INRW 0373.3A1 Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Daniel J. Valdez Jr., M.A.

Email: dvaldez1@eagle.lit.edu

Phone: 409-247-5242

Office Location: TC 222

Office Hours: MWF: 10 AM – 11 AM / TR: 9 AM – 12:30 PM

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to face.

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:

AFTER Jan. 11 2021 Scores
● College Readiness Classification, CRC, score of 910-944 AND
● Diagnostic level of 1 to 3 AND
● Does not have an essay score AND
● Co-enrollment in INRW 0173
BEFORE Jan. 11 2021 Scores
● TSI Reading score of 339 or below OR
● TSI Writing score of 339 or below AND
● ABE is below 4 AND
● Four or lower on the essay AND
● Co-enrollment in INRW 0173

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Integration of critical reading and academic writing skills. Successful completion of this intervention if taught at the upper (exit) level fulfills TSI requirements for reading and writing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to
1. Locate explicit textual information, draw complex inferences, and describe, analyze, and evaluate the information within and across multiple texts of varying lengths.
2. Comprehend and use vocabulary effectively in oral communication, reading, and writing.
3. Identify and analyze the audience, purpose, and message across a variety of texts.
4. Describe and apply insights gained from reading and writing a variety of texts. INRW 0373 Master Course Syllabus Approved May 2021
5. Compose a variety of texts that demonstrate reading comprehension, clear focus, logical development of ideas, and use of appropriate language that advance the writer's purpose.
6. Determine and use effective approaches and rhetorical strategies for given reading and writing situations.

7. Generate ideas and gather information relevant to the topic and purpose, incorporating the ideas and words of other writers in student writing using established strategies.

8. Evaluate relevance and quality of ideas and information in recognizing, formulating, and developing a claim.

9. Develop and use effective reading and revision strategies to strengthen the writer's ability to compose college-level writing assignments.

10. Recognize and apply the conventions of Standard English in reading and writing..

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

All required reading materials are provided by instructor in Blackboard.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is an in-person class. Students are required to attend each scheduled class in person. Additionally, students are expected to check BlackBoard and their LIT e-mail daily. Students are required to engage and be physically present in class to receive full credit. Students who do not engage with the class daily will fall behind.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the Academic Calendar. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16- week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	Assignments	Due Date
Week 1: 08/25 – 08/29	Start Here Welcome to INRW 0373 Syllabus/Classroom Orientation	- "Briefcases vs. Backpacks" Essay - Intro Discussion - "What is Rhetoric?" Discussion	**8/29/25**
Week 2: 09/02 – 09/05	Rhetorical Situation and Triangle Ethos, Pathos, and Logos	- Rhetorical Triangle Assignment - Rhetoric Quiz	**09/05/25**

Week 3:
09/08 –
09/12
	Author's Craft
	Understanding Author's Craft
	Article Examples
		- Author's Craft Assignment:
		  o Word Choice
		  o Post Structure
			09/12/25

		o Purpose o Audience o Point of View o Perspective - Journal Response - Reading Comprehension Quiz	
Week 4: 09/15 – 09/19	Close Reading and Comprehension What "Close Reading" Is	- Comprehending Informational Texts - Assignments For: 1. Main Ideas and Supporting Detail 2. Inferences o Author's Crafts • **Week 1-4 Quiz**	**09/19/25**
Week 5: 09/22 – 09/26	Rhetorical Analysis	- Journal Entry: Rhetorical Analysis - Rhetorical Analysis Quiz	**09/26/25**
Week 6: 09/29 – 10/03	Analyzing Fiction Fiction Criticism Academic Writing	Writing Academic Paragraphs Assignments • Prewriting • Organization	**10/03/25**
Week 7: 10/06 – 10/10	Analyzing Poetry Five- Paragraph Research Essay	• Poetry Analysis Discussion • Essay Organization • Essay Drafting	**10/10/25**
Week 8: 10/13 – 10/17	Secondary Sources	• Research and Sources Assignment • Citing Secondary Sources Assignment • **Weeks 5-8 Quiz**	**10/17/25**
Week 9: 10/20 – 10/24	Writing Process	• MLA Formatting • Paragraph Proofreading • Prewriting • Journal: Brainstorming	**10/24/25**
Week 10: 10/27 – 10/31	Outlines, Thesis, Synthesis	• Official Essay Prewriting • Thesis Statement • Synthesizing Research	**10/31/25**

Week 11: 11/03 – 11/07	Sources and Rough Drafts	• Official Essay Outline • Sources Check	**11/07/25**
Week 12: 11/10 – 11/14	Rough Draft and Revision	• Official Essay Rough Draft • **Weeks 9-12 Quiz**	**11/14/25**
Week 13: 11/17 – 11/21	Peer Review	• Official Essay Peer Reviews • Journal: Review Own Paper	**11/21/25**
Week 14: 11/24 – 11/25	Proofreading and Errors	• Proofreading Assignment • Grading Assignment	**11/25/25**
Week 15: 12/01 – 12/03	Final Draft	• Official Essay Final Draft	**12/05/25**

COURSE EVALUATION
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:
- Attendance--20%
- Daily Grades--20%
- Short Writing Assignments--20%
- Unit Quizzes--20%
- Final Exam--20%

GRADING SCALE
90 – 100 A
80 – 89 B
70 – 79 C
60 – 69 D
0 – 59 F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

DISABILITIES STATEMENT
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email specialpopulations@lit.edu. You may also visit the online resource at Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology (lit.edu).

