OnRamps RHE 306 (Dual Enrollment): Reading, Writing, and Research
Fall 2018 Syllabus & Policy Statement

INSTRUCTOR and STAFF INFORMATION
Team Rhetoric email and phone number: OnRamps-RHE@utexas.edu, (512) 232-2232
The following OnRamps staff members support students in the Rhetoric courses. Note on voicemail: this is a professional office number, not a cell phone—you cannot text it. Please leave a message using the voicemail with your name, the matter you are calling about, and a return phone number.

- Connie Steel, PhD, Lead Instructor & Course Manager
- Jaime Babcock, MA, Course Coordinator
- Jayita Sinha, PhD, Course Coordinator
- Joanna Turner, PhD, Course Coordinator

Office Hours
Videoconferences with Instructors and Course Staff are available via Canvas Conferences course by appointment.

Writing Consultant
OnRamps Rhetoric students have access to a free Writing Consultant via videoconference. You will receive more information about consultations via email when the consultant space is launched. The Writing Consultant supports students in developing writing and research skills. The Consultant is not a member of the grading team and cannot give you advisory grades, pre-grade work, or assess if grades are accurate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
RHE 306 is a writing seminar course in argumentation that situates rhetoric as an art of civic discourse. It is designed to enhance your ability to research and analyze the various positions held in any public debate and to advocate your own position effectively to a target audience. You will also explore the ethics of argumentation, explaining what it means to “fairly” represent someone with whom you disagree, or how responsibly to address a community with particular values and interests. Your work in this course will help you advance the critical writing and reading skills you will need to succeed in college and in your professional careers. Scholars in this course can expect to read and write daily.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
The readings, discussions, and writing assignments in this course are designed for learning how to:

- Identify, evaluate, construct, and organize effective arguments
- Read critically
- Research using a variety of tools and applications
- Evaluate the quality of sources
- Integrate source material into your own writing
- Advocate a specific position responsibly
- Conduct library and web-based research and document sources
- Produce a clean, efficient style and adapt it to various rhetorical situations
- Edit and proofread your own and others’ prose
- Revise with specific goals in mind
PREREQUISITES
A passing score on the writing section of the Texas Higher Education Assessment Test (THEA test) or an appropriate assessment test.

CORE CURRICULUM
This course meets core curriculum requirement for Communication (I), or Texas Core Code 010 (aka English 1301).

REQUIRED ONLINE CURRICULUM, WEBSITES, and COMMUNICATIONS

Canvas Learning Management System. Website: https://onramps.instructure.com A Canvas LMS account is included in the course fee, and you do not need to buy any additional textbooks for this course.  You will submit all of your college-level UT work in the Canvas. College Assignments are not accepted via email. Late assignments are NOT accepted, and the Canvas system will lock you out at the beginning of the minute of the assignment deadline, or the access window close time, whichever is later. It is your responsibility to maintain your UTEID and password at all times. In addition to the assignments, there are learning tools, discussion boards, and activities to help you be successful in the course. Your major college essay deadlines populate to your Calendar in Canvas, so be sure to check on your due dates frequently. All Canvas deadlines are in Central Time.

It is your responsibility to schedule sufficient wifi access and computer time to access the curriculum via Canvas and conduct research by your due dates. You are responsible for learning to use the features of Canvas on your own. For your convenience, links to the most popular Canvas Guides for students are available in the Welcome Module of this course.

If you are enrolled in OnRamps Rhetoric you will have a minimum of four shells but may have more if you are enrolled in additional OnRamps courses. Your shells:

1. An OnRamps high school course (all high school coursework)
2. UT Austin college course (College assignments and college gradebook).
3. OnRamps Orientation
4. Writing Consultant

Email. Email is an official means of communication at UT Austin. Your OnRamps Staff will use this medium to communicate class, enrollment, and credit information. It is your responsibility to keep your email address updated in Canvas and the OnRamps Student Portal at all times. Email returned to OnRamps with “User Unknown” is not an acceptable excuse for missed communication. You are expected to check email on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with OnRamps-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. Regular email management will also minimize the risk that the inbox will be full, causing the email to be returned to sender with an error. Undeliverable messages returned because of either a full inbox or use of a spam filter will be considered delivered without further action required by OnRamps.

OnRamps Student Portal. You will also visit the OnRamps Student Portal (aka OSIS) throughout the term to view and make decisions about your current OnRamps enrollments, including whether you are eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit, the type of credit you wish to receive (Letter Grade or Pass/Fail), and, at the end of the course, whether you wish to accept or decline college credit, if earned. URL: https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/ce/osis/

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE
1. **Time management.** Past students in this course repeatedly say that they wish they had done three things differently: started their assignments earlier, managed their time better, and had ‘not procrastinated.’ They have solid reasons for this advice: college courses go about three times faster than high school courses and require about three hours of self-led learning for each hour of online or teacher-led learning. Protect your academic time from extracurricular activities by blocking out reading and writing time in advance using your major assignment deadlines as a guide.

