WCS 150: Rhetoric & Composition (ONLINE) Syllabus
Fall 2020

Class Details
Section: 26L
Instructor: Simon Richard Land
Weekly Class Schedule: M/W/F 3:00 – 3.50

Instructor Details
E-mail: simon.land@nu.edu.kz
Office Hours: T/TH 2:00 – 4:00

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is a 3 credit (6 ECTS) course, which is equivalent to an expected workload of 150-180 hours, including class time. This means you should plan for an average of 8-10 hours/week of work outside the classroom over this 15-week term.

This is a required course for first-year students and a prerequisite for all writing and communication courses that meet the writing and communication requirement. A final grade of C- or above is necessary to meet the prerequisite.

Course Description

This course familiarizes students with the skills and process involved in writing an argumentative essay supported by original research. It emphasizes a rhetorical approach to communication, and focuses on the development and structuring of arguments, research practices, oral communication and presentation skills, and critical thinking skills through writing, reading, and discussion.

Course Requirements

Because this course will be delivered online, all students must have access to the minimum information and communications technology (ICT) required to actively take part in the class and successfully complete all course requirements. This includes:
- A laptop computer or other device such as a tablet or cell phone with video and audio capabilities
- Regular and sufficient access to the internet (with adequate bandwidth)
- Google docs or Microsoft Office to write essays, etc.

In addition to the tangible materials for the course, students must be self-motivated, timely, disciplined, and self-driven to fulfill the tasks on time. Considering the nature of online learning, students must take the initiative to maintain contact with the course professor and peer-groups on a regular basis. **NOTE:** These requirements are essential. If students do not have access to these materials or personal resources, they should reconsider registering the course at this time. At the start of the program you will have to complete an online questionnaire indicating your preparedness for online learning.

Course Theme
All the SHSS 150 courses have a theme. In this section we will explore different examples of popular culture through the theoretical lens of Critical Geopolitics. This means examining how popular

culture - movies, music, video games, anime - is shaped by, and shapes, 'common sense' ideas of geographical 'space' and 'identity'. You will get to choose an example of popular culture you find fascinating and develop a convincing and well supported argument of how it does (or doesn't) reflect societal norms and values.

Course Materials
- Core text: Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing.* Gerald Graff, 3rd ed., W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2014. This text is available through the library in print and on the course Moodle page.
- Dittmer, Jason. *Popular Culture, Geopolitics*
- Other readings and resources available on Moodle

Learning Outcomes
At the successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
1. Paraphrase accurately to avoid plagiarism
2. Write an accurate summary of a passage, article or book chapter capturing the author's tone and main points
3. Demonstrate critical and thoughtful engagement with academic texts through class discussions, writing summaries and responses, and through oral presentations
4. Employ a variety of pre-writing tasks during the writing process, including:
    a. Producing an annotated bibliography using correct citation style
    b. Create a thesis statement and an outline providing the main points and supporting evidence sufficient for the length of the paper
    c. Write drafts from outline and notes—both revising and editing as necessary to produce a final paper
    d. Correctly incorporate and cite evidence to avoid plagiarism
5. Develop an argumentative strategy to support a central idea using credible sources of information.
6. Write a rhetorically effective research essay with correct citations (minimum of six sources required)
7. Engage in discussions with peers and the instructor about the readings and their own writing while stating and supporting thoughts and opinions
8. Give an oral presentation of a research thesis and final paper using visuals

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, ASSESSMENT, and POLICIES

This course focuses on process writing. It incorporates several short writing assignments leading to the production of two (2) argumentative essays.

NOTE:
- **Students must write and submit final drafts of both essays in order to pass the course.**
- The final essay that you submit must align with work done during the development process (topic selection, thesis development, annotated bibliography, outlines, drafts, etc.)
- Any changes (esp. topic changes) must be discussed with and agreed to by the instructor well in advance of the final assignment deadline.
- Your work must be an analysis of an item of popular culture
- Incidents of plagiarism on final drafts submitted as summative assessments will be reported to the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and the assignment will receive a score of zero. If plagiarism occurs on a future final draft in the course, the student in question will fail the course (see ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT on page 5 for more information)

- Incidents of assisted plagiarism will be dealt with in the same manner (see Assisted Plagiarism on page 6 for more information)

Peer Review & Consultations

In order to develop skills throughout the process of writing, it is important to participate in analyzing and evaluating others' writing and to receive feedback on your writing from your instructor and your peers. For each of the two major essays you will have the opportunity to share your work-in-progress with fellow students. In addition, you will have individual consultations with your instructor and receive feedback during different stages in the writing process. You will be asked to submit outlines, drafts, and other associated assignments in addition to your final drafts.

NOTE:
- Students in WCS 150 are not eligible to receive help from the SSH Writing Center for their 150 course assignments; rather, you should meet with your instructor during office hours or by appointment. You are, however, welcome to visit the Writing Center for assignments and writing projects not related to WCS 150. Click here for more information on Writing Center tutorials.

