



## ENG 1301. College Reading and Writing Summer I 2026

ENG 1301-01W: Online Course | Access via D2L

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Batool M.Abukhadair

**Office location:** David A. Talbot Hall , Office 126

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:30–2:00 pm and Thursday 12:30–3:00 pm.

If these times don't work for you, just let me know. I'm happy to find another time that fits your schedule.

**Office Phone:** Want to chat? Let's Zoom instead of chasing voicemails.

**Office Fax:** Fax? Let's be real, **email** is faster, easier, and **actually works**.

**Zoom/Booking Link:** Want to chat? **Schedule your office hours appointment here:**

<https://calendar.app.google/qn7DRZZHhzQhqLxf7>

**University Email Address:** [Batool.Abukhadair@etamu.edu](mailto:Batool.Abukhadair@etamu.edu)

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Feel free to **email me** or **schedule** an appointment during my office hours through the provided **link**. I'm happy to meet and help you whenever you need support.

**Communication Response Time:** I truly want you to feel supported in this class. I usually respond to emails within **24 hours on weekdays**. **Weekend replies may take a little longer**, but I'll get back to you as

soon as I can. If you don't hear from me, it probably means I *missed* your email. Please feel free to **send a kind reminder**, talk to me after class, or book a quick appointment during office hours. **Your questions and concerns matter, and I want to make sure you get the help you need.**

## COURSE INFORMATION/ Top Hat Access

For this course, we will be using a platform called **Top Hat**, which is included through East Texas A&M University's Inclusive Access program. The cost is charged to your bursar account when you registered, so you do not need to purchase anything separately.

You may receive an email about opting out of Inclusive Access; however, Top Hat is required for this course, so please do not opt out.

### Important access steps:

1. **First**, log in to BibliU through our D2L course under the Content tab.
2. Once you access BibliU, you will receive the Top Hat access code linked to this course.
3. **After that**, click on the Top Hat link in the D2L Content area to join the course and complete your setup.

We will set up Top Hat **together** during our first-class meeting to make sure everyone can log in successfully. If you have any issues, please bring them to me, and if needed, I may direct you to Top Hat Support: [support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com).

## Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Textbook(s) Required:** WRITING INQUIRY

**Supplementary readings:** Learning is personal! Throughout the semester, I'll provide **optional readings and resources** tailored to **our class interests** and the areas you want to explore further. These materials are meant to **enrich your learning experience** and offer fresh perspectives.

## Software Required

- **D2L** (course shell and materials)
- **Top Hat** (course platform – required, see instructions above)
- **LeoMail** (official university email – check regularly)
- **Word Processing Program** (students have free access to **Office 365**)

All assignments must be **submitted through D2L** as either a Microsoft **Word** document or a **PDF**.

Most work should be **typed**, but if you ever prefer to submit something **handwritten**, please **scan or photograph it** and **upload** it as a PDF to D2L.

💡 **Quick Tip:** You can use free phone apps like **Adobe Scan** or **CamScanner** to quickly turn handwritten work into a clean, readable PDF.

**Remember:** if you choose to submit handwritten work, the file **must** be **clear and easy** to read.

## Mental Health & Well-being

Your **well-being matters both inside and outside the classroom**. College can be exciting, but it can also feel stressful and overwhelming at times, and it's okay to need support along the way. You are **not alone** in this journey, and your **mental health is just as important as your academic success**.

At the **end of each class**, I'll share a **mental health reflection card** as a short **closing activity**. These are **not graded assignments**; they're *simply* a chance to **pause, reflect, and express your thoughts before you leave**. They are meant to be **small tools that encourage self-care, reflection, and**

**connection**, while also serving as **gentle writing prompts** that invite you to explore your **thoughts, experiences, and identity**. Sharing is **always optional**, but the goal is to create a **safe space** where you can connect with yourself through writing.