2. **Studies show that smart phones reduce your cognitive capacity. Don’t bring them to class.** Read this study to understand why: [http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/691462](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/691462). You need to be focused to pass this class. Therefore, leave the phone in your locker. If you can’t leave it in your locker, turn it off, and hide it in the bottom of your backpack.

3. **Pay attention to mandatory requirements.** A mandatory requirement is a minimum standard that you have to meet before your work can make it into the passing range for a grade. In other words, you don’t get “points” for these things. You have to do these things before you even qualify to start getting points. To use a sports metaphor, before you can win a football game, the team has to show up with its uniforms, equipment and all players need to be in the correct field positions. Only then does the referee allow play to begin for points. For this course, you have five mandatory requirements:

   1. Complete the OnRamps student orientation.
   2. Include citations for *every* work cited on *every* assignment.
   3. Complete all peer reviews.
   4. Each essay has mandatory minimum requirements listed.
   5. All projects must fall under the First Year Topic research umbrella described in Unit 1, or you will be asked to start over.

4. **Check your email regularly.** The Rhetoric Course Staff sends emails with important information such as notifications if your paper upload is missing, enrollment deadlines, tips for conducting research, and every once in a blue moon, an extra credit opportunity.

5. **Be the boss of your computer.** Know your passwords at all times. Learn how to use word processing software. Figure out how to use help guides and tutorials to figure out the features of programs you use. Learn how to convert documents to file formats like .docx and .pdf. Learn to use professional databases. Not only will information literacy help you succeed in this course, it will help you on the job market.

**UT COURSE ASSESSMENTS**

Your final college course grade will be determined based on your performance on the following take-home essay assessments and peer review assignments. All of these assessments will be uploaded through Canvas course assignments as .doc or .pdf attachments:

0. OnRamps Orientation—The OnRamps Orientation is a mandatory requirement for this course.

1. **Formal Research Summary (RS)** 1 page single-spaced—Research and summarize the argument made in a viewpoint article. MLA citation required. (10%)

2. **Mapping a Controversy Paper (MC 1.1)** 5-6 pages double-spaced—This research paper analyzes a contemporary controversy, its background, exigency, and the various stakeholders and viewpoints that are involved in the controversy. The paper requires research into at least three stakeholder viewpoints. The essay is expected to fairly summarize and represent major viewpoints. Students bring a draft to class for a mandatory peer review. The essay is expected to meet MLA citation and works cited standards. (15%)

3. **Mapping a Controversy Paper Revision (MC 1.2)** 5-6 pages double-spaced—This revision project re-thinks and rewrites MC 1.1, demonstrating substantive improvements in the particular areas based on revision feedback provided by the UT grader. (25%)
4. Persuasive Essay (PE 2.1) 5-6 pages—The persuasive argument essay targets a particular audience and venue. The essay leverages strategic research to convince the audience that they should believe, think, or do something about a particular and current controversy of the student’s choice. A successful essay will demonstrate effective matching of its claims, evidence, and reasons to the ideological and decorum expectations of the target audience. The writing process includes a mandatory peer review of a draft. The essay is expected to meet MLA citation and works cited standards. (20%)

5. Persuasive Essay Revision (PE 2.2) 5-6 pages—This revision assignment entails a goal-oriented revision of PE 2.1 that demonstrates substantive improvements in the particular areas suggested by UT grader feedback. (30%)

COLLEGE COURSE SCHEDULE C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing Assignment</th>
<th>Student Deadline (by 9:00pm Central)</th>
<th>Estimated Grade Return (by 11:59pm Central)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal Research Summary</td>
<td>Fri. Sept. 21, 2018, 9pm</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Revision of the Mapping a Controversy Essay MC (1.2)</td>
<td>Tues. Oct 30, 2018, 9pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persuasive Essay (PE2.1)</td>
<td>Fri. Nov. 16, 2018, 9pm</td>
<td>Thurs. Nov. 29, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revision of the Persuasive Essay (PE2.2)</td>
<td>Fri. Dec. 14, 2018, 9pm</td>
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COLLEGE COURSE GRADING

Grading Mandatory Minimum Requirement: Citations vs. Plagiarism
Citations for all paraphrased material and quotations are a mandatory minimum requirement to achieve a passing grade of D- or 60 on all college assignments for this course. Any college assignment found to contain uncited material or verbatim material reproduced without proper quotation attribution will receive a grade of zero (0, i.e. F), regardless of the total points earned in any other rubric categories. In exceptional cases, partial credit may be awarded contingent upon completion of a plagiarism tutorial and revision. In partial credit situations, the total potential assignment score will be capped at a maximum of 60 or D-. This grading policy does not release students from their responsibilities for academic integrity as outlined in the Academic Integrity section below. Under that policy, plagiarized work is ALSO considered for potential referral to Student Judicial Affairs.

