

ENGL-1301
Composition I
Spring 2018

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Office Hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:00 a.m. - Noon	12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	11:00 a.m. - Noon	12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	8:00 a.m. – Noon

Course Description

This course includes a grammar review and a study of the principles of good writing, methods of paragraph and theme development, frequent essays, and readings in literature and the other humanities.

Scope/Purpose

The purpose of English 1301 is to help students understand and apply the standards of correctness in formal though and the written English language. English 1301 helps students to think well by teaching them to read and write well through its focus on the writing process, on the use of appropriate grammar and diction, on the use of logic, and on the different methods of essay development. Collateral readings from all areas of the humanities are included.

Instructional Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to demonstrate the ability:

- to understand writing as a process; that is, writing conceived as a connected and interactive process which includes pre-writing, writing, and revision;
- to apply the principles of writing as a process and the analysis of audience and purpose to writing assignments;
- the write an essay that follows the principles of unity and coherence and that is appropriately developed by means of narration, description, illustration, definition, argumentation, and/or persuasion;
- to write an essay in standard English, the criteria for standard English being those described in *College Writing with Readings*;
- and to understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking in the development of exposition and argument.

Requirements

1. Students will write a minimum of eight essays, including the final exam; these essays will be graded according to the standards set forth in this policy statement.
2. Students will read short stories, poems, and essays from all areas of the humanities, will participate in class discussions of the readings, and will be tested over their understanding of the readings through quizzes, examinations, and/or written assignments.
3. Individual instructors may require additional writing assignments including, but not limited to, resumes, business letters, homework or reaction papers, and journal entries.

4. Individual instructors may also require quizzes or examinations covering, but not limited to, grammar, reading assignments, logic, and rhetorical modes.

Supplies

The following are requirements for this course. You will need to purchase them immediately and consult them frequently as you complete coursework.

1. Loose leaf paper for notetaking
2. Highlighters and colored pens for revision and editing
3. Writing utensils

Textbook and Access Code

There is no textbook for this course, but you must purchase two access codes for this course. These should be purchased prior to or on the first day of class.

- Cengage Mindtap English Access Code, ISBN 9781305259744
- Criterion Online Writing Access Code, ISBN 9780886853822
- Course Pack

You can purchase them in the SPC bookstore by visiting the Levelland campus or ordering from <http://www.sp-levbookstore.com/Home.aspx>.

Software Requirements

You are required to have access to the following technologies:

- High-speed Internet connection
- Web browser
- Blackboard account (set up automatically by SPC)
- MindTap account (purchase code; instructions for registration in Blackboard)
- Criterion account (purchase code; instructions for registration in Blackboard)
- Word processing program (papers will only be accepted in .doc or .docx format and must be formatted according to MLA standards)

The following technology is optional, but useful:

- Cell phone with text messaging capability
- Skype

Communication

You can reach me in one of three ways: you can email me using the Blackboard email tool, call my office at 806-716-2252 and leave a message, or make an appointment to meet either in-person or via video conference using Skype.

I will always return emails and voicemails within 24 hours. Due to the asynchronous nature of an online class, however, I may not be immediately available to you should you need something. This is going to require some planning on your part; you won't be able to wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

We will use the Blackboard email tool exclusively for this course; you may access it via the 'Course Email' link within our Blackboard course. To help me stay organized, I request that you use the Blackboard email tool within our course instead of my South Plains College email address.

I also require that you register to receive text alerts for this course (instructions will be emailed to your Blackboard email account on the first day of class). I will frequently text reminders, and if you're registered for the text alert service you'll have the most current information.

Attendance and Participation Policy

To be successful in this course, you must attend consistently and punctually and participate fully. Your attendance and participation grade is worth 5% of your final grade.

Students who are late, absent, or leave early will receive a 0 for that day. Additionally, students who are unable to participate in discussion when called upon will receive a 0 for that day.

Students who accumulate four absences and are not passing the class with a 60 or higher will be dropped from the class. Two tardies will equal one absence. Leaving class early will count as a tardy.

Be advised – I do not accept late work for any reason. If you are absent, you are still required to complete the assigned work by the indicated due date.