Course Assignments & Descriptions

Assignments	Weight	Description	Due Date:
Summary Assignment	5%	Fair and accurate representation of the main ideas of a text, written in your own words	Week 2
Quotation Sandwich	5%	Introducing, integrating, and paraphrasing quotes	Week 4
Essay #1	20%	Argumentative essay, sources limited to sources provided on Moodle	Week 7
Annotated Bibliography	10%	Summary, assessment, and evaluation of 6 sources for Essay #2	Week 10
Rhetorical Analysis/Critical Response	10%	Brief summary and critique of a key idea and the rhetorical strategies used in a text	Week 12
Oral Presentation	5%	Presentation of the final essay, including Q&A. 5-7 minutes	Week 15
Essay #2	25%	Argumentative essay with original research. 6-7 pages in length	Week 16
Participation and Preparedness	20%	Daily assessment, may include: • Ungraded writing tasks produced in or out of class, including drafts of graded assignments • Online forum discussions • Quizzes • Demonstrated preparedness for each week's requirements	Continuous, posted in week 8 (covering the first 8 weeks), and week 16 (covering the last half of the semester),

			each with a 10% weight

NOTE:

- Rubrics will be provided for all graded writing assignments and the oral presentation.
- For the full list of Grading Descriptors, see Appendix A
- This course does not offer opportunities for extra credit.

Submission of Assignments

Standard Format:
- All assignments must include your name, title of the assignment, and date either on a title page at the beginning of the assignment or at the top left corner of your first page (check assignment and/or instructor specifications).
- Assignments must be typed, using a standard 12-point serif fonts
- Page margins should be set to "normal" in MS Word.
- Assignments more than one page in length must include page numbers.

NOTE: Assignments written for other classes will not be accepted.

Turnitin:
All graded writing assignments are submitted through Turnitin. Turnitin is designed to detect similarities in language that may indicate plagiarism. Please do not use translation or paraphrasing software designed to fool Turnitin. The resulting language is often so awkward or incorrect that it is easily detectable. Use of such tools constitutes academic misconduct.

NOTE: Make sure you upload the correct i.e. final draft of your work. The draft submitted is the draft that is graded.

Late Submissions / Deadlines:

- **Graded assignments** will lose 10% of the final grade per each day late to a maximum of three days (i.e. a deduction of 30% of the final grade). Assignments more than three days late will not be accepted and will receive a score of zero.

Class Participation

Participation is worth 20% of your overall final grade and is therefore essential to doing well in this course. Participation in a discursive class is your responsibility. Students must be thoroughly prepared to analyze and engage with each assignment. It is your responsibility to regularly check the participation schedule and ensure you have made the contributions you need to within that week. Sunday 11pm is the deadline for the week. Contributions after the week has finished will not be accepted.

Assignments may include:
- Non-graded writing tasks including but not limited to drafts of graded assignments
- Quizzes and/or supplementary worksheets

- Group discussions and workshops in which students will have to contribute and respond to their peers in a timely manner (i.e. the weekly deadline).
- Demonstrated preparedness for, and engagement in, each class.

A critical component of the course is spirited, informed discussion and debate. This will happen in the forums/discussion boards and ungraded writing tasks. Expectations of your contribution will be available on the participation schedule available through Moodle. Assessment of this will be based on criteria such as:
- Are the comments made in class relevant to the discussion? Are they linked to the comments of others?
- Do the comments add to our understanding of the article/subject matter or probe further in a direction worth pursuing?
- Do the comments show evidence of analysis and close reading?
- Is there a willingness to test new ideas among the group?
- Are you interacting with other class members' comments?
- Are you asking evocative and challenging questions about others' comments?

Assessment

- Assessment of all graded course assignments will be done using standardized WCS 150 Rhetoric & Composition course rubrics, which will be uploaded to the Moodle site.
- Non-graded assignments, as well as weekly discussion-forum posts will be assessed based on criteria provided by the instructor.

I will be available online during office hours. Emails will be replied to within 24 hours, unless at the weekend when they will be answered on Monday.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic and personal misconduct by any student in this course will be dealt with according to the requirements and procedures in the Student Code of Conduct for Nazarbayev University.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Students should be familiar with Nazarbayev University's official statement on plagiarism as stated in the University's Student Code of Conduct:

"Plagiarism is intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student's original work which has wholly or in part been created by another person. It also includes the presentation of the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. Plagiarism occurs when a person:
1. Directly copies one or more sentences of another person's written work without proper citation. If another writer's words are used, you must place quotation marks around the quoted material and include a footnote or other indication of the source of the quotation. This includes cut and paste from the Internet or other electronic sources.
2. Changes words but copies the sentence structure of a source without giving credit to the original source, or closely paraphrases one or more paragraphs without acknowledgement of the source of the ideas, or uses graphs, figures, drawings, charts or other visual/audio materials without acknowledging the source or the permission of the author;

3. Submits false or altered information in any academic exercise. This may include making up data for an experiment, altering data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.
4. Turns in all or part of assignment done by another student and claims it as their own.
5. Uses a paper writing service, has another student write a paper, or uses a foreign language translation and submits it as their own original work."