Tips for citation success: 1) Carefully check that each quote and paraphrase has a citation before turning in your PEER REVIEW DRAFT. 2) When summarizing or paraphrasing other people’s ideas ask yourself ‘Whose words are these? Does this need quotation marks? Is this too close to the original?’ 3) Clearly label all of your draft files and include your works cited list in your drafts so that when you are time crunched you have a back-up system.

Final Grade Scale
Final grades will be calculated using the weighting above and will be assigned according to the plus/minus grade cutoffs listed below. (The University of Texas at Austin does not recognize the grade A+, therefore, any assignment grades transmitted to the high school will be numerically based). This course does not round, therefore, an 89.99999 is a B+

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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DEADLINE POLICY—NO LATE PAPERS ARE ACCEPTED
This course has hard deadlines and late work is not accepted. If you have been drafted by the military, are in the hospital, have a religious holiday for a religion you actually practice, or have an emergency beyond your control that prevents you from submitting a college assessment during your scheduled time, you must communicate this information to your high school teacher and college teachers to request a deadline extension. Likewise, if you have a registered disability with your school, appropriate lead time must be given to the instructor as per the policy below. Extracurricular activities, such as sports, are not acceptable reasons for a deadline extension in a College course. Deadline extensions are decided on a case-by-case basis. Once a deadline extension has been granted you must meet it. Unexcused missed work will result in a grade of 0 points, or an F. We will not be able to provide any deadline extensions once essay grades have been released, so be proactive in your requests and manage your time wisely.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CORE VALUES
The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.”

SCHOLASTIC HONESTY
Before beginning the course, complete the OnRamps Orientation course in Canvas, which includes exercises about academic integrity. Turning in work that is not your own, or any other form of scholastic dishonesty, will result in a major course penalty, possibly failure of the course. This standard applies to all drafts and assignments, and a report of the incident will be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Students and filed in your permanent UT record. So, take care to read and understand the Statement on Scholastic Responsibility, which can be found online at http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/rhetoric/firstyearwriting/plagiarismcollusion.php. If you have any doubts about your use of sources, ask your instructor for help before handing in the assignment.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
If you receive high school accommodations/modifications related to a disability, you may also receive accommodations in your OnRamps course. Accommodations in an OnRamps course follow accommodations in your Individual Education Plan or 504 paperwork that has been provided by the high school that are allowable in alignment with UT Austin accommodations. Accommodations are individualized and based on your need and disability. You must make your need for accommodations known to the UT Austin Instructor of Record prior to the due date for an assignment in order to use accommodations for that assignment. You are strongly encouraged to provide information about your need for accommodations at the beginning of the course or immediately following changes to your Individual Education Plan or 504 paperwork.

Possible accommodations that are allowable depending on your need and disability include extended test time, test administration in a reduced-distraction area, utilizing speech software, using a calculator in certain circumstances, or reading test questions aloud (but NOT explaining the questions).

You may make a request for an accommodation in your college distance course by using the secure form at this link: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/69fa2f6b8dd9429d9e598004bc8cacf1

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
OnRamps students are subject to the University’s academic integrity policies. Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University’s Honor Code:

“As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity.”
This means that work you produce on assignments and exams is all your own work, unless it is specifically assigned as group work. The Instructor of Record or your high school teacher will make it clear for each assignment or exam whether collaboration is allowed.

Always cite your sources. If you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in work submitted in a previous class, you must make that clear using MLA citation strategies for paraphrasing and quoting. Otherwise, the work is considered plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, up to and including failure of the assignment or of the entire course.

You are responsible for reading and understanding UT’s Academic Honesty Policy which can be found here: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php).

More information about academic integrity may be found in the mandatory OnRamps Orientation in Canvas.

**COLLEGE CREDIT**

This is a college course delivered via distance education through a dual-enrollment program, which means you may earn credit through the UT Austin University Extension for RHE 306 in addition to earning high school credit.

Your high school teacher is responsible for assigning high school grades and determining high school credit. The OnRamps Instructor of Record is responsible for assigning college grades and determining college eligibility and credit. High school grades may differ from college grades, even on identical assignments, because of differences in high school and college expectations. Your high school grades AND work will not contribute to your college grade.

