1. VERNON COLLEGE GENERAL EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

General education at Vernon College reflects the institution’s deep conviction that successful, satisfying lives require a wide range of skills and knowledge. Through the Texas Core Curriculum and through support and reinforcement in all non-core courses, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

CORE OBJECTIVES (GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES)

* Critical Thinking Skills– to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
* Communication Skills– to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
* Empirical and Quantitative Skills– to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
* Teamwork - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
* Personal Responsibility– to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision making
* Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

II. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions. Prerequisite: ENGL 1301. Special Fee: $22.00

III. REQUIRED BACKGROUND:

Successful completion of ENGL 1301 or a similar course from another college or by CLEP exam.

IV. TEXTS, OTHER REFERENCE MATERIALS:

 Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers. *Rules for Writers*. 7th ed. Boston: Bedford / St.

 Martin’s, 2012. Print.

 Wood, Nancy V. *Perspectives on Argument*. 8th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2014. Print.

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

Lecture, discussion, some small group activities, showing of audiovisual aids as appropriate, introduction to the use of the library for research.

Students desiring auxiliary aids and services for this course should make their requests to the instructor and the Special Services Director.

VI. COURSE CONTENT:

Students will learn to practice rhetorical analysis with appropriate terminology, analyzing a variety of texts for strategy, purpose, and occasion. In addition, students will be introduced to the principles of writing the term paper: finding a topic, researching the literature, developing a thesis supported by fact and expert opinion, and documenting the sources used according to the conventions of documentation-style guide chosen by the instructor for the class. At least one library-based research paper is a requirement for this course.

VII. COURSE OUTCOMES:

 Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

* Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.
* Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.
* Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.
* Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.
* Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)

VIII. ASSESSMENT:

The student will demonstrate proficiency in the objectives listed above through participation in class activities/ projects, performance on quizzes/examinations, and completion of assigned essays and a significant research paper.

**Attendance:** Students are required to follow the attendance policy set forth in the student handbook; however, if you miss a class, remember that it is **your responsibility** to know what you missed and what is coming up.

Students are held responsible for finding out what they missed when they were absent. If a student knows in advance that he or she will be absent on a particular day, it is best practice to come and talk with me about what will be missed—prior to the absence. When making up missed work, students will be allowed the same number of days to complete the assignment as the rest of the class.

Make-up work policy will follow the policy set forth in the student handbook. Students will not receive above a 70 on any work turned in after the due date. Any work submitted three days after the due date will be a zero.

**Procrastination on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.** Papers and assignments must be turned in by the due date. Hardware and software difficulties are no excuse for late work. If you are absent, send your paper with a friend, or papers may be emailed to my Iowa Park email.

**Grades**: Students are to turn in their work on time. Averages for each six weeks period will be calculated using the following policy:
               All grades will be classified as a “multiplier” test ranging from x1 to x4. No single grade will count more than 20%, and at least six grades will be taken every six weeks.

Example:

Essays= x4, Tests= x3, Quizzes= x2, Daily work= x1

Participation in class discussions is part of daily grades

**Plagiarism/Copying/Cheating:**

All work presented in this course must be solely the product of the individual student. Copying, cheating, or handing in identical work on any assignments will be considered academic misconduct and will result in appropriate administrative action.

Be aware of the following: **Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. There will be NO second chances. I will review every essay and paragraph turned in as original work. If I find that is has been copied or plagiarized in any way, you will receive a 0.**

**Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the information is common knowledge.**

**Student expectations/ Classroom Rules**:

  Come to class prepared and on time

  Respect all people and their property

  Listen and follow directions

  No cell phones, tablets, mp3 players or other devices unless instructed

  No food or drink (Clear water bottles are acceptable)

  All school rules as outlined in the handbook are to be followed

Any current novel or reading material that has been assigned