

Nimi Finnigan

Office Hours or Use Google Voice Number to get in touch with me. Zoom meetings are also possible

Mon/Wed (8:30-9:30 am) & Tues/Thurs (8:30-9:30 am)

Friday (9:00 am-1:00 pm)

Google Voice Cellphone: (806) – 341 – 9122

Text me via the Remind App.

Email: nfinnigan@southplainscollege.edu

Course Website: Blackboard

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ENGLISH 1301

Section

154*612

*

Composition I

*Dear Students, Please Note: The course schedule/calendar is subject to change. The instructor will notify the class of any changes within a sufficient time frame. **It is the student's responsibility to take note of the changes.***

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an intensive study and practice of the composition process from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. The curriculum includes the teaching of effective rhetorical modes as well as audience, purpose, arrangement, style, and collateral readings. The instructional focus is on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

Prerequisites: Students must be TSI-complete or waived in both writing and reading.

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

COURSE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED

- Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- 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: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
2. Exhibit logic, unity, development, and coherence to create essays.
3. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
4. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
5. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.
6. Use edited American English, with an emphasis on correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics, in academic essays.
7. Write a minimum of six 500-word essay.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

A writing assignment graded by a rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

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COURSE EVALUATION

Students will complete the following assignments:

Exemplification Essay

Descriptive Essay

Revised Descriptive Essay

Persuasive Essay

Bibliography Project & Bibliography Paragraph Review

Portfolio Project

Homework Assignments/quizzes

COURSE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & SUPPLIES

- Langan, John. *College Writing Skills with Readings*. 10th edition. You already have access to this online through Blackboard. How to access this textbook will be explained in your class. **Note: This textbook is required for dual-credit ENGL 1301 courses:**
- ISBN for physical textbook: 9781260030228
- ISBN for ebook: 9781264302758
- A comprehensive dictionary or collegiate dictionary (such as *The American Heritage Dictionary* or *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*).
- A notebook to write in
- Access to a computer with internet access and a printer

DETAILED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT

- Students will write a bibliography according to MLA guidelines
- Students will also write a short review essay on the process of collecting the sources, identifying the sources, and properly structuring the bibliography according to MLA guidelines
- 10% of grade

IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENTS & HOMEWORK

- Students will complete several in-class writing assignments/quizzes and/or outlines as well as homework paragraphs in order to practice the skills required for their official paragraphs/essay
- Several of these assignments will be completed on Blackboard.
- Two of the homework paragraphs will be revised and polished for inclusion in the portfolio
- Writing prompts will be provided.
- 10% of course grade.

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ESSAYS

- Students will complete 3 essays: an exemplification essay, descriptive essay, persuasive essay.
- Some of the essays will involve peer review activities for revision.
- No late submissions accepted.
- 40% of course grade.

REVISION PROCESS

- Essays will be peer reviewed for revision.
- Each individual will complete an evaluation sheet for their peer as part of the peer review process.
- 15% of course grade.

FINAL PORTFOLIO

- Students will turn in a writing portfolio which includes:
 - A well-written and thoroughly structured reflection essay on the evolution of their reading/writing skills throughout the semester.
 - An evaluation of their grammar errors and the grammar areas where they have improved.
 - Essay Package
 - Initial Version of Essay
 - Workshop suggestions for Revision
 - Revised Version of Essay
 - Persuasive Essay
 - One polished paragraphs from in-class or homework writing
 - Two new paragraphs from extra writing prompts list
 - Additional prompts may be provided by the instructor
- No late submissions.
- 25% of course grade

PARTICIPATION GRADE (extra-credit)

- Students who actively participate in the course and who complete additional writing assignments may receive an additional 2-3 points. It is up to the discretion of the instructor.
- Additional participation grade assignments may be suggested throughout the semester. The number of points remains at the discretion of the instructor.

GRADE/POINT BREAKDOWN

- Bibliography Project (10%)
- Essays (40%)
- Revision Process (15%)
- Homework assignments (10%)
- Final Portfolio (25%)

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TOTAL PERCENTAGE – 100

A RANGE 90 – 100: Document exemplary. It exceeds assignment objectives. No revisions necessary.

