



# TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

## OnRamps Rhetoric Syllabus

Mr. Austin Gilkeson

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### **Tutorial Times: TBD**

**Course Description:** OnRamps Rhetoric is a Dual Enrollment course offered through Westside High School and the University of Texas at Austin. Students will work to achieve both their English IV credit and 6 college credits through UT-Austin that will be accepted by almost all colleges nationwide.

OnRamps Rhetoric is a research and writing course that will help students hone their abilities to understand and utilize rhetorical elements in their writing. The course will also prepare students for the rigors of college.

Students will complete 5 major assignments over the course of the class, which will be graded by faculty at UT-Austin and will count for major grades in the high school course.

### **Materials:**

Folder  
Composition Notebook  
Blue or Black Pens  
Pencils  
Highlighter

### **Expectations:**

- Students will arrive to class prepared, in dress code, with ID around neck, and laptop charged.
- Students will place phones and AirPods/Headphones in bags/pockets for the duration of class.
- Students will stay on task and put forth their best effort in their work.
- Students will encourage others to participate.
- Students will use independent work time to complete class work.
- Students will be respectful of the time, the teacher, their classmates, and themselves.

### **Grading Policy:**

Major Grades: 70%

Minor Grades: 30%

Note that there are two types of assignments in this course: high school assignments and college assignments. High school assignments will include both major and minor grades and will be graded by Mr. Gilkeson. College assignments will be graded by faculty at UT-Austin and that grade will be used for major grades in the high school course.

For High School Assignments: Failed major assignments can be corrected or retaken for a 75. Corrections and retakes must be completed within a week of the original grade posting. Speak with me so that I may let you know which plan of action you must take. Minor assignments like quizzes and daily work **cannot** be retaken or corrected for credit.

### **Cell Phone Policy:**

**Cell phones are not permitted during class time under any circumstances.** Phones should be placed in your bag or pocket during class. If you are aware of an emergency situation in which you'll need to be contacted during the school day, have the caller contact the front office. They will pass the message along to you. Under no circumstances should you charge a phone using a laptop. **Students found using their phone in class will experience the consequences below, as mandated by school and district policy:**

***-Offense 1: Warning.***

***-Offense 2: Phone gets bagged.***

***-Offense 3: Referral to Dean / Call home.***

### **Tutoring:**

If you feel you need help, please do not hesitate to come to tutorials. It's okay to not know, but it's not okay to not try. I want to be able to help you do your absolute best.

### **Help with Application Essays/Resumes/Cover Letters/Etc.:**

I am happy to help you with essays for college and scholarship applications, as well as resumes, cover letters, and other writing you need to do outside of class. I am usually in my room and available at lunch and during 8<sup>th</sup> Period. However, you **MUST ask me ahead of time** and we can work out a time to work on them.

### **Letters of Recommendation:**

I am happy to write you a letter of recommendation for college applications, scholarships, internships, jobs, etc. For me to write you a letter, you **MUST email** me and include the following information:

1. Your name.
2. Name of the college, scholarship, internship, job, etc.
3. Due date.
4. How I submit the letter (examples: send to you the student, send to a college, upload through Naviance, etc.)
5. Specific information about you that you want me to include (examples: jobs you've had, comments on your class work, etc.)

Letters of Recommendation MUST be requested **at least 2 weeks before the due date**.

**Communication:**

My email is open 24/7. However, this does not mean that I will respond right away. Allow at least 24 hours for a response. I DO NOT check email over the weekend or during holidays. Do NOT wait until the last minute to ask a question through email. When emailing me, please use your school email. In the subject of your email, include your first and last name, class period, and a brief mention of the topic. For example: "John Doe 4th Period- Literary Criticism Essay."

**"Handle with Care":**

If you are having a bad day and do not feel like you can participate in class, please email me ahead of time, or speak to me personally, and let me know so I can adjust my expectations for your participation in class that day. Please note I will only accept "handle with care" emails for an individual student **once per cycle**. I understand that we often have more than one bad day, but it is important that you participate in class so you do not fall behind.

**Cheating/Plagiarism:**

Cheating and Plagiarism will result in an investigation of the student by the University of Texas and may result in being removed from the course and loss of college credit. UT-Austin takes academic integrity very seriously. Please ask for help if you are not able to complete an assignment.

By cheating, you are doing a disservice to yourself and giving up opportunities to learn. Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Using ChatGPT or other A.I. programs is considered cheating. If you choose to cheat or plagiarize, you will receive a '0' on the assignment and a 'U' in conduct. Repeated cheating will result in a call home and a report to your dean. Further information about Westside's cheating/plagiarism policy can be found in the Westside Honor Code.

**Classwork/Homework:**

Work done in class is expected at the end of the period or on the date and time specified. Students may attend tutorials for extra assistance or to complete work that was not completed in class.

### **Late Work:**

For high school assignments, late work **will** be accepted, **but you cannot receive more than a 70 unless you have requested an extension.** Late work will not be accepted after the end of the cycle in which it was assigned. Please note that while deadlines for the college course can be extended by up to 2 days, that is at the discretion of UT.

### **Extensions:**

Extensions will be granted on a case-by-case basis. For college assignments, please ask me ahead of time and I can try to extend the deadline. However, deadlines for college assignments are set by UT-Austin and therefore there is limited flexibility.

### **Absent Work:**

Deadlines set by UT-Austin for college assignments must be met even if you are absent.

### **Hall Passes:**

Students using a hall pass must write their name on the board and erase it when they return. One man and one woman are allowed out at a time. You must take the hall pass with you and return it to the designated spot. Failure to return the hall pass will result in disciplinary consequences.

### **Other Passes:**

If you need to see the nurse, Wrap-Around, your dean, or a social worker, please let me know and I will write you a pass.

### **Tutorials/Lunch Pass:**

If you need to see me during lunch, please ask and I will email you a PDF that you can show on your phone to the teacher on hall duty. The PDF is also available on Canvas in the "Files" section for OnRamps Rhetoric.