



EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

ENGL 1301.05E, ENGL 1301.09E College Reading & Writing | Spring 2026

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|----------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1301.05E | MWF 1:00 – 1:50pm | Talbot Hall #201 |
| 1301.09E | TTh 12:30 – 1:45pm | Talbot Hall #301 |

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Jason A. Walker

Office Location: Talbot #229

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 – 3:30pm

Office Phone: (903)886-5260

University Email Address: Jason.Walker@ETAMU.edu

Communication Response Time: 24 hours (weekdays), weekend emails answered Monday

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**.

To join Top Hat, you must click on the *Top Hat* link in your D2L course on a web browser. A Deep Link or the Top Hat launch link should be in the "Content" menu. Upon being re-directed to Top Hat, you can create an account if you are new to Top Hat or log in if you have an existing account. ***Please follow your teacher's specific directions and report any access issues immediately.***

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Additional Software Required:

- D2L
- An active LeoMail account that you check daily
- 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 AND 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students can achieve success in this class through the following:

- Attending *every* class,
- Allocating a weekly reading, and writing schedule,
- Asking for help from the Writing Center, or attending office hours

COURSE ASSESSMENT

As an instructor, my approach to classroom assessment is a through in depth written response to assignments. Additionally, I am available to have one-one-one meetings during office hours for further assessment explanation. In this way, students will opportunities to achieve success in this course. 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.

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Writing Assignments | 40% |
| 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% |
| English 1301 Semester Portfolio | 40% |
| Writing Activities | 20% |
| TOTAL | |
| | 100% |

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Proficiency in Microsoft Office or similar technologies.

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

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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](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, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late work will be penalized or will earn zero points, at the instructor's discretion. Missed assignments will earn zero points, unless PRIOR arrangements had been made with the instructor. In the case of extenuating circumstances beyond the students' reasonable control, the instructor will make a decision on a case-by-case basis. Failure to back up your work, system failures within the last 30 minutes of a submission window, or student error do not fall under extenuating circumstances. It is the students' responsibility to make sure that the assignments are properly submitted, on time, and backed up in multiple locations.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Communication

Communication is a key part of success in this course. I am available via email (Jason.Walker@ETAMU.edu) from 9am-5pm weekdays to discuss assignments and other course-related concerns. I also have walk-in office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-3:30 pm in Talbot Hall Room 229, or by appointment (email me to set up a time). Please note that I may not respond to emails after hours, but I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. Emails received over the weekend will be answered on Monday. Please include a proper opening, clear message and subject line, and closing salutation in emails. Here's an example:

To: Jason Walker (Jason.Walker@ETAMU.edu)
From: Student Name (sname23@leomail.etamu.edu)
Subject: Student Name. ENGL 1302.05E (or .09E). Office Hours Question

Dear Dr. Walker,

I would like to meet with you to discuss my thesis statement for the rhetorical analysis essay, however, I cannot make your office hours. Can I set up an appointment? I am available to meet Monday

Community Accountability

I strongly recommend that you get contact information for one or two other classmates. If you are absent, contact one of these classmates to ask about what you might have missed, provide one another support. These classmates might be the first ones you turn to when you are confused, have a question about what's due/when it's due, or are running late to class.

Attendance

Attendance in this course is mandatory. Successful completion of this course is dependent on regular attendance in class. It is your responsibility to log your attendance on the sign-in sheet that will be in the classroom during each class session. Students who do not sign in or who are more than 30 minutes late to class will be considered absent.

You are allowed 3 “free” absences during the term. For each absence over three, you will receive a 2.5% deduction in your final grade in the course. So, for example, if you miss 7 class meetings, there will be a 10% deduction in your final grade (essentially the loss of one letter grade). If you know you will miss class, you should contact me prior to your absence.

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. Charles. Woods, Interim Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages** (Charles.woods@etamu.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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Respect & Student Conduct

Each class is made up of diverse individuals with a variety of backgrounds and beliefs, so we won't always agree with one another on every issue. You will probably feel uneasy, uncomfortable, or challenged at some point in this class. In fact, those moments can often lead to greater insight and understanding. However, rudeness and insults will not be tolerated. Our classroom should be a respectful space where we all feel comfortable and safe sharing our thoughts, and professionalism and boundaries are very important to me as a professor.

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](#).

