



EAST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

ENG 1302-09E: Written Argument & Research

Fall Syllabus 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Emily Littlejohn

Office Location: DTH 214

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8 – 9 a.m.; 12:30 – 1 p.m.; and by appointment

University Email Address: emily.littlejohn@etamu.edu

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

All required readings in English 1302 are drawn from open-access repositories and OER textbooks and are available to students via D2L at no cost.

Software Required

- D2L
- LeoMail
- A word processing program: *Students have free access to Office 365.*

Course Description

ENG 1302: Written Argument & Research builds on the rhetorical foundation from English 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.

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 1302 Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing ENG 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; and
- **Reflect** on growth as a researcher, writer, and communicator, and identify strategies that transfer to future academic and professional contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students must navigate our course platform (D2L), campus resources like Waters Library, and a word processing system such as Microsoft Word. *Students have free access to Office 365.* Please set up your access through myLeo by the first day of class.

Instructional Modality & Methods

This is a face-to-face class. **We will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. in EDS 134.** For most classes, we will start with a review from the previous class or of the reading homework due that day. From there, I will give a brief lecture of new material and then we will engage in a class discussion or activity. I provide as much in-class writing time as

possible, so you have many opportunities to seek help on assignments. I provide revision-based feedback on all major writing assignments submitted to D2L.

Student Responsibilities, Academic Integrity, & AI Use

Before each class, you will need to read a variety of primary and secondary sources in order to participate in our class conversations and activities. I treat the classroom as a space for mutual collaboration, so I expect you to share your TQEs (thoughts, questions, epiphanies)* about our course materials. Lasting learning requires more than listening to a 75-minute lecture twice a week. It involves active participation and effort, both individually and as a community.

**Marissa Thompson developed the [TOE method](#).*

This course is reading and writing intensive and requires diligent, dedicated attention throughout the semester. Students who are most successful are those who set good habits from the first day of class and follow them through to the last day of class.

Successful students:

- Refer to the syllabus frequently throughout the semester;
- Attend class regularly, on time and prepared;
- Communicate with their professors and peers regularly and respectfully;
- Plan their weeks with organizational tools to make time for reading and writing; and
- Study effectively with techniques like practice testing and distributed practice.

For more information about these success tips, see “[Some Habits for Success](#).”

You will also need to complete several major projects and a variety of process/engagement assignments to meet our learning outcomes. For assignments large and small, you are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty. You can read definitions of academic integrity, academic dishonesty procedures, and citing resources [here](#). In this course, learning requires your *human* thoughts, revelations, and experiences; AI would hinder my ability to evaluate what you learned from your work. **Thus, no generative AI use is permitted. Any AI use will be treated as academic dishonesty.**

Attendance Policy & Make-Up Work*

Attendance is required. Learning is a social activity that is only impactful if you attend, engage, and participate. However, I know illness and other unforeseen circumstances may occasionally affect your ability to attend class, so you have 6 freebies. In other words, **you may miss 6 classes—for any reason—without penalty**. You do not have to tell me why you are absent or provide documentation (like a doctor’s note). I will notify you, via email, when you have used up your freebies. **After your freebies, you will lose 3 points from your final grade for every absence.**

You may also lose points, or be counted absent, for regular and/or significant tardiness and early departures. For instance, if you attend only the first (or last) 15-20 minutes of a class, you won’t be counted as present because you did not experience/participate in most of our 75-minute

meeting. 5 tardies count as 1 absence. If you are absent, you can complete a **make-up activity** by emailing me to receive the specific activity for that day. *Completing make-up work will count as your attendance (rather than using a freebie or losing 3 points!) and will keep you up to date with our course's concepts, goals, and objectives.*

Because I provide make-up work, **your 6 absence freebies include any and all of ETAMU's excused absences** like university competitions. Even if you miss class for an excused reason, you will need to stay up to date with the course content by completing make-up work when possible.

