



**English 1301, 04E TR**  
**9:30-10:45am**  
**College Reading and Writing**  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Preslee Beumer  
Office Location: Talbot 126  
Office Hours: F2F Tues and Thr 1:00pm-2:45pm  
University Email Address: pwallace1@leomail.tamuc.edu  
Communication Response Time: Email: Within 24 Hours (M-F), 48 Hours (Sa-Su)  
Slack: Same day  
[https://join.slack.com/t/eng130104e/shared\\_invite/zt-2abogygoj-c932L8HwKkKaO6X9R3uE2Q](https://join.slack.com/t/eng130104e/shared_invite/zt-2abogygoj-c932L8HwKkKaO6X9R3uE2Q)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Textbook(s) Required:** For this course, we will be using a platform called Top Hat that is included through A&M-Commerce's Inclusive Access fee that was charged to your bursar account when you registered for this course. **You will not need to make any additional purchases.** Top Hat will be accessible through our course shell in D2L. While you will receive an email about being able to opt out of this inclusive access, Top Hat is required for the course.

To gain access to Top Hat, you will create an account using your LeoMail (university email) when you receive an email from the campus bookstore. Be on the lookout for this email at the start of the semester. If you have any issues with Top Hat, you should contact **support@tophat.com**.

The join code for our course section is 970421

Through Top Hat, you will gain access to the following course materials:

Johnson, Gavin P., Ashanka Kumari, Emily Littlejohn, Brian McShane, and Rachel McShane, Eds. *Writing Inquiry* [2023 edition]. Top Hat.

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**Software Required:**

- D2L
- Top Hat
- LeoMail
- A word processing program: *Students have free access to [Office 365](#).*

**Course Description**

ENGL 1301: College Reading and Writing. Three semester hours. Introduces students to writing as an extended, complex, recursive process and prepares students for English 1302, which more rigorously examines the forms and structures of argument and means to approaching multiple audiences. In 1301 students will write weekly, and will work on essay organization and development. The course will emphasize close reading, summarizing, and analysis of expository texts, including student writing.

**Core Curriculum Course Objectives**

- **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;
- **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.

**English 1301 Learning Outcomes**

- **Define** important terms/concepts including, but not limited to, literacy, sponsor, code-switching, code-meshing, embodiment, and writing processes;
- **Discuss** the ways these terms expand based on cultural and communicative practices;
- **Examine** scholarly, personal, and/or multimodal course texts that detail varying understandings and applications of key terms/concepts;
- **Develop** writing processes that allow for personal exploration of key terms/concepts;
- **Engage** in collaboration that supports individualized and communal understanding and writing development;
- **Consider** the various affordances and constraints of composing using different technologies (analog, digital, and/or multimodal), practices, styles, and/or languages;
- **Compose** texts across different genres and media of writing that further expand key terms/concepts based on personal experiences and engagement with important course texts;
- **Reflect** on your writing experiences and literacy practices;
- **Design** individualized learning goals appropriate for a first-year writing course; and

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- **Assess** individualized learning goals based on labor and performance alongside feedback from peers and the instructor.

### **Instructional Methods**

This section of ENG 1301 will meet face-to-face Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30-10:45am. Class time will revolve around discussions of assigned readings, core concepts, and opportunities to develop writing skills.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

I believe that as an educator it is my job to encourage and support students in a way that creates opportunities for them to develop their learning styles and meet their potential. I strive to create healthy learning environments, community connection and discourse, and consistent personal growth through a multimodal teaching approach. I will use strategies such as open discourse and the freedom to discuss hard topics, frequent life check-ins, and practicing patience and understanding to ensure that our classroom community flourishes.

With all that being said it is each student's responsibility to put effort into their education, be respectful of other students, and complete assignments/coursework. I highly encourage each student to attend as many classes as possible, create schedules with blocked time frames to work on assignments (please visit the Writing Center at Talbot Hall), annotate readings, and attend as many office hours as possible to ensure success in this course.

## **COURSE ASSESSMENT**

As an instructor it is my job to provide feedback and guide you toward educational growth not to designate a number value to reflect effort and participation. Feedback will be broken down into three categories:

### **1) What stood out/ was exceptional about the assignment.**

This will be the section that will walk you through what you did well.

### **2) Suggestions/Questions**

This will be the section that will guide the revision or discussion regarding the assignment.

### **3) Final thoughts/Revision timeline**

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This section will end the feedback and remind you of any resources, or deadlines for the assignment revisions if applicable.

Each assignment will be given a pass, half, or fail “grade”. Please note that any assignments that do not receive a passing grade will have the opportunity for revision.

**Pass (100%):** The assignment has met all requirements, was turned in by the due date, and/or demonstrates critical thinking from the student.