**Eligibility for the Opportunity to Earn College Credit**

For OnRamps RHE 306 the individual student’s final total weighted GPA of college assignments determines which of these three eligibility categories they fall into:

1. 70 or higher*—eligible to earn credit—A student receiving a 70 or higher will default to accepting credit. Grades of a C and higher will go on the student’s record (and can be ordered as a transcript) unless he or she explicitly declines credit in the OnRamps Student Portal system. Students will have an opportunity in January to review their accept and decline credit choices in the OnRamps Student Portal system.

2. 60-69.99*—eligible to earn credit—Grades in the range 60-69.9999 are deemed eligible for college credit. These D grades default to declining credit which means they do not go on the student’s record unless the student explicitly opts to accept it in the OnRamps Student Portal system. Students will have an opportunity in January to review their accept and decline credit choices in the OnRamps Student Portal system.

3. 59.99* and lower—ineligible (not eligible earn credit)—Grades of 59.99 and lower are ineligible for credit. Students receiving these grades do not have any accept or decline choices for this class, but may have choices for other courses. This course will not appear on their UT transcript.

*There is no rounding up or down of scores in RHE306.

**COLLEGE CREDIT PROCESS**

Throughout the semester, you will view information and indicate decisions about your college course in the OnRamps Student Portal ([http://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/ce/osis](http://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/ce/osis)). You will access the portal to register for your course, view your eligibility status, select a college credit type (if you are eligible to earn college credit), view your final course grade, and indicate your decision to accept or decline any college credit earned.

The table below describes the college credit process. Throughout the year you will be provided with detailed information and instructions for accessing the portal and indicating your decisions about your college course.
**Important Steps and Dates in College Credit Process—MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Dates (Central Time)</th>
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| 1    | Visit the OnRamps Student Portal to select the type of credit you wish to earn if you qualify for eligibility for college credit:  
      - **Letter Grade:** You are taking the course for a letter grade, such as A, B, C, or D. If you earn and accept credit for the course, the letter grade you earn will appear on your UT Austin transcript,  
      - **Pass/Fail:** You are taking the course for credit only. If you earn and accept credit for the course, “CR” indicating credit earned will appear on your UT Austin transcript. | Mon. Oct. 1, 8am – Fri. Oct. 19, 5pm |
| 2    | UT Austin Instructor of Record determines your eligibility for the opportunity to earn college credit based on grades on college assignments and assessments completed during the first part of the academic term.  
      Visit the OnRamps Student Portal to find out if you are eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit. | Mon. Jan. 14, 8am |
| 3    | UT Austin Instructor of Record determines whether to award college credit based on your grades on college assessments in the course.  
      - **Letter grade of D- or above or Pass:** You earned credit and will be issued a UT Austin transcript if you choose to accept credit.  
      - **Letter grade of F or Fail:** You did not earn credit and will have no academic record for the course at UT Austin. | Mon. Jan 14, 8am – Fri. Jan 25, 5pm |
|      | **ACCEPT/DECLINE WINDOW:** Visit OnRamps Student Portal to find out your final grade and whether you earned college credit. Elect to accept or decline any credit earned. If you decline credit, you will have no academic record for the course at UT Austin. | |
| 4    | Transcripts available for both RHE306 and RHE309K. Please see the transcripts information page for more information. http://onramps.utexas.edu/resources/transcripts/ | Mon. June 10 |

**LETTER GRADE VS. PASS/FAIL**

You may elect to take the course for a letter grade or as Pass/Fail. Regardless of the option you choose, you may drop the course in May according to OnRamps late drop policy. If you enroll in the course for a letter grade and you attend UT Austin, then your UT transcript will have a letter grade for the course and will factor into your GPA. If you enroll in the course as Pass/Fail and you pass an OnRamps course, this will not be factored into your GPA should you enroll at UT Austin. Courses taken for Pass/Fail designation at UT Austin do not fulfill core curriculum requirements at the University. The applicability toward a degree for Pass/Fail courses is entirely up to the UT Austin college, program, and major. Students are encouraged to contact their planned major departments to determine whether OnRamps courses taken Pass/Fail count toward that major at UT Austin.

If you plan to attend a college other than UT Austin, please consult that college to fully understand how letter grades and Pass/Fail designations are treated in terms of transfer. For many Texas institutions, OnRamps courses will transfer as credit without the letter grade.

**CLAIMING UT CREDIT**

All enrolled students that successfully meet the college-readiness requirements and complete the college course will be assigned a final college course grade in May. You may elect to claim your UT credit or not.
We encourage you to discuss this choice with your high school counselor. If you accept your letter grade for UT credit, that credit is guaranteed to transfer to public Texas colleges and universities. Save this syllabus in case the college you choose to attend needs it to determine course equivalency.

This is a no-risk proposition. If you are not satisfied with your college grade, you don’t need to claim it. If you are, take the credit wherever you go to school. Either way, you will have experience with what is expected in college, and you will be ready to handle it.