B RANGE 80 – 89: Document is good. It meets assignment objectives. Minor revisions are necessary.

C RANGE 70 – 79: Document is satisfactory but marginal. It does not meet all assignment objectives. Revisions are necessary.

D RANGE 60 – 69: Document is unsatisfactory. It meets few of the assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

BELOW 60 -> F: Document is unacceptable. It does not meet assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

All of these margins are strict margins. This means that 89.8% does not get you an A. You need 90% to be in the A range. No exceptions.

COURSE POLICIES

SIGNING UP FOR REMIND

All students need to sign up for Remind (through Remind.com) which will send class updates/notifications directly to your phone. Instructions will be given in class on how to register for the notifications. This will keep you updated on any changes to the class schedule and/or location, reading list, and any class cancellations.

GRADING TIME FRAMES

When your assignments are evaluated, you will have them back and a grade will appear on Blackboard. **Please do not inquire as to whether or not your papers/exams are graded.** Guideline for a typical grading time frame: 14-17 days from the date of submission if submitted on time, but this is not always a guarantee.

LATE WORK

While I do accept late work, any **assignments submitted after the due date will not be prioritized at all for grading.** Late assignment grades may be returned to you by the end of the semester. Moreover, late work will not receive any commentary.

Please note: last day to submit late assignments is November 28 & Portfolios cannot be submitted late since they are part of the Final Exam Process.

Late Portfolios will receive a grade of zero.

Please note: Improperly Submitted Assignments do not get graded in a timely manner and will receive little to no commentary.

When the time comes, make sure that you familiarize yourself with the Grading Contract Form located in Blackboard and reviewed within our course.

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ATTENDANCE POLICY

- In face-to-face classes, role is taken every day. In online asynchronous classes, your timely completion and submission of our assignments counts as you being present in the course, so make a point to log into your Blackboard account and email at least on a weekly basis (if not daily). Any missed activity stands as non-attendance and will adversely impact your overall grade for the course.
- Reasons for missing assignments need to be discussed with instructor, and ultimately, student's grade is at the discretion of the instructor.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- Face-to-Face students: The use of any electronic device is prohibited in class unless the student requires electronic media in order to perform academically. If student uses either cell phone, laptop, or other electronic media (i.e. ipod, media player, pagers) instructor reserves the right to require that the student leave the classroom. In that event, the student is automatically considered absent, thus his/her assignment is considered not turned in for that class period.
- Online students: during our peer-to-peer reviews, make sure to be kind and respectful with your commentary.

VISITING DURING OFFICE HOURS: PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT.

Students are encouraged to come see me in my office or call me during the hours listed above. Those hours are reserved for answering your questions & concerns, so please do feel invited to stop in and voice any questions or concerns.

I also **prefer** meeting and visiting with students in person or via zoom instead of email. If you can't make my office hours, let's try and arrange for an appointment at another time that works for both of us.

Important Note about Office Hours and/or Appointments with Instructor:

These meetings are important for both you and I, but most importantly for you. There are times when I may be running late. Please be patient. If we made an appointment, I will always honor that appointment.

If I can't make it, there will be an announcement on the course website and an email sent to you. For face-to-face encounters, there will be an announcement posted on my door if I can't make our in-person meeting. I will also send out a notification to you through Remind.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Keep in mind that this is **not** my preferred method of contact. I prefer visiting together in-person, via zoom, or a phone call to my office number or Google Voice number.

If you need to contact me via email, you may do so at my primary email address at South Plains Email.

- Netiquette: I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communications with me, including in emails. To this end, emails should clearly **identify who the sender is, what course they are taking, present proper grammar, include salutations**, and should be void of vernacular turn of phrases or "texting" expressions.

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- Emails that do not follow proper netiquette will most likely not be answered.
- Given that I prefer face-to-face interactions, students are encouraged to come and speak to me after class.
- Students are responsible for checking their South Plains email regularly.
- **Please make sure that your email includes your full name and section number and/or class meeting times.** I teach several sections and that information will allow me identify your account more quickly.
- Please wait between 24-48 hours before expecting a response to your submitted email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

“It is the aim of the faculty of 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, possibly suspension” (SPC General Catalog, pp. 21-22). "Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers" (SPC General Catalog, p. 22). Students should consult the General Catalog on p. 23 for the college's detailed policies on plagiarism and cheating. Failure to comply with these policies will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism and Cheating: Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant it.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Giving an in-text citation only at the end of a paragraph.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records; or
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

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STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability 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 Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY

In this class, the instructor 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 and can be.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

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 that 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.