**And remember — if you ever feel overwhelmed or need extra support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, someone you trust, or our Counselling Center:**

 **Counselling Center Contact:** 903-886-5145

 [Counseling Center | East Texas A&M University, ETAMU](#)

You **belong here**, your voice matters, and your **well-being matters**. 

## Course Description

**English 1301 is a foundational course designed to help students develop the reading, writing, and critical thinking skills required for success in college and beyond. In this course, students will engage in the full writing process—from generating ideas and drafting to revising and editing—while learning how to write clearly, effectively, and for different audiences and purposes.**

**Emphasis is placed on close reading, critical analysis, summarizing, and responding to a variety of texts, including student writing. By the end of the course, students will gain confidence in organizing their ideas, constructing well-supported arguments, and approaching academic writing as a purposeful and manageable process.**

## Student Learning Outcomes

**By the end of this course, students will be able to:**

- **Analyze and evaluate** texts and ideas using critical reading and problem-solving strategies.

- **Produce clear, organized, and purposeful writing** appropriate for academic audiences and assignments.
- **Use the writing process** (planning, drafting, revising, and editing) to develop and improve written work.
- **Apply instructor and peer feedback** to strengthen clarity, structure, and style in writing.
- **Demonstrate effective college-level reading skills**, including annotation, summarizing, and critical response.
- **Develop and support ideas with evidence**, explanation, and logical organization.
- **Practice academic integrity** by understanding and applying standards of academic honesty in all coursework.
- **Build confidence and awareness as a writer** through reflection, revision, and sustained writing practice.

## Student Responsibilities & Tips for Success

Being successful in this course requires consistency, responsibility, and a willingness to stay engaged. This is a **face-to-face class**, so **showing up ready to participate matters**. **Writing takes practice, and the more energy you put in, the more confident you will become.**

## Here are my best tips for succeeding in this course:

### 1. Be Present & Participate

Attend every class and come prepared to contribute to discussions and activities. Your presence and voice are an important part of our learning community.

### 2. Keep Up with Readings & Assignments

Complete the assigned reading before class so you can join the conversation fully. Writing assignments should be submitted through **D2L** on or before the due date. If you need extra time, please reach out *before* the deadline. I can often be flexible, but it's much harder after the fact.

### 3. Respect the Learning Environment

**Arrive on time**, stay until class is dismissed, and give your **full attention** while you're here. **Please silence** phones and avoid texting or surfing the net during class. **Respect** your classmates' ideas and contributions, **even when you disagree**.

### 4. Check D2L & Email Regularly

All course materials, announcements, and grades will be posted in **D2L**. **Make it a habit** to check both D2L and your **LeoMail** daily so you never miss an update.

### 5. Communicate Professionally

Email is our main form of communication. Always include **our course number** in the **subject line**, start with a greeting (for example, "*Hi Ms. Abukhadair*" or "*Hi Professor Abukhadair*"), and close politely ("Thank you, **Your Name**"). Proofreading before sending clear and respectful communication **makes everything easier**.

## 6. Plan Ahead & Have a Backup

Technology sometimes **fails**. Please have a **backup plan**, whether that's saving your work to the cloud, using a library or campus computer, or keeping copies on a USB drive. **Technical problems at home are not an excuse for missing deadlines.**


## 7. Take Care of Yourself

Writing can be challenging, and so can life. If you ever feel overwhelmed, **talk to me.**

Remember that we will end each class with a brief **Mental Health Reflection Card**, a chance to pause, breathe, and check in with yourself. **Your well-being is just as important as your grades.**

# Access and Navigation

You will need your **Campus-Wide ID (CWID)** and password to log into this course. If you don't 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).

 **Important:** Personal computer or internet problems do **not** excuse late or missing work. Please plan ahead and have a backup option in case technology fails. **Backups** might include a second computer at home or work, using a friend's computer, visiting the local library, a campus computer lab, or even a coffee shop with internet access.