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT
It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at www.lit.edu. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT
Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses**.**

STARFISH
LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

Special Populations: If a student requires accommodations while on LIT campus, they must contact the Special Populations office in Student Services. If a dual credit student has accommodations through their school's special populations office, they must still contact LIT's Special Populations office at specialpopulations@lit.edu.

Plagiarism/Cheating: Academic Dishonesty is a crime that Lamar Institute of Technology and I take seriously. Most colleges expel cheating students. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

Directly copying a source into an essay without citing the original source.

Paraphrasing a source without citing the original source.

Paying someone to complete an assignment, having a friend or family member complete an assignment, or using Artificial Intelligence to write a paper. If a paper has a student's name on it, I expect to see that student's work.

Making minor changes to an original source while still retaining up to 75% of the structure of the sentence.

Taking a quiz or test with another student, giving the answers to a quiz or test to another student, or Googling the answers to the quiz or test. My quizzes are not open-book quizzes. Students are only allowed the notes they have taken over an assignment during a quiz.

If I receive a paper that requires a works cited page and in-text citations but does not feature either of those criteria, I will give the paper a zero.

How to Know If Something Is Not Plagiarism: Generally, plagiarism only covers things that are not general knowledge. If a student makes the claim that the sky is blue, then they do not have to cite where they got that information, because it is something that 90% of the world already knows. However, if a student describes *why* the sky is blue, they have to cite their source, since that is not common knowledge.

How to Avoid Plagiarism: First, students should practice good paraphrasing and rewrite sentences *in their own words*. Part of the course will be discussions, assignments, and videos over good paraphrasing.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION:

- **Personal Responsibility**:
  - It is *my* responsibility to convey the course information to students in a clear and concise manner that is aligned with the course objectives. It is *the student's* responsibility to interact with the material, ask questions as needed, complete assignments in a timely manner, and check Blackboard and their email daily.
  - It is the student's responsibility to reach out to me with any questions or concerns they may have.
  - Students *must* listen to lectures and take notes in this course.

- o Technical issues are not a valid excuse for not completing an assignment if you wait until the day the assignment is due. You should work on assignments before the day they are due.
- **Grading**:
  - o If a student receives their rough draft and does not correct any of the suggestions from the instructor for the final draft, they will receive an even lower grade than the rough draft.
  - o Assignment due dates are subject to change at instructor discretion.
  - o Any assignment containing *any* AI generated work will receive a zero. I do not recommend using AI for grammar correction, as it is sometimes flagged as AI generated content by the checkers I use (Here is a list of them: ZeroGPT, QuillBot, Scribb, GPTZero, CopyLeaks, and Undetectable). However, I understand that sometimes students may need it to identify a comma place or misplaced modifier. Simply be wary. Using AI to generate ideas or compose sentences is not allowed *for any reason*.
  - o Plagiarized assignments will receive a zero. AI, at least within English courses and essays, is plagiarism.
  - o Students who collude on assignments will receive zeroes.
  - o I do not mark every little error on a students' essay. I mark the most frequent errors I notice a student is committing, leave feedback for correction, and it is then up to the student to go through their own essay and find errors on their own.
  - o Gradebook will be updated weekly, but essays may take up to 2 weeks to grade.
  - o If a student is allowed to turn something in late, they must inform me that they have turned it in, and even then they may not receive adequate feedback for the assignment.
- **Contact**:
  - o I will reply to emails over the weekday within 24 hours. However, any email sent after 12 PM on Friday will not receive a reply until Monday.
  - o I offer walk-ins for my office hours, but I strongly recommend that students email or call me to schedule an appointment.
  - o If a student must meet with me outside of scheduled office hours, please email or call me and we can work something out.

- **<u>I reserve the right to update my syllabi as needed throughout the semester.</u>**

LATE WORK

All late work will receive a zero. Students must tell me **at least twenty-four hours before the due date** if they are going to miss work. The assignment must *only* be turned into Blackboard. Once the student turns in the assignment, they *must* immediately email

me, or I will not know to look at the assignment. **Students who turn in late assignments but do not notify me will not get the chance to have their assignments re-graded.**

Some assignments may be turned in late if approved because of extenuating circumstances, but the student will have to reach out to me so we can discuss them. I reserve the right to define what counts as an extenuating circumstance.

Approved late assignments will be re-graded for full credit. Students who turned in assignments late may not get detailed feedback on how to improve their assignments. Depending on the excuse, I will most likely ask for some kind of proof that the excuse is valid. Extenuating circumstances such as severe illness or death of a loved one are valid excuses for missing assignments.

Extenuating circumstances do **not** include going out of town, going on vacation, Internet/technology issues that can quickly be solved by IT/Blackboard support, time management issues, etc.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

I strive to create an open and respectful environment in which every student feels comfortable expressing their thoughts and opinions without fear of judgment. In our classroom, thoughtful dialogue and mutual respect are essential, and I encourage everyone to participate and engage with different perspectives.

RETAKING ASSIGNMENTS

Other than late work and the major assignments I allow remediation for, I do not allow students to retake assignments. However, I may ask students to resubmit assignments if they do them incorrectly. Once an assignment is graded, it cannot be revised and resubmitted.