**Half (50%):** The assignment has met some of the requirements but may be missing key elements, was not turned in on time, or needs further research/expansion of ideas.

**Fail (0%):** The assignment is not complete or was not turned in.

Please communicate ahead of time if you are struggling with a deadline and accommodations will be made if possible. I am devoted to your educational growth and want to ensure assignments create positive experiences and are not damaging to your wellbeing.

Midterm and final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%  
B = 80%-89%  
C = 70%-79%  
D = 60%-69%  
F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

|                                             |                            |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Writing Assignments</b>                  | <b>40%</b>                 |
| Writing Histories and Your Goals Reflection | <i>complete/incomplete</i> |
| Rhetorical Analysis Projects                | 10%                        |
| Narrating Your Literacies                   | 10%                        |
| Pressured to Perform                        | 10%                        |
| Reading a Body’s Rhetoric                   | 10%                        |
| <b>English 1301 Semester Portfolio</b>      | <b>40%</b>                 |
| <b>Writing Activities</b>                   | <b>10%</b>                 |

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|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Top Hat Questions | 10% |
|-------------------|-----|

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|       |      |
|-------|------|
| TOTAL | 100% |
|-------|------|

### Assignments

Full prompts for assignments are available in Top Hat and/or D2L.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed to access and navigate D2L and Tophat

#### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

## Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Communication is very important within this course. I respond to emails within 24 hours M-F (sometimes sooner), but if you want an immediate response please come and see me during office hours.

I am available Tuesdays and Thursdays face-to-face 1:00pm-2:45pm. **Additional days/times available by appointment only.**

When sending an email please put your **course number in the subject line** so that I can make sure I am giving you the correct information. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or if you need clarification on assignments. Life happens and I want each student to have the opportunity and resources they need to succeed.

Attendance: while it does not impact your final grade, it is documented and highly encouraged. I do not expect you to explain or justify you missing class, but if I am concerned with an abundance of absences I will reach out to you.

Assignment submissions will need to DOC, DOCX, or PDF.  
**If I cannot open/access your assignment I cannot grade it!**

I will not tolerate racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise offensive behavior or language. First offenses will be met with a verbal warning, additional offenses will result in dismissal from the course and students will be reported for misconduct.

## Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with **Dr. Gavin P. Johnson, the Director of Writing** ([gavin.johnson@tamuc.edu](mailto:gavin.johnson@tamuc.edu)). In the case when the Director of Writing is the instructor, the student should contact **Dr. Hunter Hayes, Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages** ([hunter.hayes@tamuc.edu](mailto:hunter.hayes@tamuc.edu)). Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

## Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

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## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **AI Use in Courses**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

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In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness**

To measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, throughout the semester, I will collect some of the ungraded texts you produce. The texts will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness," <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx>). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

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Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)  
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:  
<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **RESOURCES**

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Writing Center**

The Writing Center offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. We welcome all writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike. In fact, we work from the premise that all writers, no matter their ability level, benefit from the feedback of knowledgeable readers. The Writing Center staff is trained to provide writers with just

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this service. In short, we are here to help you help yourself. The Writing Center offers one-on-one sessions with writers—both face-to-face and online—begin on the hour and last up to 45 minutes. You cannot sign up for back-to-back appointments, but you may sign up for as many appointments as you'd like each day and week. For more information, visit <https://www.tamuc.edu/writing-center>

## Library

The Velma Waters Library supports the research, learning and teaching interests of students, faculty and staff. Connect with a librarian, explore our research and course guides, and attend workshops.

- **Chat with a Librarian!** Get immediate assistance with our [chat service](#) on the main Library page: <https://www.tamuc.edu/library/>
- **Email** [ask@tamuc.libanswers.com](mailto:ask@tamuc.libanswers.com). We will respond to your email within 24 hours, often much sooner.
- **Text** your question to 903.225.2862.
- **Call** the Waters Library at 903.886.5718 or contact the librarian for your college/department to discuss your research needs.
- **Meet With Us!** Don't stay up all night searching Google. Schedule a one-on-one consultation held in-person or via Zoom with the librarian for your college/academic department.
- **Visit Us!** We'd love to meet you in-person!
  - Waters Library Research Office: Second Floor, Room 213
  - Waters Library University Archives: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 406A
  - A&M – Commerce at Mesquite Metroplex Center: Second Floor, Study Room

## Student Career Preparedness Office

Meet with career advisors who can help you with the resources and tools needed to prepare you for your next phase after graduation and beyond. To schedule an appointment, you can either call 903.468.3223, emailing [hirealion@tamuc.edu](mailto:hirealion@tamuc.edu) or go online by clicking [schedule an appointment](#).

## Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

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## **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

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