Inclusion Policy & Nondiscrimination Notice

Your value as a member of this course and university community at large is vital to me, regardless of social identity factors. While at times, the topic of class discussions, readings, and other activities may take you out of your comfort zone or even go against your individual perception of the world, you are expected to keep an open mind and evaluate claims based on facts and knowledge, rather than preconceived notions alone. For questions, concerns, and problems related to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, gender identity, sexuality, religion, veteran status, or other social or personal identity factors, please come talk to me.

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 based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

AI Use in Courses

The East Texas A&M University (ETAMU) Writing Program acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), and Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). The ETAMU Writing Program is guided by national, flagship organizations representing the discipline of English and the field of Writing Studies, including the Modern Language Association (MLA), National Council on the Teaching of English (NTCE), and the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) regarding the theorization and teaching of critical AI literacy. ETAMU Writing Program values a spectrum of beliefs about AI, GenAI, and AGI, ranging from ethical integration to absolute refusal. ETAMU Writing Program believes in and practices critical AI literacy alongside ethical, responsible integration of AI, GenAI, and AGI in our writing instruction, appropriately. We teach students to document their AI use in their writing and other curriculum deliverables while highlighting educational concerns about using these technologies. ETAMU Writing Program instructors share their position on and preferences for AI, GenAI, and AGI integration with students, and students follow the instructor's guidelines and the requirements of the course. Undocumented uses of AI, GenAI, and AGI can constitute an instance of academic dishonesty, including cases related to issues like plagiarism and misrepresentation in student deliverables.

Academic Integrity

The official statement on plagiarism and academic integrity from ETAMU is below:

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:

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[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

Basically, plagiarism is any attempt to pass off someone else's words or ideas as your own, but also not giving credit where credit is due. As your instructor, I want to know YOUR thoughts, YOUR ideas, and what YOU have to say—and it doesn't have to be perfect the first time. If you are struggling with an assignment, please come talk to me, and I will help you in any way that I can. Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

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

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

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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.

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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

East Texas A&M 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.etamu.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 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

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.etamu.edu/library>
- **Email** ask@etamu.libraryanswers.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: 4th Floor, Room 406A

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- A&M – Commerce at Mesquite Metroplex Center: Second Floor, Study Room

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

| Week | Date | Topic | Assignments |
|------|---------------------|---|--|
| 1 | January 12-18 | Course Introduction | Community Building Ice Breaker Due first class day at the end of class. Writing Histories & Reflection January 18 @ 11:59PM |
| 2 | January 19-25 | Unit 1: Writing, Rhetoric, and Analysis in College | Geo-Location Map Due January 25 @ 11:59 PM |
| 3 | January 25-31 | Unit 1: Writing, Rhetoric, and Analysis in College | Rhetorical Analysis Due January 31 @ 11:59PM |
| 4 | February 2-8 | Unit 2: Narrating Literacies: Writing, Communicating, and Being Across Contexts | Data Privacy Infographic Due February 8 @11:59PM |
| 5 | February 9-15 | Unit 2: Narrating Literacies: Writing, Communicating, and Being Across Contexts | Data Privacy Discussion and Reflection Due February 15 @ 11:59PM |
| 6 | February 16-22 | Unit 2: Narrating Literacies: Writing, Communicating, and Being Across Contexts | |
| 7 | February 23-March 1 | Unit 3: Code-Switching, Code-Meshing, and Tensions in Literacies | Narrating Your Literacies Due March 1 @ 11:59PM |
| 8 | March 2-8 | Unit 3: Code-Switching, Code-Meshing, and Tensions in Literacies | |
| 9 | March 9-15 | Unit 3: Code-Switching, Code-Meshing, and Tensions in Literacies | <i>Spring Break</i> |
| 10 | March 16-22 | Unit 4: Considering Embodiment | Pressure to Perform Due March 22 @ 11:59PM |
| 11 | March 23-29 | Unit 4: Considering Embodiment | |

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| Week | Date | Topic | Assignments |
|------|------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 12 | March 30-April 5 | Unit 4: Considering Embodiment | |
| 13 | April 6-12 | Capstone Portfolio | Reading the Body's Rhetoric Due April 12 @ 11:59PM |
| 14 | April 13-19 | Capstone Portfolio | |
| 15 | April 20-26 | Capstone Portfolio | |
| 16 | April 27-May 3 | FINALS WEEK | Final Due: May 3 @11:59PM |

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