# Instructional Methods

In this course, we will develop reading, writing, and critical thinking skills through a combination of short readings, class discussions, in-class activities, and guided writing practice. Students will

approach writing as a process, learning to plan, draft, revise, and edit their work using clear strategies and shared terminology. Instruction will emphasize close reading, analysis, and response to a variety of texts, including academic and student writing. Throughout the semester, students will receive regular feedback and opportunities for revision to support growth and confidence in college-level writing. The course will conclude with a reflective assignment that allows students to assess their progress and compile selected work from the semester.

## Course Assessment

My approach to grading focuses on growth and effort. If you complete work on time, meet the assignment requirements, and show engagement with the writing process, you will do well in this course. I provide feedback on your drafts to help you improve, and I encourage revision so that each assignment helps prepare you for the next.

### You may lose points if:

- Work is submitted late without prior communication.
- Projects are incomplete or significantly shorter than the required length.
- Assignment directions are ignored or misunderstood.

That said, life happens. If something prevents you from meeting a deadline, please reach out *before* the due date. I can often be flexible if I know in advance.

## Grades

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.

Assessment Category	Weight
Online Assignments	40%
Discussion Board Participation	20%
Online Quizzes	20%
Final Project	20%
TOTAL	100%

## Assignments

1. **Writing History & Goals Reflection** – Share your past experiences with writing, what you hope to learn, and set a few personal goals for the semester.
2. **Reading Responses** – Short reflections on assigned texts that help you practice analysis, comparison, and connection.

3. **Collaborative Writing Projects** – Work in small groups to produce essays that demonstrate thesis development, organization, and use of sources.
4. **Semester Glossary** – Collect and define new concepts, strategies, and vocabulary that you can use in your writing.
5. **Final Portfolio & Reflection** – Revise selected pieces from the semester and write a reflection on your growth as a reader and writer.

## Communication and Support

**If you have questions or need help with course material, please contact me directly.**

## Campus Resources & Support

**Remember:** you are not alone in this journey. The University provides excellent resources to help you with writing, research, career prep, and tech support. **Please take advantage of them!**

## The Writing Center

The **Writing Center** offers **free**, one-on-one help for all writers, undergrads, grads, any major, any discipline. We believe every writer benefits from feedback. Sessions (face-to-face or online) begin on the hour and last up to **45 minutes**.

- You can sign up for as many appointments as you'd like (**just not back-to-back**).

## How to Book an Appointment:

1. Log in to **Navigate** (web or mobile app).
2. Select **Appointments** → **Tutoring**.
3. Choose **Writing Center** from the list.
4. Pick the day, time, and format (in-person or online).
5. Confirm your booking and **show up ready** with your draft, notes, or questions.

 **Location:** Talbot Hall, Room 103

 **Email:** [writingcenter@tamuc.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamuc.edu)

## Velma K. Waters Library

The library is here to support your **research and learning needs**. Don't waste hours on Google when you can get expert help from librarians.

Ways to connect:

- **Chat:** Live chat on the [Library Website](#)
- **Email:** [ask@etamu.libanswers.com](mailto:ask@etamu.libanswers.com) (reply within 24 hours, usually sooner)
- **Text:** 903-225-2862
- **Call:** 903-886-5718
- **Meet:** Schedule a one-on-one consultation (in-person or Zoom)

- **Visit:**
  - Waters Library Research Office (2nd Floor, Room 213)
  - University Archives (4th Floor, Room 406A)
  - ETAMU Mesquite Metroplex Center (2nd Floor, Study Room)



## Student Career Preparedness Office

Career advisors can help you get ready for **life after graduation**, résumés, cover letters, interview prep, and more.

