

English 103 Proposal
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LOCAL LORE:
WRITING AND RHETORIC IN TUSCALOOSA

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is intended to create an authentic writing experience by allowing students the opportunity to better understand (and contribute to) their surroundings. Tuscaloosa is uniquely apt to serve as a model for rhetoric. From its racial history to its recent successes both on and off the football field, the city and surrounding area will provide a foundation for students to actively participate in local dialogue on local issues. The class will culminate in a final research paper that will include a proposal to be sent to a leader in their subjects debate.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES:

This class is intended to address and exceed all 103 objectives as listed in the First Year Writing Program Handbook (<http://www.as.ua.edu/fwp/goals.html>). Aside from teaching students the writing process, exposing them to various rhetorical strategies, and fostering ethical research techniques, I hope to focus on their role within the University of Alabama community and beyond. The texts, along with Wilhoit's rhetoric, will allow us to stay on task and strike a balance between reading, writing, and employing writing strategies to address the paper topics.

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- understand and use the writing/revision process as tools for analyzing topics and evaluating their own writing;
- revise their work with attention to purpose, development, style, grammar, punctuation, and spelling;
- collaborate productively with their peers and instructor;
- use a variety of rhetorical strategies and processes of analyzing;
- use writing strategies and processes to write for different audiences and purposes;
- understand their part in the university discourse community and how its written conventions operate;
- understand and apply the principles of formal argumentation in their writing;
- locate, evaluate, and synthesize source material in order to write extended papers incorporating source material;
- use at least one citation format correctly and understand that there are different formats for different disciplines;
- summarize, paraphrase, and quote source material accurately and ethically;
- reflect on their own development as writers.
- actively participate and contribute to local issues of import
 - make their research available to local leaders

POSSIBLE TEXTS:

Stephen Wilhoit's *Writings from Readings*
Diana Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*
Barry Hannah's "No Fare, No Well"
Carl Carmer's *Stars Fell on Alabama*
Clarence Cason's *90° in the Shade*
The Tuscaloosa News
The Crimson White
Alabama Heritage magazine

- Assignments: Service Learning Reflection, Presentation, Final Exam Research Paper

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Personal Essay/Exploratory Essay-First person account of one's experiences in Tuscaloosa
- Restaurant Review- A review of a local restaurant
- Rhetorical Analysis- A synthesis in which the student analyzes the effectiveness of two possible research paper sources
- Service Learning Reflection- An essay that will allow students to reflect on their service learning experiences and their community
- Presentation- Students will present the primary arguments of their research topic, as well as possible solutions
- Final Exam Research Paper- A research paper and proposal concerning one local issue and the student's take on the issue, as well as a call to action.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGIES:

I will take full advantage of e-Learning to have students post reader responses on a weekly basis. I will also incorporate Skype and other videoconference programs to invite distant speakers to share their experiences with my students.

The Buford Boone Papers
Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching's "The Plight of Tuscaloosa"

POSSIBLE FILMS:

BamaGirl
Eyes on the Prize
The University of Alabama's Documenting Justice film series

POSSIBLE SPEAKERS:

Representatives from *The Tuscaloosa News*
Representatives from *The Crimson White*
Representatives from Hoole Special Collections (Jessica-Lacher Feldman, Archivist)
Representatives from *Alabama Heritage* magazine (Donna Cox-Baker, Editor)
Representatives from the Alabama Paranormal Society
Professor Jason Black- resident scholar on campus history
Local Politicians, school board members, etc.

POSSIBLE FIELD TRIPS:

Gorgas House
The Paul "Bear" Bryant Museum
The Natural History Museum
Bryce Hospital
Foster Auditorium
The Hoole Special Collections Library
Kilgore House (home of *Alabama Heritage* magazine)

SERVICE-LEARNING:

Students will complete ten hours of service learning in conjunction with the Crossing Points organization, a program that provides transition services for students with disabilities between the ages of 18-21. This will allow my own students to better understand their community and the people in it. My students will accompany Crossing Points students to their local job sites on several occasions in order to become better acquainted with the surrounding area.

DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH UNIT OF STUDY:¹

- Reading the Town: *The Crimson White*, *The Tuscaloosa News*, excerpts from Carl Carmer's *Stars Fell on Alabama*, and Clarence Cason's *90° in the Shade*
 - Assignment: Personal Essay
- Writing the Town: Rhetorical strategies, an emphasis on research-based writing, excerpts from Wilhoit and Hacker, Southern Commission on the Study of Lynching's "The Plight of Tuscaloosa"
 - Assignment: Restaurant Review,
- Exploring the Town: Presenters, films, fieldtrips, The Buford Boone Papers, (please see above)
 - Assignment: Rhetorical Analysis
- Contributing to the Town: An emphasis on the research paper and research strategies, including a library visit, computer lab visits, etc.

¹ While each unit offers a brief overview of what will take place within the unit, please note that reading and writing will be integrated throughout all the units. Some units may emphasize reading, writing or research, but rest assured, all facets of a typical 103 class will be woven throughout all the units.