

## English 15: Rhetoric and Composition

Section 234 • 124 Thomas • MTWRF 12:45-2 p.m.  
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Anne Behler (librarian) • acb10@psu.edu  
Penn State Learning • 220 Boucke • Monday-Thursday, 1-4 & 7-9 p.m.

**Office Hours:** Monday 2-4 p.m., Thursday 2-3 p.m.

**Course Description:** The goal of English 15 is help you become a more confident and flexible reader and writer, one who can adapt to a variety of situations and draw upon several means of persuasion. In order to accomplish this goal, we will read, analyze, and create various texts using traditional rhetorical principles. We will learn how to choose language and writing strategies based on audience and purpose, how to recognize and use rhetorical appeals, and how to interpret and enter ongoing conversations about topics that interest you.

As a LEAP pride, we will also be considering the ways writing in English can transfer to other academic writing tasks, including those in your Speech & Writing course. We will discuss how to employ strategies from this course to fit the requirements of other disciplines as well as how and why writing conventions differ.

**Course Requirements:** The abbreviated schedule of summer courses and the social nature of your LEAP pride can lead some to conclude that a summer section requires less work or is somehow easier than it might be during the traditional academic school year. I assure you that for English 15, this is not the case. While that means you will receive a quantity and quality of education equal to that of any English 15 student, it also means that your work will be accelerated and concentrated. You will be writing five papers in a six-week course; it sounds like a demanding workload, and it is. I am glad to have you here, so I want you to be prepared.

To pass this course, you are required to complete all major and weekly assignments. You are also expected to attend and engage in all class meetings and to participate in draft workshops, in-class exercises, and classroom discussions. All assignments must be handed in on time.

Penn State encourages eligible persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in a course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible.

### Texts

*The Harbrace Guide to Writing: Concise Edition*, by Cheryl Glenn  
*Penn Statements*, Spring 2012  
Supplemental readings (available on ANGEL)

## Grading

Paper 1:	10%	Definition
Paper 2:	15%	Evaluation
Paper 3:	15%	Proposal
Paper 4:	20%	Refutation
Paper 5:	20%	Rhetorical Analysis
Journal:	15%	
Class Participation:	15%	Includes attendance, reading, and class discussion
Informal Writing:	10%	Includes in-class writing and group work such as peer review

See ANGEL for a detailed description of the composition department's grading standards.

## Journals

Each week, you will enter a journal entry of 150-200 words to ANGEL, following a prompt given in class and posted online. All journal entries should adhere to appropriate standards of spelling, punctuation, grammar and professionalism. **Journal entries will be graded on a credit/no credit basis and will not be subject to late submission.**

## Attendance

Your success and the success of your peers in this course depend on your active participation in class; therefore, your regular attendance is required. The university recommends no more than two absences, excused or unexcused, per summer course, a policy I have adapted. More than two absences can lower your class participation grade down to and including an F. Excessive absence can also affect your final grade in the course.

If you miss a class, it is still your responsibility to turn in any work that is due and get class notes, course changes, and assignments.

## Office Conferences

You will be required to meet with me while writing either your proposal (#3) or your refutation (#4) assignment to discuss your written work and progress in the course. I encourage you, however, to come more often. I'm happy to discuss your work at any stage in the writing process, from brainstorming to revising, and will review drafts during office hours. I will not read drafts over email.

## Plagiarism

Please see the departmental policy on plagiarism on ANGEL. We will discuss plagiarism throughout the semester, and if you have any questions, please ask. If you are caught plagiarizing, you risk failing the course.

## Other Course Policies:

1. All papers are to be written in a 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced with one-inch margins. No title page, just your name, my name, the date, and the name of the assignment (indicate if it is a rough or final draft), single-spaced in the

upper left-hand corner. All pages should be numbered. Drafts can be paper-clipped, but each *final* paper should be stapled. (If your paper topic invites a different format, see me. I always appreciate creativity!)

