

# ENGL 4342: Rhetoric and Culture

Instructor: Dr. Marcos J. Del Hierro

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Office Hours:

- \* Tuesdays: 3:30 – 4:30
- \* Wednesdays: 4:30 – 5:30
- \* Thursdays: 3:30 – 4:30

## Course Description

**ENGL 4342 Rhetoric and Culture**

**Credits:** 3 (3-0-0)

A study of the relationship between rhetoric and culture. The course focuses on discursive practices and the ways they both shape and are shaped by human culture. TSI Restriction(s): Reading, Math, and Writing

## Student Learning Outcomes

- 👉 Demonstrate familiarity with rhetorical theory as applied to culture.
- 👉 Develop, and reflect on, your writing process and practices.
- 👉 Use a variety of interpretative strategies to analyze and respond to a range of texts.
- 👉 Identify critical conversations pertaining to the study of rhetoric and culture.

## Required Texts

- 👉 All readings are available on our Blackboard site.

## Grade Distribution

Grades will be calculated using the following scale:

- 📄 90-100= A
- 📄 80-89= B
- 📄 70-79= C
- 📄 60-69= D
- 📄 59-0= F

## Assignments (Additional guidelines to follow)

- ▶ Semester Plan (10% of total grade)
- ▶ Weekly Planning Meetings (20% of total grade)
- ▶ Student Conferences (10% of total grade)
- ▶ Journal Read-Arounds: (20% of total grade)
- ▶ Final Essay: (20% of total grade)
- ▶ Professional Dossier: (20% of total grade)

## Expectations for Class Meetings

**Readings:** Please keep up with the readings and focus on engaging with them. Ask questions, make comments, and note things you might want to discuss.

**Instructor-Student Conferences:** I will set up opportunities to conference with me. I encourage you to meet with me beyond assigned appointments to discuss any aspect of the course. Conferences are also important professional development opportunities where you can practice the art of establishing working relationships, seek mentoring, and gain access to institutional knowledge. We can also discuss your broader career goals and interests.

**Attendance and Late Policy:** Because we are still living through the COVID-19 pandemic, no attendance or late policy exists. I will provide deadlines as an accountability mechanism. If you are having trouble meeting deadlines, please consult with me.

## University and System Policies

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which includes class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving Federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have

his/her aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of his/her federal aid.

**The Six-Drop Rule:** Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

**Student Misconduct:** Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct.

**Academic Misconduct Policy:** Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Misconduct Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic misconduct including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on the particular paper or assignment or a failing grade in the course. Also, a referral may be issued to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities where the sanctions can vary up to possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

## Campus Resources

**Jaguar Writing Center:** The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule

appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

**Counseling Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by SC&WS are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record.

SC&WS provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) office will primarily offer services via phone and/or Webex. Any students interested in scheduling an appointment should call (210) 784-1331 Monday through Friday, 8:00AM – 5:00PM. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

**Disability Services:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in room 210. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dsupport@tamusa.edu](mailto:dsupport@tamusa.edu).

**Mays Center of Experiential Learning and Community Engagement:** The Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement (Mays Center) provides enhanced learning opportunities and access to resources and relationships in order to develop students into career-ready and community-minded graduates. Programs and services provided by the Mays

Center include: Career Services, Career Clothes Closet, Civic Engagement, Community Service, Experience Transcript, Externships, the General's Store, Internships and more. Science and Technology Building, Suite 111 | (210) 784-1356  
| [mays@tamusa.edu](mailto:mays@tamusa.edu) | <http://www.tamusa.edu/mays>

General's Store: General's Store is an on-campus food pantry to serve members of the campus community who need food assistance. Located in Patriot's Casa room 110, this service is available Wednesdays (2-6 p.m.), and by appointment. For more information email [foodpantry@tamusa.edu](mailto:foodpantry@tamusa.edu) or visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/mays/generals-store/>

## Course Schedule

(Please note this is a tentative schedule and subject to change.)

- Week 1 (August 25 - 31): Course Introductions
- Week 2 (September 1 - 7): Planning for Success
- Week 3 (September 8 - 14): Student Conferences
- Week 4 (September 15 - 21): Defining a Cultural Rhetorics Approach
- Week 5 (September 22 - 28): NonWestern Approaches to Rhetoric
- Week 6 (September 29 - October 5): Hip-Hop Rhetorics
- Week 7 (October 6 - 12): Place and Space
- Week 8 (October 13 - 19): Social Justice Approaches to Rhetoric
- Week 9 (October 20 - 26): Embodying Embodiment
- Week 10 (October 27 – November 2): Culture and Disability
- Week 11 (November 3 - 9): Student Conferences
- Week 12 (November 10 - 16): NonWestern Approaches (Part Two)
- Week 13 (November 17 - 23): Queer Rhetorics
- Week 14 (November 24 - 30): Thanksgiving Week
- Week 15 (December 1 - 7): TBA
- Week 16 (December 8 - 14): FINALS WEEK