Assisted Plagiarism

Students at NU share responsibility for maintaining a culture of honesty. You must take reasonable precautions to ensure that other students will not submit your written work for university credit as if it were their own. Failure to take such precautions may itself be considered misconduct. Neither carelessness nor ignorance of another student's intentions will be considered a valid excuse.

The Student Code of Conduct makes this recommendation:
"Unless permitted by the instructor, do not work with others on graded coursework, including in-class and take-home tests, papers, or homework assignments. When an instructor specifically informs you that you may collaborate on work required for a course, the extent of the collaboration must not exceed the limits set by the instructor."

Giving and receiving feedback on written work is a normal part of the writing process. Making your work available to students outside that context, especially when you have already submitted a final version for assessment, puts you at risk of incurring a permanent record of misconduct, the loss of your stipend, and other applicable penalties.

Penalties for Plagiarism

In this course, the minimum penalty for plagiarism is as follows:
• **Final drafts of graded assignments** showing evidence of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero with no chance for revision.

Please see the Student Code of Conduct regarding categories of plagiarism and other possible penalties assigned to evidence of plagiarism. REMEMBER: If you have any questions or concerns regarding your work, you should talk to your instructor before turning in an assignment.

Plagiarism in other assignments and activities will receive a grade of zero with no chance of revision.

FALL 2020 (ONLINE) COURSE SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE: The schedule and/or content of this course may change during the term. You will be notified of any changes in advance.

Schedule for Fall 2020
Available on Moodle main page

APPENDIX A: GRADING DESCRIPTORS

Letter Grade	%	Explanation	Detailed Explanation
A	95-100	Excellent, exceeds the highest standards in the assignment or course	**Excellent—exceeds expected standards in all respects** ● The student displays a comprehensive knowledge of the principles and materials treated in the course, fluency in communicating that knowledge and originality and independence in applying material and principles. ● The work also provides evidence of a significant awareness of and ability to interact with related scholarly literature that goes beyond the requirements of the course. ● The work exhibits few or no mechanical and stylistic errors. ● The work demonstrates proficiency in matters of grammar, spelling, sentence, and paragraph structure. ● The student also demonstrates an unusual flexibility or inventiveness with words or structure that result in a striking individual style which is clear and lively in presentation without detracting from the academic nature of the work.
A-	90-94.9	Excellent; meets the highest standards for the assignment or course	
B+	85-89.9	Very good; meets high standards for the assignment or course	**Good—exceeds expected standards in many respects** ● The work indicates a thorough grasp of the goals for this assignment within the context of the course. ● The work exhibits few mechanical and stylistic errors and demonstrates a reasonable organization and development of ideas. ● Ideas are clearly and logically expressed and are well supported by an obvious awareness of the relevant literature with appropriate documentation of all sources.
B	80-84.9	Good; meets most of the standards for the assignment or course	
B-	75-79.9	More than adequate; shows some reasonable command of the material	
C+	70-74.9	Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment or course	**Satisfactory—meets expected standards** ● The work displays a sufficient and basic understanding of the principles and materials treated in the course. However, the expression is impeded by any of the following: - lack of conceptual organization;
C	65-69.9	Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment or course	

C-	60-64.9	Acceptable, while falling short of meeting basic standards in several ways	- lack of development and flow of ideas; - inadequate use of and interaction with relevant scholarly literature; - inadequate documentation of sources; - significant inaccuracies and errors in regard to grammar and spelling; - significant mechanical and stylistic errors. NOTE: Performance at this level meets minimum graduation requirements.
D+	55-59.9	Minimally acceptable	**Poor—below expected standards**
D	50-54.9	Minimally acceptable; lowest passing	● The work reveals a lack of understanding or serious misunderstanding of the principles and materials treated in the course. ● The work lacks a clearly defined thesis and/or fails to support the thesis with appropriate research. ● The development and flow of ideas throughout the paper are significantly below standard. ● Sources are not cited appropriately, and the work relies mainly on summaries and paraphrases of other people's work. ● The work contains poor sentence structure and punctuation and generally suffers a lack of attention to matters of grammar and style. ● The work is inappropriately shorter or longer than the required length. NOTE: While a "D" is not a failure in a particular course (i.e., the instructor does not see the need for the student to repeat the course), consistent work at this level would prohibit the student from graduating.
F	0-49.9	Failing, very poor performance	**Failure** ● The student displays inadequate or fragmentary knowledge of the principles and materials treated in the course. ● The student may have failed to complete the course requirements.