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College 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 South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

TITLE IX PREGNANCY ACCOMODATIONS STATEMENT

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If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To [activate](#) accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or [email dburleson@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dburleson@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

Note: **The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies**, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

SYLLABUS AS CONTRACT:

HIGHLIGHT POINTS

Blackboard. Please note that Blackboard is used for this course.

Email. You **must use your South Plains Email** account for the course. This is not accessed through Blackboard. There will be a demonstration on how to access your South Plains email on the first day of class. All electronic communication will be through your South Plains email.

Sign up for Remind @Remind.com. This is an integral tool for the course. I will send out announcements such as class cancellations, due dates, change of schedule via Remind. If you do not sign up for it, you understand that you are still responsible for the material/announcement included in the message.

Netiquette. Please send emails that are written appropriately, correctly punctuated and free of grammar errors. Respect proper conventions when sending out emails. This shows respect.

Responsibility. This is a college course. You are responsible for your actions, for the level of effort you put into the course, and for your performance.

Assignments. Paragraphs/Essays/Exams are typically graded within 14-17 days from date of submission, but this is not a guarantee. There is no need to inquire about your assignment until 14-17 days have passed from the date of on-time submission.

Grade. Make sure that you understand how you will be graded in this course and how the grading system works.

Textbook. It is your responsibility to have the proper edition of the textbook. If you choose to use another textbook, it is your responsibility to figure out how you are going to complete your assignments. **(If you are signed up for Inclusive Access, this clause about textbooks does not apply to you)**

Participation Grade. Doing additional work/more exercises than the ones assigned is encouraged and will definitely help your progress in the course; however, this does not entitle you to more participation points. The rules for participation points stand as defined in the syllabus.

Covid-19 Policies. Make sure that you understand and are willing to follow the course and SPC's rules/requirements regarding any issues related to covid-19.

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An email to me (through Course Message) with the sentence at the bottom included signifies that you have read and agree with all of the points/elements in the syllabus as well as outlined in the Highlight Points. Turning this email in through Course Messages on Blackboard counts as participation.

I have read and agree to abide by all of the policies outlined/discussed in the syllabus for this course.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Complete Section number or the Day & Time of class: _____

CALENDAR FALL 2022

Please be aware that the times/dates/activities listed here are subject to change.

✚ Week 1. August 28-September 3. WELCOME WEEK!

- Meet & Greet
- Syllabus Review
- Sign-Up for Remind, SPC email
- Learn How to Access & Use Word
- Explore Blackboard

DUE September 6th:

- ✓ Syllabus Quiz on Blackboard
- ✓ Syllabus as Contract submitted to Dr. Finnigan
- ✓ Review Pre-Writing Materials
- ✓ Watch YouTube Video: “What is a Text?”

✚ Week 2. September 4-10. THE WRITING PROCESS - PREWRITING

- “What is Text?” Lecture
- “Rhetorical Triangle” Lecture & Discussion
- Practice Textual Analysis – Visual Texts & The Rhetorical Triangle
 - “Shake the Dust” – YouTube Poem Anis Mojgani
- Audience Awareness
- Pre-Writing Techniques

DUE September 9:

- ✓ Watch Video on Audience Awareness
- ✓ Watch YouTube Video: “Shake the Dust” by Anis Mojgani

✚ Week 3. September 11-17. THE WRITING PROCESS - STRUCTURE

- Classical Essay Structure
- Exemplification Essay Review
- MLA Guidelines - Formatting

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DUE September 16:

- ✓ Write-Up: About Me Short Personal Narrative Essay

✚ Week 4. September 18-24. THE WRITING PROCESS - STRUCTURE

- Classical Essay Structure
- Exemplification Essay
- MLA Guidelines - Formatting

Textbook: TBA

DUE September 22-24:

- ✓ Draft & Review process of Exemplification essay.

