



EAST TEXAS A&M

— UNIVERSITY —

ENG 1301 SECTION COLLEGE READING & WRITING PROTEST AND THE RHETORICAL SITUATION

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Amanda Burns
Office Location: SGPHS Alex DX101
Office Hours: By appointment only
University Email Address: amanda.burns@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: 24 hours except Sundays

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Laptop or iPad; Cellphone to access DuoMobile
Reliable internet access
Access to D2L

Supplementary Readings – Not required, but good to have

Strunk & White's *Element of Style*

They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing by Cathy Birkenstein,
Gerald Gaff, and Russell K. Durst

A good dictionary

Course Description

ENG 1301 - College Reading & Writing

Hours: 3

Note: This course satisfies the "Communications" option in the Core Curriculum.

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

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emphasize close reading, summarizing, and analysis of expository texts, including student writing.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. **Understanding writing as a process:** Students will be introduced to writing as an "extended, complex, recursive process".
2. **Developing rhetorical awareness:** The course focuses on helping students understand and explain the rhetorical moves of an argument, including Ethos, Pathos, and Logos.
3. **Close reading and analysis:** Students will learn to analyze and summarize expository texts, including their own writing.
4. **Essay organization and development:** Students will advance their skills in organizing and developing academic essays.
5. **Adapting writing to audience and purpose:** Students will practice adjusting their writing style to suit different audiences and purposes.
6. **Working with texts:** Students will practice reading, reflecting on, and responding critically to a variety of texts.
7. **Employing writing conventions:** Students will be expected to use edited American English in academic essays and format texts according to appropriate stylistic conventions.
8. **Developing critical thinking skills:** Students will evaluate and analyze information and develop reasoned positions.
9. **Effective communication skills:** Students will demonstrate effective writing skills, as well as oral and nonverbal communication.

These outcomes emphasize that English 1301 serves as a foundational course that prepares students for more advanced writing in English 1302 and beyond.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must be able to compose and format their essays on a laptop or iPad using word processing software like Microsoft Word or Google Docs. They must also know to access materials on the D2L learning management system and to upload their responses and essays by the designated deadline.

Instructional Methods

Music Mondays will examine a piece of protest music for research and context. Each will have a small group presentation. There will be four essays in this course, and each essay will focus on a different topic, and a different genre of essay. There will also be a

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reading each week, with a short response due. Fridays will be dedicated to peer reviews of the current essay. One day a week will be set aside for working in class.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

You are responsible for your grade. You are responsible for knowing what assignments are due, when they are due, and how they are turned in. You are responsible for budgeting your time to make sure you get everything turned in on or before the due date.

If you come to class every day, write down what is due when on a calendar/planner, refer to that calendar/planner often, turn in those assignments on the syllabus on or before the due date, and actively engage in lessons, you will be successful in this course.

GRADING

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

Final ETAMU Grade	Final GPISD Grade
A	95
B	85
C	75
D	65
F	55

Assessments

Assignments	Due Date	Percent Weight
Music Monday Presentations	Mondays	5%
Responses	Tuesdays	20%
Peer Reviews	Fridays	15%
Essay 1	Sept. 19	15%
Essay 2	Oct. 17	15%

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Assignments	Due Date	Percent Weight
Essay 3	Nov. 14	15%
Essay 4	Dec. 8	15%
Total		100%

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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.

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, McDonald's, a ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

This course is designed to foster a strong sense of community and active learning, and your interaction with me, the instructor, is a crucial part of that process. I am committed to providing regular and substantive interaction to support your learning and success in this course.

Communication and Availability:

- I will be accessible to you through the following channels:
 - **In person:** before, after, and during instruction time. I am happy to meet with you to discuss anything you need.
 - **Email:** I will check my email amanda.burns@etamu.edu at least six times a week and will respond to student emails within 24 hours. I will not check email on Sunday.
- I will post regular announcements on the course platform to keep you informed of important deadlines, updates, and learning resources.

Feedback and Support:

- I will provide feedback on all major assignments within two weeks of the due date. This feedback will be constructive and focused on helping you improve your understanding and performance.
- I will provide regular opportunities for you to ask questions and receive clarification on course content. This may include:
 - **In-class discussions:** We will have regular discussions in class where you can ask questions and share your thoughts.
 - **Personalized feedback:** I will provide personalized feedback on your assignments, highlighting your strengths and areas for improvement.
- I will encourage you to reach out to me if you are feeling overwhelmed or struggling with the course material. I am here to support you and help you succeed.

Student Responsibilities:

- Monitor your own progress through D2L, and reach out if you notice you are struggling with the material or falling behind on assignments.

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- Actively participate in class discussions and lessons.
- Complete all assignments on time and to the best of your ability.
- Read all course materials and come to class prepared.
- Utilize the available resources, including office hours and discussion forums, to seek help when needed.
- Maintain respectful and professional communication with your instructor and classmates.

This statement outlines the ways in which I will interact with you throughout the course and how you can interact with me. I believe that open communication and consistent support are essential for a successful learning experience. I look forward to working with you this semester!

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

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.

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.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

ETAMU Attendance

Absence is not an excuse for ignorance. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact one of your classmates and/or check D2L for any learning materials posted (lecture slides, assignment prompts, rubrics, etc.) to get the information you missed. If you are truly unable to find an answer to your questions through your peers or through your own investigations, you can also email me with specific questions. If you anticipate needing to miss class on the day that an assignment is due, reach out and work with me

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so that we can arrange for you to turn the work in without penalty if you have a valid excuse. [see University attendance policy below]

ACCORDING TO THE GPISD DUAL-CREDIT HANDBOOK, YOU WILL RECEIVE A 10 POINT DEDUCTION (AN ENTIRE LETTER GRADE) AFTER MISSING TWO WEEKS (10 DAYS) OF CLASS.