**These policies are adapted from Dr. Rebecca Rowe's.*

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My goal is to be as flexible and compassionate as possible. I am here to help you meet your learning goals. If you have questions or need support, please email me or come to my office hours. Don't know how to start an email? Get started with Portwood-Stacer's humorous explanation/template combo titled "How to Email Your Professor (without being annoying AF)" [here](#).

Just as you can expect respect from me, I expect all students to follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment as described in the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#). *Your instructor reserves the right to ask any student to leave the class if they prove distracting or disruptive to their instructor and/or peers.*

Grading*

My approach to classroom assessment (i.e. grading) is labor-based—based on the labor/work you do instead of the quality of your work. Labor-based grading promotes engagement with the course materials rather than numerical grades. **This should make the course less stressful because you are in control of your grade.**

There are many assignments in this course, and each one is worth a certain number of experience points. While I assign points to each assignment, your grade rests mostly on completion. If you do all that is asked of you in the manner and spirit it is asked, you will earn all the points that assignment is worth. This is why I emphasize *experience* in the XP system: **your grade in this course is about how much you experienced (or engaged with) the course content.**

You may not receive full credit on an assignment if you do not meet the requirements, misunderstand the prompt, or turn an assignment in late. If you do not meet the requirements and/or misunderstand the prompt, you may revise for the chance to earn full credit. If you need more time to submit your best work, then use the Extension Form on D2L. If you submit the form before the due date, you will not lose points for lateness. By submitting the form, you are automatically granted more time to complete the assignment.

This is a points-based class. **Your grade is determined by total XP—not a percentage.** While your *grade* is determined by completion, my *feedback* is based on the quality of your work. My feedback will propose ideas and recommend strategies to help you improve your analysis and writing skills.

Your final grade for the semester will be determined by how many XP you have at the end:

A = 90+ XP

B = 80 – 89 XP

C = 70 – 79 XP

D = 60 – 69 XP

F = less than 60 XP

**These grading policies are adapted from Dr. Rebecca Rowe's.*

Assessments*	
Major Projects	65 XP
Explorative Proposal (research topic proposal), Unit 1	5 points
Investigative Annotated Bibliography (6-7 sources), Unit 2	15 points
Final Revised Argumentative Research Essay, Unit 3	20 points
PSA Project (Final Submission), Unit 4	20 points
Learning Showcase Presentation, Unit 4	5 points
Process Assignments	15 XP
Précis #1: Textual Analysis, Unit 1	
Précis #2: Text of Choice, Unit 2	
Précis #3: Argument, Unit 3	
Community Engagement Assignments	20 XP
Reading Annotations	
Writing Center & Library Research Sessions	
Discussion Boards	
Peer Reviews	
Total	100 points

Assessing Progress

Throughout the semester, you can estimate your final XP (i.e. your final grade) using this formula: **current XP + expected XP**. For example, let's say it's midterm and you have earned full credit on Précis #1, Explorative Proposal, Précis #2, and Investigative Annotated Bibliography. This means your current XP is 30. Now let's say you expect to earn full credit on the remaining major projects (45 XP) and community engagement assignments (20 XP), but you know you're going to be too busy to submit Précis #3 (5 XP), then your expected XP is 65. $30 \text{ current XP} + 65 \text{ expected XP} = \text{estimated } 95 \text{ XP (final grade)}$ by the end of the semester.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Homework is due before class, unless otherwise noted.

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.

DEPARTMENTAL-SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Writing Program AI Policy & Resources

See link above.

Student 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. 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”).

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students’ course grades or GPAs.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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.tamuc.edu/library/>
- **Email** ask@tamuc.libanswers.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

UNIVERSITY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Technology Requirements & Support

LMS (D2L Brightspace and Zoom)

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

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L 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>

Access and Assignment Completion

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.

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#). *Your instructor reserves the right to ask any student to leave the class if they prove distracting or disruptive to their instructor and/or peers.* Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#)

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

- [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
- [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

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.

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 Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

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. 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 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 ETAMU 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.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

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 <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>.