✚ Week 5. September 25-October 1. THE WRITING PROCESS - ART OF DESCRIPTION

- The Writing Process
 - Review MLA Guidelines – Formatting
 - Practicing Audience Awareness
 - The Power of Concrete Details & Sensory-based Writing
- Beginning Grammar: the Subject & the Verb

Textbook: TBA

DUE SEPTEMBER 28TH:

EXEMPLIFICATION ESSAY W/ FOCUS ON STRUCTURE

✚ Week 6. October 2-8. THE ART OF DESCRIPTION

- The Writing Process
 - Review MLA Guidelines – Formatting
 - Practicing Audience Awareness
 - The Power of Concrete Details & Sensory-based Writing
- Beginning Grammar: The Clauses: Dependent & Independent

Textbook: Chapter 8

✚ Week 7. October 9-15. THE ART OF DESCRIPTION

- The Power of Concrete Details & Sensory-based Writing

Textbook: Chapter 8

DUE OCTOBER 12:

- **DRAFT of DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY**

DUE OCTOBER 13-15:

- **PEER REVIEW PROCESS IN FEEDBACKFRUITS**

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✚ Week 8. October 16-22. THE ART OF DESCRIPTION

- The Power of Concrete Details & Sensory-based Writing
- Make sure to have a fully revised essay submitted this week!
- For unrevised essays: 10 points will be deducted from the raw grade estimate/you will lose a letter grade.

DUE OCTOBER 22:

DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY DUE ON TURNITIN

✚ Week 9. October 23-29. DESCRIPTION ~ CONFERENCES WITH NIMI

- This week, sign up for a slot to have a one-on-one conference with me via Zoom
- If you prefer, we can also do a phone call.
- The conference slots will be made available for you on Blackboard.

✚ Week 10. October 30-November 5. THE PERSUASIVE ESSAY

- The Writing Process
 - Essay Organization
 - Argument
 - Rhythm and Pacing of Sentences
- Style & Sentence: Basic Grammar
 - Clauses
 - Fragments, Run-Ons, and Comma Splices
- Textbook: Chapter 2. Chapter 3. Chapter 4. Chapter 23
- Grammar Review

✚ Week 11. November 6-12. THE PERSUASIVE ESSAY

- The Writing Process
 - Essay Organization
 - Argument
 - Rhythm and Pacing of Sentences
- Style & Sentence: Basic Grammar
 - Clauses
 - Fragments, Run-Ons, and Comma Splices
- Textbook: Chapter 2. Chapter 3. Chapter 4. Chapter 23
- Grammar Review

DUE NOVEMBER 12: OUTLINE OF THE PERSUASIVE ESSAY ON FEEDBACKFRUITS

✚ Week 12. November 13-19. THE PERSUASIVE ESSAY & BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT

- The Writing Process
 - Essay Organization
 - Argument
 - Rhythm and Pacing of Sentences
- Style & Sentence: Basic Grammar
 - Clauses
 - Fragments, Run-Ons, and Comma Splices
- Textbook: Chapter 2. Chapter 3. Chapter 4. Chapter 23

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- MLA ACTIVITY (COMPUTER REQUIRED)
- Grammar Review

DUE APRIL 17-19: PEER REVIEW OF PERSUASIVE ESSAY FEEDBACKFRUITS

✚ Week 13. November 20-26. BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT & THANKSGIVING BREAK

- MLA ACTIVITY (COMPUTER REQUIRED)

DUE: PERSUASIVE ESSAY VIA BLACKBOARD (NOVEMBER 21ST @ 11:59 pm)

DUE NOVEMBER 26: BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT

✚ Week 14. November 27- December 3. INTRODUCTION TO PORTFOLIO

- LATE ASSIGNMENT DEADLINE: APRIL 23RD!
- Portfolio Review
- **DECEMBER 1ST: LAST DAY TO DROP CLASS**

✚ Week 15. December 4-10. PORTFOLIO REVIEW

- Portfolio Review

✚ DUE: PORTFOLIO (December 6TH @ 1:00 pm)

✚ Week 16. December 11-17. FINAL EXAMS WEEK

- Portfolio Review
- December 15th – Last Class Day
- **December 16th – GRADES DUE TO THE REGISTRAR**