# ENG 1302 G4E WRITTEN ARGUMENT/RESEARCH IN AMERICAN HORROR

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Amanda J Burns
Office Location: DX101G
Office Hours: 7:05-10:11
Office Phone: 972-343-1500 EXT. 17661
Office Fax: N/A
University Email Address: amanda.burns@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: Email
Communication Response Time: I check email several times daily, M-F ONLY

## COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Written Argument/Research
Course Number: ENG 1302
Section Number: G4E
Semester/Year: Spring 2026
Credit Hours: 3
Class Meeting Time/Location: 1st Period – 7:35-8:20/SGPHS DX101G
First Day of Semester: January 12
Certification Date: January 28
Last Day to Drop: March 27
Last Day to Withdraw: April 16
Last Day of Semester: May 8

### Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: None
Optional Texts and/or Materials:

- iPad, or laptop
- Regular internet access
- A novel in the horror genre. You can find this at a public library; it is not necessary to purchase this.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

# Course Description

ENG 1302 - Written Argument/Research
Hours: 3
This course provides students with advanced training in communication skills emphasizing the writing and reading of argumentative prose and adapting writing to alternate audiences. Students will write weekly, including such texts as journals, reading response logs, summaries of argumentative texts, argumentative papers, and longer papers integrating secondary research. Activities include close reading of sample texts, both student and professional. Some sections will emphasize special topics in both reading and writing. Prerequisites: Grade of C or better in English 1301 or advanced placement or CLEP.

## Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Students will be able to work together toward a shared purpose relevant to the course or discipline with a sense of shared responsibility for meeting that purpose.
4. Students will understand and practice academic honesty

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

## Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Retrieve your college email on the device you use most (phone, ipad)
- Email a Google doc to a non-Gmail address
- Upload a document to D2L/Brightspace
- Search Google or YouTube for any other technical skills you find you don't know how to do

## Instructional Methods

We will study American horror literature. Each week, there will be a reading with a short response due. We will watch four films over the semester. There will be three research essays. The last essay will be over an American horror novel, and will include a research portfolio and a presentation. 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

- Come to class every day
- Complete all assignments on time

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- Use class time for working, not for sleeping

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# 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

Grades will translate to Skyward as:

| Grade on D2L | Grade on Skyward |
|---|---|
| A | 95 |
| B | 85 |
| C | 75 |
| D | 65 |
| F | 55 |

## Assessments

| Assignments | Due Date | Points (or Percent) |
|---|---|---|
| Responses | Ongoing | 25% |
| Sub-Genre Essay | Feb. 6 | 15% |
| Horror Elements Essay | March 6 | 15% |
| Research Portfolio | April 10 | 20% |
| Argument Paper | May 4 | 20% |
| Learning Showcase Presentation | May 5 | 5% |

# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

## 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:

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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.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

### 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

## 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.

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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.
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

## TAMUC Attendance

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 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 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**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

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Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Student Disability Services

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

## 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.

## 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.

## 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**

## 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.

## AI Use Policy

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.

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

### Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course Attendance & Participation

Being a body in a seat is not full attendance – while you are in class, you are expected to pay attention, arrive prepared, take notes, and participate in your own learning. Consistent attendance is directly linked to higher pass rates, better grades, and higher graduation rates. It also demonstrates your commitment to your own education and respect for the learning process of your classmates, as absences and tardiness reduce your potential to contribute to and benefit from peer collaboration, teaching, and learning opportunities.

### Absences

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

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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 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]

## Due Dates, Extensions, & Late Work

It is your responsibility as a student to keep track of and make up any work you've missed. You are provided with instructions and dates for assignment submission on the course calendar below and on D2L. I may also ask you to bring hard copy rough drafts for in-class peer review. I will deduct a letter grade (10 points) for each day your work is late, but I will not accept work that is more than 7 days late. It will receive a 0 Grade. **If you have a school-related activity, work must be turned in early.  And any school related absence must be told to the professor 48 hours in advance.**

**The absolute last day to turn in any work is May 8 at end of the class period. NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

## Classroom Etiquette & Technology

Inside the classroom, the success of our class discussions and activities depends on you being respectful and both physically and mentally present. No texting or social media viewing during class. All mobile phones must be placed face down on your desk or out of sight. If you using a computer during class, you must be logged into D2L. Outside the classroom, you are responsible for checking your MyLeo email daily. If you do not have ready access to the internet (in a way that will prevent you from successfully completing assignments), please inform me at the start of the term so that we can discuss alternatives. I commit to checking my email many times daily and to respond to you promptly – please return the favor.

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# Appendix A:  Professor's Instructional Policies

## Participation
Part of your participation grade comes from class discussions regarding readings. Because this is a literature-based course, you are expected to keep up with the readings and add to the discussions in class.

## Policy on Late Papers (submissions and word limit)
Each day as assignment is late, is a letter grade off. After five days, the work will not be accepted.  **If you have a school-related activity, work must be turned in early.** Any papers not meeting the minimum word requirement will receive a D (60) as the highest possible grade. Any paper showing plagiarism will receive a 0.

## Email and Netiquette (Internet Etiquette)
Email will be answered Monday-Friday between the hours of 8AM and 5PM. A response time of a couple hours is typical for emails recieved during these times. It doesn't mean I don't like you as a person, it means I literally have over 100 emails per day that I answer in turn.

