



ENGL 1302.05E CRN# 80612
College Reading and Writing
Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Brandy H. Robertson

Office Location: DTH 214

Office Hours: T/TH 12:30-2:00 pm

ETAMU Email Address: Brandy.Robertson@etamu.edu

Communication Response Time: I reply within 48 hours, M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m

Class Meeting Days/Time: T/TH 9:30-10:45 am

Class Meeting Location: DTH Rm. 305

Course Information

Textbook(s) Required:

All required readings in ENGL 1302 are drawn from open-access repositories and OER textbooks and are available to students at no cost.

Software Required:

- D2L
- LeoMail
- A Word Processing Program (All ETAMU students have free access to [Office 365.](#))

Other Materials Required:

- *Must have a **charged laptop and paper and pen/pencil** every class period. No excuses!*

Course Description

ENGL 1302: Argument & Research builds on the rhetorical foundation from ENGL 1301, moving students into scholarly and public argument. Students pursue a topic of genuine interest through a staged research process, learning to locate, evaluate, and synthesize sources into a researched academic argument, while also collaborating with a team to adapt their research into a Public Service Announcement for a real public audience. Students practice the full cycle of academic writing, from proposal through peer review to substantive revision, and close the semester by presenting their research and reflecting on their growth as researchers, writers, and communicators.



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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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing ENGL 1302 will be able to:

- **Develop** a focused research question from a topic of personal or academic interest.
- **Locate, evaluate, and annotate** scholarly, trade, popular, and primary sources for credibility and relevance.
- **Synthesize** research into a sustained, thesis-driven academic argument using a defined argument model.
- **Integrate** evidence ethically and accurately using MLA citation conventions.
- **Engage** in a full revision cycle, including outlining, individual conferencing, structured peer review, and substantive revision.
- **Adapt** a written academic argument into a public-facing multimodal format for a real audience.
- **Reflect** on growth as a researcher, writer, and communicator, and identify strategies that transfer to future academic and professional contexts.

Instructional Modality

*This is an **in-person class**, which means we will meet **face-to-face on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the assigned physical classroom**. Please come to each class prepared to work. You should have completed the assigned readings and have your **laptop, paper, and pen/pencil** ready for each class period.*



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Assessment & Grading

- Your grade in this course will reflect your preparation, participation, completed assignments, and demonstrated understanding of the course material. Because this is an in-person, face-to-face course, regular attendance and active participation are important components of your success.
- Students are expected to come to each class prepared to work. This includes completing assigned readings before class and bringing the necessary materials, including a laptop, pen, and paper. Class activities, discussions, and assignments may require you to apply the readings and concepts covered in class.
- Simply being present does not constitute participation. You are expected to be engaged, prepared, and willing to contribute to the learning environment. Late or incomplete work may affect your overall grade according to the course policies outlined in the syllabus.
- Your grade is earned through consistent preparation, participation, and completion of the work—not simply through attendance.

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% or Below

Weighted Grade Distribution

Category	Description	Weight
Precis Assignments	Precis #1 – Textual Analysis (Unit 1), Precis #2 – Text of Choice (Unit 2), Precis #3 – Argument (Unit 3).	20%
Explorative Proposal	Research topic proposal, Unit 1.	5%



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Category	Description	Weight
Investigative Annotated Bibliography	6–7 sources, Unit 2.	15%
Final Revised Argumentative Research Essay	Culminating research paper, Unit 3.	25%
Process Assignments	PSA Tasks 1–4, plus any graded in-class activities or quickwrites the instructor creates.	20%
Capstone Research Presentation	Learning Showcase, Unit 4.	5%
PSA Project (Final Submission)	Final multimodal PSA, Unit 4.	10%

Technology Requirements

Learning Management System (LMS)

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace). 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.etamu.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Access and Navigation



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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@etamu.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework 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, an East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.

Course Policies & Procedures

Student Responsibilities and 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

This course is reading- and writing-intensive and requires diligent, dedicated attention throughout the semester. Students who are most successful are those who establish good habits from the first day of class and follow them without exception. As your instructor, I am here to help you anytime, but there is only so much I can do. The responsibility for your success lies with you.

Attendance and Participation



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The program's standard attendance policy for Tuesday/Thursday courses in a 16-week semester: a maximum of 3 absences, a 2.5% grade deduction for each class missed, and a tardiness rule for late arrivals and early departures.

Item	Value
Total class meetings (16-week TTh course)	32
Maximum absences before drop recommendation is possible	3 absences and no more than 7 with penalty.
Grade penalty per absence	2.5% of final grade
Tardy rule	2 tardies (20+ min late/early) = 1 absence

The Grade Penalty

Unlike a policy that penalizes absences only after a limit is exceeded, this policy deducts 2.5% from the final course grade for each class missed, starting with the fourth absence.

