



ENGL 1301: WHE-84279
College Reading and Writing
Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Amanda Weaver
Office Location: Whitehouse High School, Room 119
Office Hours: 1:00-1:28 (FLEX time)
ETAMU Email Address: Amanda.Weaver@etamu.edu
Communication Response Time: within 24 hours on weekdays
Class Meeting Days/Time: Dual Credit course meeting everyday during assigned periods
Class Meeting Location: Whitehouse High School, Room 121

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required:

All required readings in ENGL 1301 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 student have free access to [Office 365.](#))

Other Materials Required:

- Small composition or single subject spiral for Writer's Notebook

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ENGL 1301: College Reading and Writing (3 credit hours): builds the rhetorical reading, writing, and revision skills students rely on throughout college and beyond. Students analyze how popular and academic texts use rhetorical strategies to reach different audiences, compose a literacy narrative reflecting on personal history as a reader and writer, and investigate how a discourse community uses language and genre conventions to communicate. The course closes with a sustained revision cycle, in which students return to earlier work and strengthen it using feedback and

skills developed across the semester. The course emphasizes cross-disciplinary skills that transfer directly to writing in other courses and contexts.

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 1301 will be able to:

- **Identify and analyze** rhetorical appeals, audience, and purpose in popular and academic texts.
- **Compose** genre-appropriate writing – rhetorical analysis, personal narrative, and discourse community analysis – anchoring claims in relevant evidence, whether textual evidence from an artifact, sensory and scene-based detail from lived experience, or established analytical frameworks (Swales, Melzer).
- **Integrate** outside evidence ethically and accurately using MLA citation conventions.
- **Engage** in the revision and editing process, using strategies such as reverse outlining, structured peer review, feedback triage, and substantive revision to strengthen written work.
- **Collaborate** effectively with peers to give and receive constructive feedback, using structured peer review to inform meaningful revision.
- **Reflect** on personal growth as a writer and identify strategies that transfer to future academic writing.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODALITY

This is a face-to-face class. We will meet everyday during your assigned class period. For most classes, we will start with a writer's notebook task that you will complete in a composition book. 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 writing activities and major writing assignments submitted to D2L.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

Each student is responsible for attending class and participating in the discussions and activities. You are also responsible for completing the reading assignments prior to class so you can participate fully and make the most of the in-class discussion. Assignments need to be completed and submitted prior to or on the date they are due unless arrangements have been made with me 24 hours PRIOR to the due date. If you need extra time for an assignment, let's talk about it. I can be flexible if I know beforehand. If you wait until after the due date, there is very little I can do for you. That means you should complete all readings and bring any notes or questions about the readings.

Attendance and Participation

While your attendance does not directly impact your grade, "it is important to attend class on time and come to class prepared (preparation means having completed any reading/homework beforehand and bringing the required materials like a charged device for textbook access and notetaking). Attending class on time ensures that you do not miss any course announcements, reminders, lectures, or activities. Attending your writing class is important beyond receiving information because your writing classes are not primarily "lecture" courses. Instead, English 1301 and English 1302 help you build your critical reading, writing, and thinking skills through class discussions, in-class activities, and peer-to-peer collaboration. Learning, in these classes specifically, is a social activity that is only impactful if you attend, engage, and participate." **If you miss due school-related absences, you are still responsible for meeting all deadlines.**

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

As an instructor, my approach to classroom assessment is labor-based and revision-focused. This means that if you turn in your work on time, meet all the requirements of the assignment, and your submission demonstrates critical thinking and strong effort, then you will receive credit.

The only reasons you may not receive full credit on an assignment are:

1. **Late submissions:** The original deadline is important—both for you and your instructor! The day that you submit a major writing assignment marks the end of one unit and the beginning of a new one. This means that it is hard to catch

up if you get behind. The deadline is also important for your instructor to provide feedback in a timely manner.