## After Hours E-mail Communication
Email received during nights, weekends and holidays will be answered the next business day, per above times.

## Graded Essay Turnaround
Papers will be graded two weeks following their due date. I am happy to discuss grades 24 hours after the grade has posted.

## Bonus Opportunities
Extra credit/bonus opportunities will only be considered if the student has ALL work turned in.

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# COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

| Week | Date | Topics and Activities | Assignments Due |
|------|------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Jan. 12 | M: Syllabus<br>T: Lecture: Starting the new semester off right<br>W: Essay 1 – Sub Genre Essay<br>TH: In class reading/writing<br>F: Academic Reflection | |
| 2 | Jan. 19 | M-Holiday<br>T- Finding good Sources<br>W- Documentary: *Killer Legends*<br>TH- Documentary: *Killer Legends*<br>F – Documentary: *Killer Legends*/Discussion: Who is the real boogeyman? | |
| 3 | Jan. 26 | M. Lecture: How to Read Literature Like a College Student<br>T: In-class reading/writing<br>W: Reading: "Why We Crave Horror Movies" – Stephen King<br>TH: Discussion: Stephen King's Top 20 Rules for Writers<br>F: Peer Reviews | Response due January 27 |
| 4 | Feb. 2 | M. Lecture: Bettering in-text citations<br>T. Lessons in Media<br>W. Reading: "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" – Washington Irving<br>TH: In class reading/writing<br>F. Peer Reviews | Response due Feb. 3<br><br>**Essay 1 – Sub Genre Essay Due Feb. 6** |
| 5 | Feb. 9 | M. Film: *The Sixth Sense*<br>T. Film: *The Sixth Sense*<br>W. Film: *The Sixth Sense*<br>TH. In class reading/writing<br>F. Peer Reviews | |
| 6 | Feb. 16 | M. Bad Weather Makeup Day<br>T. Essay 2 – Elements of Horror Essay/ Lecture & Discussion: Puritanism<br>W. Reading: "Young Goodman Brown" Nathaniel Hawthorne<br>TH: In class reading/writing<br>F: Peer Reviews | Response due Feb. 17 |

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| 7 | Feb. 23 | M. Gothicism<br>T. M. Lecture and discussion: Is real life scarier than fiction?<br>W. Reading: "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" –Edgar Allan Poe<br>TH. In class reading/writing<br>F. Peer Reviews | Response due Feb. 24 |
|---|---------|---|---|
| 8 | March 2 | M – Lecture: How horror is a response to public perception and government<br>T: Tangled and Frozen Film Theory<br>W: Reading: "The Yellow Sign" -Robert W. Chambers<br>TH: In class reading/writing<br>F: Peer Reviews | Response due March 3<br><br>**Elements of Horror Essay due March 6** |
| 9 | March 9 | M: *The Exorcism of Emily Rose*<br>*T: The Exorcism of Emily Rose*<br>*W: The Exorcism of Emily Rose*<br>*TH:* Research Paper, Annotated Bibliography, and Showcase Presentation<br>F: Work in Class | |
| | March 16 | **SPRING BREAK** | |
| 10 | March 23 | M: Lecture and discussion: What makes a good scary movie?<br>T: In class reading/writing<br>W: Reading: "The Rats in the Walls" HP Lovecraft – TW RACIAL SLUR<br>TH: In class reading/writing<br>F- Student/Staff Holiday | Response due March 24<br><br>Last Day to Drop March 27 |

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| 11 | March 30 | M: Research Portfolio Assignment Intro, Learning Showcase, and Essay 3<br>T: Lecture: Creating an argument using quotes from a primary source<br>W: Reading: "A Rose for Emily" William Faulkner<br>TH: In class reading/writing<br>F: Peer Reviews | Response due March 31 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | April 6 | M. Lecture/discussion: Discovering horror stories online<br>T: In class reading/writing<br>W: Reading: "The Lottery" Shirley Jackson<br>TH: In class reading/writing<br>F: Peer Reviews | Response due April 7<br><br>**Research Portfolios Due APRIL 10** |
| 13 | April 13 | M: Lecture: What are the main themes of horror?<br>T: *Psycho*<br>W: *Psycho*<br>TH: *Psycho*<br>F: Holiday | Last Day to Withdraw April 16 |
| 14 | April 20 | M: Holiday<br>T. In class reading/writing<br>W. "Accursed Inhabitants of the House of Bly" Joyce Carol Oates<br>TH. In class reading/writing<br>F. Student/Staff Holiday | Response due April 21 |
| 15 | April 27 | M. Lecture and discussion: What makes a good scary story?<br>T. In class reading/writing<br>W. Reading: "The Veldt" -Ray Bradbury<br>TH. In class reading/writing<br>F. Peer Reviews | Response due April 28 |
| 16 | May 4 | M. In class reading/writing<br>T. Work on Presentations<br>W. Film: *Poltergeist*<br>TH. Film: *Poltergeist*<br>F. Film: *Poltergiest* | **Argument Essay Due May 4**<br><br>**Learning Showcase Presentations Due May 5** |

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| | | | **Last day of semester**<br>**May 8** |
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