- **Call:** 903-468-3223
- **Email:** [hirealion@etamu.edu](mailto:hirealion@etamu.edu)
- **Schedule online:** Hire a Lion – Career Services

## Technical Support

If you're having technical difficulties with **D2L (Brightspace)**:

- Call **Brightspace Support** at **1-877-325-7778**
- Or visit Brightspace Help

D2L runs regular monthly updates (usually the last Wednesday of the month). During this time, you may notice small changes in performance or appearance. **If there is any major outage, it will be announced on the login page.**

# Course and University Procedures / Policies

## Course-Specific Policies

- **Attendance & Participation**

You are **RESPONSIBLE** for attending class regularly and keeping track of your own attendance. **Missing a class means missing important discussions and activities**, and you are responsible for any material covered. There are **no make-up quizzes** and **no late assignments** accepted **unless** prior **arrangements are made with me**.

- Students may miss **up to three (3) class meetings** without impact on their course grade during the semester. **After these three absences, 0.25 points will be deducted from your final course grade for each additional absence.**

- Regarding phone use, **phones should not be used during class time**. If you need to use your phone for an urgent matter, **please step outside the classroom**. Continued phone use during class **may result in being asked to leave for the remainder of the session and will count as an absence.**

- **Communication**

If you need special attention or accommodations, **please notify** me during the first week of class so we can plan together.

- **Syllabus Change Policy**

This syllabus is a guide. Circumstances such as student progress may make it necessary to modify the syllabus. **Any changes will be announced in advance.**

# University Policies

## Student Conduct

All students are expected to follow the tenets of **common decency and respectful behavior** conducive to a positive learning environment. See the [Code of Student Conduct](#) in the Student Guidebook.

## Attendance Policy

For official details, please refer to University Procedure **13.99.99.R0.01**: [Attendance Policy](#)

## Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Commerce students are expected to maintain high standards of honesty in all coursework. For details, see:

- Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty: **13.99.99.R0.03**
- [Academic Dishonesty Form](#)


## Students with Disabilities (ADA Statement)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you require accommodations, please contact:

## Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Velma K. Waters Library, Room 162

 (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

 (903) 468-8148

✉ [studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@ETAMU.edu)

🌐 [Student Disability Services Website](#)

## Non-discrimination Notice

A&M–Commerce complies with federal and state laws **prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status**. The University also maintains an environment free from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

### Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill 11 authorizes licensed individuals to carry concealed handguns in campus buildings, except in restricted areas. Open carry is not permitted. For details, see [Campus Carry Policy Link](#). Report violations to University Police at **903-886-5868** or call **9-1-1** in emergencies.

### Mental Health Support

The **Counselling Center** (Halladay Building, Room 203) offers confidential services, crisis assessment, and community referrals. Students have 24/7 access to crisis services by calling **903-886-5145**. For more information, visit the [Counselling Center Website](#).

### AI Use Policy

A&M–Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatBots or text-generation tools, but their use is subject to **instructor approval**. Any use of AI must be documented; undocumented use constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism). **If no instructions are**

**provided, assume AI use is not allowed.** Regardless, students are fully responsible for the content of all assignments submitted.

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

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**The schedule is subject to change based on class needs. Any updates will be announced in class and on D2L**

Week	Learning Outcome	TopHat Reading
1	Develop writing goals, reflect on prior writing experiences, and understand the writing process.	Unit 1: Understanding and Setting Goals; Using Composing Tools & Processes
2	Identify rhetorical concepts and apply rhetorical analysis to a variety of texts and audiences.	Unit 2: What is Rhetoric; Performing Rhetorical Analysis
3	Examine how digital and visual texts communicate meaning and influence audiences.	Unit 3: Examining Digital Rhetoric; Analyzing Visual Rhetoric
4	Explore literacy, language, identity, and course communities through critical reading and writing.	Unit 4: Narrating Literacies; Language Practices

5	Analyze rhetoric as it relates to identity, lived experience, and creative expression. Engage in laboratory and reflective writing activities.	Unit 5: Embodied Rhetorics
6	Revise, reflect, and synthesize semester learning through the completion of the Final Portfolio Project.	Unit 6: Understanding Revision; Looking Forward; Capstone Portfolio