



English 1301, 16W
College Reading and Writing
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Brittnee Lethermon

Office Location: East Texas A&M-Dallas, Literature & Languages Office

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 7:30am-9am, Wednesday 10:30am-11:30am (**Must be Scheduled via email**)

University Email Address: Brittnee.lethermon@etamu.edu

Communication Response Time: 48 hour email response time

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.

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

- Our course will be conducted entirely in person.

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%

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Writing Activities	10%
Discussion Posts	10%
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TOTAL	100%

Assignments

Full prompts for assignments are available on D2L.

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 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, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

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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

I will respond to emails within one working day (48 hours) of receipt.

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, the Director of Writing** (Charles.woods@etamu.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@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.

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>

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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

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

- **In light of the above procedure, any use of AI software in this class is disallowed. Students who are caught using AI on assignments will be reported immediately to Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty.**

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:

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[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](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/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf)

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

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](#)

[http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/
studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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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.

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

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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
 - 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@etamu.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

Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	January 12-18	Course Introduction	Discussion Due August January 18 @ 11:59pm
2	January 19-25	Unit 1: Writing, Rhetoric, and Analysis in College	Writing Histories & Reflection Due January 25th @ 11:59PM
3	January 26–February 1	Unit 1: Writing, Rhetoric, and Analysis in College	
4	February 2-8	Unit 1: Writing, Rhetoric, and Analysis in College	Rhetorical Analysis Due February 8th @11:59PM
5	February 9-15	Unit 2: Narrating Literacies: Writing, Communicating, and Being Across Contexts	
6	February 16-22	Unit 2: Narrating Literacies: Writing, Communicating, and Being Across Contexts	
7	February 23- March 1	Unit 2: Narrating Literacies: Writing, Communicating, and Being Across Contexts	Narrating Your Literacies Due March 1st @ 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 3: Code-Switching, Code-Meshing, and Tensions in Literacies	
11	March 23-29	Unit 3: Code-Switching, Code-Meshing, and Tensions in Literacies	Pressure to Perform Due March 29th @ 11:59PM

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Week	Date	Topic	Assignments
12	March 30-April 5	Unit 4: Considering Embodiment	
13	April 6-12	Unit 4: Considering Embodiment	
14	April 13-19	Unit 4: Considering Embodiment	Reading the Body's Rhetoric Due April 19th @ 11:59PM
15	April 20-26	Capstone Portfolio	
16	April 27- May 1	Capstone Portfolio	
17	May 3, 2026		Final Due: May 3rd @11:59PM

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