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

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

East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

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<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

IF YOU REQUIRE AN ACCOMODATION AT GPISD, YOU MUST CONTACT THE Office of Student Disability Resources and Services TO RECEIVE YOUR ACCOMODATION.

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

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.

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or

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webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy

East Texas A&M University 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.

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Schedule (Dates and assignments are subject to change at instructor's discretion)

For the most part, responses to readings will be due every Tuesday before midnight; essays will be due Fridays before midnight. There are exceptions to this. READ THE SYLLABUS AND PAY ATTENTION TO CHANGES IN CLASS

Week	Date	Topics and Activities	Readings	Assignments Due
1	8/25	M – Music Monday: “F tha Police” NWA T – Course Introduction; Essay 1 W –Pinker TH –TED Talk – How to Start a Movement F –Plagiarism	“In Defense of Dangerous Ideas” – Steven Pinker	M-MM Presentations T – Response to “Dangerous Ideas”
2	9/1	M – LABOR DAY; NO SCHOOL T – The Writing Process; Organizing the Essay W – Tan & how native language can be a powerful form of protest TH –The Narrative – It matters how you tell a story (Drunk History Harriet Tubman) F – Peer Reviews	“Mother Tongue” – Amy Tan	T – Response to “Mother Tongue” F – In-class peer review
3	9/8	M – Music Monday: “For What it’s Worth” Buffalo Springfield T – In Class Reading/Writing W – Span TH – The Rhetorical Situation; Writing the Hook F – Peer Reviews	“Protesters, Know That I Not Only See You...I Am You” Christopher M. Span	M – MM Presentations T - Response to “Protesters” F- Peer reviews 9/10 Fall Census Date

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4	9/15	M – Music Monday: “Fortunate Son” Creedence Clearwater Revival T - In Class Reading/Writing W– O’Brien & Vietnam protesting TH – Thesis Statement and what makes a successful protest F – Peer Review	“The Things They Carried” Tim O’Brien	M -MM Presentations T - Response to “Things They Carried” F - Peer Review ESSAY 1 DUE 9/19
5	9/22	M – Music Monday: “American Idiot” Green Day T – Intro to Essay 2; Deconstructing a presented argument using pathos, logos, and ethos W– Ronson and how canceling people is protest TH – In Class Reading/Writing F– NO SCHOOL	“God That was Awesome” Jon Ronson	M – MM Presentations T - Response to “God that was Awesome”
6	9/29	M – Music Monday: “Mississippi Goddamn” Nina Simone T–Writing the Introduction W– Hale TH – In Class Reading/Writing F– Peer Review	“Student Activism and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle”	M – MM Presentations T - Response to “Student Activism and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle” F - Peer Review
7	10/6	M – Music Monday: “Know Your Rights” The Clash T – Banned Books Week – The American Library Association website W– Perez TH – Body Paragraphs F– NO SCHOOL	“Banned Books: Author Ashley Hope Perez on her Book <i>Out of Darkness</i> ”	M – MM Presentations T - Response to “Banned Books”
8	10/13	M- NO SCHOOL T– In Class Reading/Writing W– Gregory and how stand- up comedy is a form of protest T – Writing the Conclusion F– Peer Review	“Shame” Dick Gregory	T - Response to “Shame” F - Peer Review ESSAY 2 DUE 10/17

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9	10/20	M– Music Monday: “Strange Fruit” Billie Holiday T– Essay 3 – Critical Analysis Essay W– Salahu-Din T– In Class Reading/Writing F– Peer Review	“The Evidence of Things Unsaid” Tulani Salahu-Din	MM Discussion T - Response to “The Evidence of Things Unsaid” F – Peer Review
10	10/27	M– Music Monday: “Killing in the Name” Rage Against the Machine T– TEACHER OUT W– Orwell and the difficulty of doing what is right T – Tone v. Mood F– Peer Reviews	“Shooting an Elephant” George Orwell	M – MM Group Presentation T – Response to “Shooting an Elephant” F – Peer Review LAST DAY TO DROP 10/30
11	11/3	M– Music Monday: “This is America” Childish Gambino T– Using the Rhetorical Situation for photos W– Elzie TH– In Class Reading/Writing F– Peer Review	“When I Close My Eyes at Night, I see People Running Away from Tear Gas” Johnetta Elzie	M – MM Group Presentation T – Response to “When I Close My Eyes at Night, I see People Running Away from Tear Gas” F – Peer Review
12	11/10	M – Music Monday: “The Revolution Will Not be Televised” Gil Scott-Heron T– Tone v. Mood W –King TH – In Class Reading/Writing F – Peer Review	“Letter from Birmingham Jail” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	M – MM Presentations T – “Letter from Birmingham Jail” F – ESSAY 3 DUE 11/14
13	11/17	M– Music Monday: “We are Mexico” Becky G T– Essay 4 – The Research Essay Using Quotes W– Rodriguez T– In Class Reading/Writing F– Peer Review Works Cited	“The Fear of Losing a Culture” Richard Rodriguez	M – MM Presentations T – Response to “The Fear of Losing a Culture” F – Peer Review

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14	11/24	NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING WEEK		
15	12/1	M – Music Monday “A Change is Gonna Come” Sam Cooke T – In class Reading/Writing W – In class Reading/Writing T – End of semester wrap up F– Peer Review		M – MM Presentations F – Peer Review
16	12/8	M – ESSAY 4 DUE F- LAST DAY OF SEMESTER		M – ESSAY 4 DUE 12/8

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