



Composition I Syllabus

EAST Texas A&M UNIVERSITY

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Course Title: College Writing I

Course Number: ENGL 1301

Section Number: GSE /

Semester/Year: Fall 2026

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Time/Location: (7:35-8:20 / 8:27 – 9:19)

Last Day to Withdraw: 10/29/2026

Course Prerequisites

College level ready in Reading and Writing.

Course Description

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on

effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis. (3 Lec.)

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will: Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts. Use Edited American English in academic essays.

Texas Core Objectives

The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
3. **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
4. **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Required Course Materials

1. Access to D2L Handouts
2. A Google Docs Account (or some other type of cloud storage)

Note: A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Communication Plans:

I will respond to all student emails in one day, M-F 8 AM – 5 PM. If emails sent on the weekend or after hours, a student's email might take up to two days before being responded to. I can be reached at the above email. Due to FERPA, I can only respond to student emails and discuss student grades, login issues or anything else with the student. They are their own advocate when it comes to this class.

Attendance Policy:

See course attendance commitment attached. Attendance is a necessity, if you wish to both participate in class discuss and hope to pass the overall class.

Graded Work

The tables below provide a summary of the graded work in this course and an explanation of how your final course grade will be calculated.

Assignment and Formatting:

Assignments must be formatted as follows when submitted:

1" margins all around

Double Spaced

Times New Roman, 12 fonts.

A header: Name
 Engl. (class and section number)
 Burns
 Day Month Year

Summary of Graded Work

Assignments	Percentage
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	20%
Essay 3	25%
Short Responses To Readings	20%

Assignments	Percentage
Quizzes and Peer Reviews	20%

TOTAL: 100%

Final Grade

Percentages	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
0-59%	F

Description of Graded Work

Quizzes: The reading quizzes each have 5 multiple-choice questions (usually). Quizzes are done in the first five minutes of class. If a quiz is missed, a zero is earned.

Essay 1 : A personal narrative that focuses on a person you have never met, who has affected your life. Tone, organization and pacing will be looked at specifically here.

Essay 2 : Compare/Contrast paper dealing with the different philosophers' arguments that have been discussed throughout the first six weeks of the semester.

Essay 3 : A research based argument, that deals with an ethical issue.

Peer Reviews : Typed rough draft of your paper, and edited by peers within your class.

Short Responses to Readings: Short, reader response to four different philosophers that we've read (and discussed) throughout the semester. Student gets to pick the philosophers from our readings.

Late Work Policy

***No Late Work is accepted. No Exceptions. If you have a school-related activity, work must be turned in early.**

If more than 5 minutes late to class, students have earned a zero on their quiz.

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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.

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>

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>

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.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/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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

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/>

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.

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

AI Use in Courses

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

Academic Integrity and AI Use:

In the classroom, Turnitin is used as the program to receive all essay assignments. It has an AI detector integrated into its program, and this program is seen as reliable. If work is submitted and shows a high AI detection score, it will be compared to two other detectors. If one of those two detectors comes back high, too, then work will be considered plagiarized unless the student can prove that said work is theirs. There is no use of AI in the classroom.

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Departmental-Specific Procedures

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 the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. 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.

Course Schedule

DAILY CALENDAR:

Week	Date	Topics and Activities	Readings	Assignment Due
1	8/20	R – Course Introduction GO OVER SYLLABUS F – Discuss King Reading / Tips for Active Reading	Martin Luther King – Letter from Birmingham Jail	Prompt Essay #1
2	8/24	M – Discuss Thoreau Reading T – Go Over Prompt 1 W – Writing Day R- Peer Review F – Reading Day	Thoreau – Civil Disobedience	Short Response Prompt
3	8/31	M – Cicero T - Writing Day W– Peer Review R – Cicero and the Justice (Video) F - Reading Day	Cicero	

Week	Date	Topics and Activities	Readings	Assignment Due
4	9/7	M – no class T – Rawls W– Peer Review R – Rawls and the Veil of Ignorance (video) F- Reading Day	Rawls	
5	9/14	<u>M</u> – Machiavelli <u>T</u> - Writing Day <u>W</u> – <u>COMPARISON / CONTRAST</u> Compares / Contrasts similar / different features / objects; Distinguishes two subjects considering both; Evaluates / R – Machiavelli (Video) F- Reading Day	Machiavelli,	ESSAY 1 DUE 9/14 Prompt 2
6	9/21	M Nietzsche T – Writing Day W Using Quotes to Support your argument R– Nietzsche (Video) F- Reading Day	Nietzsche	
7	9/28	M– Handout – Crime T – Writing Day W – Peer Review R – Crime (video) F- Reading Day	Handout – Crime	
8	10/5	M– Work on Paper T – Writing Day W– Peer Review R – Editing Day F- No Class		

Week	Date	Topics and Activities	Readings	Assignment Due
9	10/12	M – No Class T– No Class W– Writing Day R – Peer Review F- Reading Day		
10	10/19	M – Stephen King T– Writing Day W - Peer Review R– King Video F- Development/ Research / Plagiarism / Works Cited	Stephen King;	Essay 2 due 10/23 Prompt 3
11	10/26	M Organizing the paper / Discuss Idea of Research and discuss different topics in class T- Reading Day W - Pinker R– Writing Day F– Peer Review	Pinker	
12	11/2	M – No Class T – No Class W– Peer review R – Editing Day F- Reading Day		
13	11/9	M– Ardent T – Writing Day W – Peer review R – Ardent Video F- Reading Day	Ardent	

Week	Date	Topics and Activities	Readings	Assignment Due
14	11/16	M– Richard Rodriguez T – Writing Day W – Peer review R – F- Reading Day	Richard Rodriguez	Short Responses Due 11/20
15	11/23	Thanksgiving Break		
16	11/30	M– Peer Review T – Writing Day W – Paper is due.		Essay 3 Due 12/2

*All Handouts are on D2L in our class under the file marked handouts.

*This syllabus is not a binding contract. All dates are subject to change. The best way to find out about those changes is to show up to class. Students are responsible for knowing new dates, regardless of their attendance in class

Tips for Student Success

Use the full amount of time allotted for each assignment and do not procrastinate. I do not teach a “blow-off” class. Any course, freshman or higher, “general ed” or major, should be approached with diligence and urgency. It is extremely easy to keep up with this class, but if you fall behind for whatever reason, legitimate or irresponsible, and do not make an effort to catch up quickly, it will be difficult to keep up. The major assignments make sense only when completed in order.

Approach the course with an open mind and a willingness to learn. College education is much more than job training; it implies a certain intellectual growth and standard beyond the sheer pragmatics of any career field. The critical thinking skills fostered in ENGL 1301 are paramount to social and cultural life, especially in an environment that is increasingly anti-intellectual and irrational. In other words, this is not a meaningless hoop to jump through.

Make a consistent, genuine effort and you will find me easygoing and accommodating. I understand that most of you are responsible for more than just school; thus, I am happy to work things out. However, these other responsibilities are not an excuse for a lack of effort. Habitual skipping, late or missing assignments, ignorance of or ignoring instructions, notes, due dates, or comments, or contempt for the class or education will be met with equal apathy on my end.