Please notify me when you are going to be out of town for a school sponsored event. I will let you work ahead so that you don't miss any deadlines. However, please know that no exceptions will be made to the late assignment policy.

Grading Policy

Final grades will be assigned based on the following percentages:

Essay Exams	20%
Small Group Workshops	15%
Essay Revisions	10%
Module Packets	10%
Mindtap Exercises	15%
Response Papers	20%
Attendance & Participation	5%
Course Post-Test	5%

It is up to you to monitor your average and course progress. If at any time you feel that you need to discuss your course progress with me, it is your responsibility to make contact. You can find your current average via the 'Gradebook' link in Blackboard.

Reading Assignments and Video Lectures

Mandatory, assigned reading is required for this course; you may also be required to watch recorded video lectures. Reading and video lecture assignments can be found on the course calendar in Blackboard.

Essays

You will be required to submit three full essays. There will be several steps to complete for each essay. The first step is the completion of an essay exam. The second is participation in a small group workshop. The third is the submission of a revised draft of your essay exam. If you do not take the essay exam, you won't be able to participate in small group workshops, lowering your grade further. Due dates can be found on the course calendar and specific assignment details can be found in the module folders in Blackboard. Late work will not be accepted for any reason.

Mindtap Coursework

Several Mindtap exercises must be completed over the course of the semester. Availability and due dates are available on the course calendar. In addition to covering the content presented in the assigned chapters, Mindtap exercises will help you review your grammar and help you think about the writing process. Although you will access these assignments via Blackboard, you must have purchased the access code to complete these assignments. Averaged together, these assignments are worth 15% of your final grade. I do not accept late submissions for any reason.

Response Papers

You will be required to write three response papers for this course – one for each module. Instructions for these assignments can be found in Blackboard. These assignments will be worth 20% of your final grade. I do not accept late work for any reason.

In-Class Computer and Cell Phone Use

Students will not be allowed to use any electronics in this course, including but not limited to cell phones, tablets, or laptop computers. Failure to adhere to this policy will affect your attendance and participation grade. If it is a persistent issue, you will be asked to leave class.

Due Dates

Due dates are posted on the course calendar, and are firm. I do not grant extensions or allow late work for any reason. Work submitted after the due date will not be evaluated and will receive a grade of 0.

You assume the responsibility for your technology. I suggest three things:

1. Have a backup plan in place from day one, just in case your technology fails.
2. After submitting an assignment, return to the assignment submission before the due date and make sure it's been submitted properly. If it's not submitted properly by the due date, you will not receive credit for it, regardless of whether or not you thought the paper had submitted.
3. Don't wait until the last minute to submit assignments. If you have trouble, but no one is available to help you, you will still not be able to submit the assignment late.

You are responsible for making sure your work has been submitted properly.

Assignment Submission

I cannot accept any assignment via email, for any reason. All files must be submitted via the assignment tool in the Blackboard modules.

Additionally, all files must be submitted as .docx documents (Microsoft Word). I cannot accept .gdoc, .pages, .odt, .rtf, or .txt files.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty at South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences and possible suspension. Please refer to the SPC General Catalog regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism.

****Do not, under any circumstances, turn in another student's work as your own. Do not, under any circumstances, give your work to anyone else to turn in as their own. Do not copy and paste from the Internet. All of these situations are representative of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.****

I have zero tolerance for cheaters. If I suspect you of cheating, I will drop you without discussion. Please trust me when I say I have ways of determining whether or not you've cheated that you can't get around, as smart as you are. ;-)

Disclaimer

Because we will use Blackboard to conduct a portion of this class, please note that the materials you may be accessing in chat rooms, bulletin boards or unofficial web pages are not officially sponsored by South Plains College. The United States Constitution rights of free speech apply to all members of our community regardless of the medium used. We disclaim all liability for data, information or opinions expressed in these forums.

Diversity Statement

In this course, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should be and can be.

Special Services

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 806-894-9611, extension 2529.

Basic Needs

Students who face challenges securing their food and believe this may affect their performance in the course are urged to contact the SPC Food Pantry (806-716-2236, PE Complex) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess.

Student Code of Conduct

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. **Student conduct which disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.**