2. **Short projects:** Each major writing assignment you complete this semester gives you room to explore the unit's concepts within a certain length—a word count for an essay, a time length for a podcast or video, etc. You will not lose points if you're within 50 words for minor assignments and 100 words for longer assignments (or 30 seconds for minor assignments and 1 minute for longer assignments). However, you may lose points if your project is significantly shorter than required.
3. **Misunderstood-the-assignment projects:** Although many of the writing assignment prompts give you room to explore, there are certain requirements that still need to be met including engaging with the core concepts and questions included in the prompt. For example, if the prompt asks you to define X and analyze Y and Z in context 1 and 2, but you only define X and summarize what that looks like in one context, then you may not receive full credit. Or, if an assignment asks you to support your argument with credible sources and you do not include any secondary sources or only include sources that are not credible, then you may not receive full credit.

For each project, I will provide written revision-based feedback in D2L focused on higher order concerns. This feedback is meant to promote improvement in your writing process so that your writing improves with each new assignment.

Grading Scale

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% or Below

Weighted Grade Distribution

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT
Rhetorical Analysis Essay	First draft of the rhetorical analysis of a chosen popular artifact.	20%
Literacy Narrative Essay	First draft of the personal literacy narrative.	20%
Discourse Analysis Essay	First draft of the discourse community analysis.	20%
Process Assignments	In-class exercises and peer review taken for a grade	10%
Capstone Portfolio	Fully revised versions of all three essays, peer review report, and process reflection.	30%

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

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 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, an East Texas A&M campus open computer lab, etc.

COURSE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My goal is to be as flexible and compassionate as possible. If you have questions or need support, ask during your class period, email me, or come to my class during Flex. I will do whatever I can to help you meet your learning goals. To answer emails as quickly and accurately as possible, please follow the email etiquette guidelines described below. I respond to emails within 24-hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Email Etiquette

In sum, all emails to your instructor should include the following elements:

1. **Subject Line:** Your subject line should be clear and specific. Recommended format: Name. Class and Section #. Topic of Email.
2. **Salutation:** Greet your instructor by their preferred name.
3. **Body:** Keep your message clear, concise, and respectful (it should not look like a text message). Use a respectful tone throughout. Remember to keep your audience in mind and that every interaction is a reflection of your academic persona.
4. **Closing:** End your email with an appropriate closing followed by your full name.

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 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

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 (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 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/>

CONCEALED CARRY POLICY

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.

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/>

- 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 hirealion@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			
Week	Unit	Topic	Assignment(s)
1	Unit 1: Process & Reading	Entering academic writing; reflecting on personal history as a reader and writer	
2	Unit 1: Process & Reading	Reading like a writer; genre conventions in narrative writing (conflict, detail, revelation)	Short Diagnostic Personal Narrative Essay (low stakes)
3	Unit 2: Popular Rhetorical Analysis	The rhetorical situation: author, audience, exigence, and constraints	
4	Unit 2: Popular Rhetorical Analysis	Classical rhetorical appeals: ethos, pathos, logos, and kairos	
5	Unit 2: Popular Rhetorical Analysis	Analyzing a chosen artifact; ethical integration of source evidence	Rhetorical Analysis Essay (400–500 words)
6	Unit 3: Literacy Narrative	Mapping personal literacy history	
7	Unit 3: Literacy Narrative	Defining literacy broadly, beyond print	
8	Unit 3: Literacy Narrative	Narrating lived experience through scene and craft	Literacy Narrative Essay (400–500 words)
9	Unit 4: Rhetorical Discourse Analysis	Thanksgiving Break; no new content introduced	
10	Unit 4: Rhetorical Discourse Analysis	Discourse communities and Swales's criteria; specialized lexis	

COURSE CALENDAR			
Week	Unit	Topic	Assignment(s)
11	Unit 4: Rhetorical Discourse Analysis	Genre conventions within a discourse community	Discourse Analysis Essay (500–600 words)
12	Unit 5: Capstone – The Revision Cycle	Distinguishing revision, editing, and proofreading; reverse outlining	Reverse Outline & Revision Memo
13	Unit 5: Capstone – The Revision Cycle	Structured peer review of a full draft	Peer Review Report
14	Unit 5: Capstone – The Revision Cycle	Incorporating and triaging feedback; revision workdays	
15	Unit 5: Capstone – The Revision Cycle	Editing and proofreading strategies; portfolio assembly	
16	Unit 5: Capstone – The Revision Cycle	Reflection on growth as a writer; portfolio finalization	Capstone Portfolio