academic Misconduct Policy:
Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be

subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:
Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:
This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

Syllabus Prepared By:

Date:
Edited 04/23/2026