The Tardy Rule: Arriving 20 or more minutes late, or leaving 20 or more minutes early, is logged as a tardy. Once a student accumulates 2 tardies, that pair converts to one full absence, applying the same 2.5% grade deduction as any other missed class, and the tardy count resets to zero.

This rule exists to close a gap that a pure present/absent system leaves open: a student who is chronically and significantly late or leaves early is missing real instructional time without it ever showing up as an absence. Converting repeated tardiness into an absence keeps the policy consistent with its underlying goal, tracking actual time spent in class, not just whether a student technically appeared.

Why Attendance Matters: Class attendance and engagement are correlated with student academic success; non-attendance can negatively affect performance.

Students are expected to attend all sessions of every course on which they're enrolled and are responsible for knowing the attendance expectations of each course.

Non-attendance can carry consequences beyond the classroom; it can affect federal or state financial aid and can factor into decisions on academic suspension appeals or financial aid/scholarship appeals.

Late Work



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Late Work Policy: All assignments are due at the start of class on the date specified. Because this is an accelerated six-week course meeting only twice a week, falling behind quickly compounds; please prioritize staying on schedule.

Grace period: Work submitted within 24 hours of the deadline will be accepted with a 10% penalty. Beyond 24 hours: Late work will not be accepted after the grace period, except in cases covered below, since each class session builds directly on the last.

Extensions: If you know in advance you'll need more time, email me at least 24 hours before the deadline. Extensions are granted at my discretion and are more easily accommodated the earlier you ask.

AI Use Policy: Unless otherwise specified for a given assignment, work submitted in this course must be your own, without the use of AI writing tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, etc.) to generate or substantially rewrite content. Assignments will be checked using Turnitin's AI and similarity detection. Submissions flagged above **15% similarity/AI-generated content** will be reviewed and may be subject to a grade penalty, zero, or referral under the academic integrity policy, at my discretion. If you have questions about what counts as acceptable use of a tool for a specific assignment, ask before submitting.

Emergencies: Illness, family emergencies, or other serious circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis — contact me as soon as you're able, ideally before the deadline, and documentation may be requested.

No assignments will be accepted after the final class session, as grades must be submitted promptly following the course's compressed timeline.

Communication

- **Response time:** I will respond to emails within 48 hours on class days (Tuesday/Thursday) and by the next class day for messages sent on non-class days.

- **Preferred channel:** Email: Brandy.Robertson@etamu.edu. Please include the course name in your subject line.
- **Office hours:** DTH Rm. 214 T/TH 12:30-2:00 pm
- **Announcements:** Important updates (schedule changes, clarifications) will be posted via check regularly since this course moves fast.
- **Professional tone:** Please use a respectful, professional tone in all communications, and allow the full response window before following up. Please address me as Ms. Robertson or Professor Robertson.

Community Accountable



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Accountability

- Mutual respect: All members of this course, instructor and students alike, are expected to treat one another with respect, patience, and courtesy, both in class and in written communication.
- Participation: Given the compressed schedule, consistent attendance and engagement are essential to the learning community. Notify me in advance if you miss a session.
- Academic integrity: Students are expected to submit their own work and to uphold East Texas A&M University academic integrity policy. Collaboration is welcome only where explicitly permitted by an assignment.
- Inclusive environment: Discriminatory, harassing, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may be referred to [department/institution] for further action.
- Shared responsibility: Because this is a small, fast-paced group, everyone's preparation and participation directly affect the quality of discussion; please come ready to contribute.

Grievance Procedures

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. Jason Walker, the Director of Writing (Jason.Walker@ETAMU.edu). In the case when the Director of Writing is the instructor, the student should contact Dr. Debbie Lelekis, Interim Chair of the Department of Literature and Languages (Debbie.Lelekis@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. Various circumstances and events during the semester may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance in class, on D2L, and via ETAMU email.

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



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described in detail in the Student Guidebook:

<http://www.etamu.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>

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 or concerns, 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 on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status.

Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Writing Program Policy on Artificial Intelligence

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



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(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

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.etamu.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/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



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experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation” (see “Department of Institutional Effectiveness,” <http://www.etamu.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

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@etamu.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.etamu.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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, 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 information, visit <https://www.tamuc.edu/writing-center>

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/>



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- Email libraryservice@etamu.edu 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! o Waters Library Research Office: Second Floor, Room 213
 - Waters Library University Archives: 4th Floor, Room 406A
- East Texas A&M 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 hrealion@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>

Course Calendar