2. Attendance on days in which we are peer-reviewing drafts is *mandatory*. I will not be reviewing your rough drafts, so peer review workshops are your best opportunity for constructive feedback on your works in progress. Missing a Peer Review Workshop day will result in a major deduction to your course grade in Participation.
3. Each paper has three components to it: assignment proposal, complete draft with in-class peer editing, and revised final draft. Failure to hand in *any* component of the paper results in one lowered letter grade per day for the paper.
4. All papers are to be submitted in a folder containing the assignment proposal, the peer-edited draft and any other drafts, and the final essay.
5. Paper lengths are not optional. Please do not hand in 2.5 pages for a 3-page paper. Quality is always more important than quantity, but if your topic cannot yield 3 pages, you may need to rethink the appropriateness of the topic.
6. *Turn off* phones/iPods, etc. Put them away, not on your desk.
7. Bring your book and *Penn Statements* every day. Print off all reading assignments posted on ANGEL and bring them to class on the day(s) we will discuss them.

### Class Schedule

Schedule is subject to change. All the work on the schedule is your responsibility, and in the event of absence, you must contact a classmate or me to check for changes in the syllabus.

Key: **HG:** *The Harbrace Guide to Writing*, **PS:** *Penn Statements*

Date	Day	Topic	Reading Due	Writing Due
2/9	W	Course Introduction: What is rhetoric?		
3/14	R	The Rhetorical Situation A Fitting Response	HG: 29-41	Journal Response
6/29	F	Literacy and Language	Reading on ANGEL	Fitting Response group assignment
3 1/2	M	Intro Definition	Reading on ANGEL	Proposal: Definition
2 1/3	T	Reading Narratives	PS: 61-68	Journal Response
1 3/4	W	NO CLASS — July 4		
1 2/5	R	Style Workshop: Verbs Peer Review	Reading on ANGEL	Draft: Definition
1 1/6	F	Intro Evaluation	Bring a review to class	Final: Definition
7/9	M	Thinking about Categories	HG 260-273	
7/10	T	Ethos, Pathos, Logos	HG: 49-51 Readings on ANGEL	

7/11	W	Evaluating Movies and Books: Compare/Contrast	HG: 281-283 ("Unreal, Really Cool") Readings on ANGEL	Proposal: Evaluation
7/12	R	Reading Evaluations	PS: 76-80	Journal Response
7/13	F	Style Workshop: Sentence Variety Peer Review		Draft: Evaluation
7/16	M	Intro Proposal	Reading on ANGEL	Final: Evaluation
7/17	T	Rhetorical Methods of Development	HG: 306-320	
7/18	W	Research in the Library	HG: 363-373 <b>Meet in the library, Paterno 302 (in the Business Library)</b>	Proposal: Proposal
7/19	R	Bibliography and Citation	PS: 52-57 HG: 405-419	Journal Response
7/20	F	Style Workshop Peer Review		Draft: Proposal
7/23	M	How to Win an Argument (Intro to Refutation)	Reading on ANGEL	Final: Proposal
7/24	T	Argument Logical Fallacies	HG: 209-213 Reading on ANGEL	
7/25	W	Style Workshop: Organization	Reading on ANGEL	
7/26	R	Joining the Conversation	HG 178-214	Proposal: Refutation
7/27	F	Reading Refutations	PS: 81-85	Journal Response
7/30	M	Style Workshop Peer Review		Draft: Refutation
7/31	T	Intro Rhetorical Analysis	Reading on ANGEL	Final: Refutation
8	W	Rhetorical Analysis, Rhetorical Commonplaces	HG: 59-61	
4	R	Visual Rhetoric	Reading on ANGEL	Proposal: Rhetorical Analysis
2 2/3	F	Reading Rhetorical Analyses	PS: 31-44	Journal Response
1 1/3	M	Peer Review		Draft: Rhetorical Analysis
1 1/7	T	Style Workshop Peer Review		Draft: Rhetorical Analysis
1	W	Wrapping up, Moving On		Final: Rhetorical Analysis