

**English 1301: College Composition and Rhetoric
Ms. Glenda Bryant
Course Syllabus
Spring 2017**

General Information:

- **Office Location: CM 100 in the Communications Building on the Levelland campus**
- **Weekly Office Hours:**

Monday / Wednesday: 12:30-3 pm
Tuesday / Thursday: 11:00-12:30 pm
- **Office Phone Number: 806.894.2190**
When you call, leave your full name and a phone number so that I may contact you. I do not have access to voicemail from home; thus, I will not be returning phone calls once my office hours end.
- **E-Mail Address:**
Use Blackboard's email system to ask me questions about the course work, to give information why you were absent from class, and so forth. In this email system, you may contact one another about course-related issues as well. Please do not email me in regular campus email. You will not be using regular campus mail to contact me.

Course Goals:

- **Learn that writing is a valuable way to discover who you are: what you know, think, value, love, and one of the few ways to leave behind a part of yourself to those friends and family members who outlive you**
- **Understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking in the development of exposition and argument**
- **Discover that writing is a process, conceived as a connected and interactive process which includes prewriting, writing, and revision**
- **Be able to write an essay that follows the principles of unity and coherence and that is appropriately developed to prove a thesis by means of narration, description, illustration, definition, process analysis, cause and effect, comparison and contrast, classification and division, argumentation, and / or persuasion**

- Compose essays in the multi-paragraph theme structure, which includes an introductory paragraph, three or more body paragraphs, and a closing paragraph.
- Write an essay in Standard English, the criteria for appropriate diction, grammar, sentence structure, mechanics, and so forth as described in the current required handbook entitled *A Writer's Reference*, 8th ed.

Required Texts and Materials:

- Kirsznner, Laurie G., and Stephen R. Mandell. *Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide*. Brief Edition. Boston / New York: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2015. Print. (available in the Levelland campus bookstore) ISBN# 978-1-457608378-7
- Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers. *A Writer's Reference*. 8th edition. (available in the Levelland campus bookstore) ISBN# 978-1-4576-6676-6
*We will not need LaunchPad (a computer program), so do not purchase a book that includes access to this program.
- A large spiral notebook to contain your handouts and power point presentations
- Two flash drives to save typed written assignments
- *Microsoft Word* to prepare your writing assignments on your home computer
- You will be able to download and print the power point presentations in the Technology Center on the Levelland campus. You will need a SPC photo ID to use the lab in this center. You are permitted to copy 60 pages a week and are not charged for these copies.

Blackboard Information:

- Use *Blackboard* to do the following: to acquire your class assignments, note-taking forms, and any additional handouts; to send me messages; and / or correspond with other students about assignments. **Please do not email me in regular campus mail.**
- Using your personal computer or one in the Technology Center on the Levelland campus, go to this website: www.southplainscollege.edu. Then, click on *Blackboard*, a link that appears in the upper left corner of the homepage for the college. Once you see the *Blackboard* page, you will be directed how to create your username and password. After giving this information, you will be connected to the homepage for this course.

- On the homepage for your *Blackboard* course, you will see a list of items in the left menu of the homepage: Announcements, E-Mail Center, Assignment Sheets, Course Handouts, to name a few. To access the information for each of these items, click the title of the link. As your course continues, you will acquire future assignment sheets and other special handouts and power point presentations.
- To access the power point presentations, you will need this program: *Microsoft Power Point*. This program is installed on the computers in the Technology Center. You may also purchase this software at any Best Buy, Office Max / Office Depot, to name a few.
- Contact technical support for Blackboard by email (ldebusk@southplainscollege.edu) or by phone (806.716.2243 during regular business hours: 8 AM-4 PM on Monday-Friday. You will not be able to acquire technical help after these normal business hours.

Grading Policies:

- Your work will be evaluated by means of this scoring system: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), and F (59 and below).
- You will be able to view your grades and current grade average in *Blackboard*; however, you will not see your scores until I have time to grade each person's work for that assignment. I will announce when each scored assignment is available for your viewing.
- **Types and Weights of Assignments**
You will have several papers to write for this course and also grammar, capitalization, punctuation, sentence writing, and diction exercises to prepare for this course. You will have reading assignments and quizzes to complete for these readings. These assignments will vary in their percentage values.
- **Handling of Late Work and Computer Problems**
You are required to turn in or complete every assignment by the due date. If you do not meet the deadline, you will earn a "0" for the assignment unless you notify me prior to the deadline and have a justifiable reason for not submitting the work by the deadline.

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:

- "Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This idea applies to quizzes of whatever length as well to final examinations, to daily reports, and to term papers" (*SPC General Catalogue 23*).

- **Cheating:** “Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade reports, illegal entry of unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating” (*General Catalog 23*).
- **Plagiarism:** “Offering the work of another as one’s own, without proper acknowledgements, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student [or another person], is guilty of plagiarism” (*General Catalog 23*).
- This instructor deems work as plagiarized if you fail to write your own essays, copy responses from another student’s paper, or receive help from someone else to complete any assignment. These situations are some of the most common forms of plagiarism.
- “Except in extreme cases, disciplinary action in cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled by and at the discretion of the instructor, and, if necessary, in consultation with the departmental chairperson.” If you turn in a plagiarized paper or any assignment, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. If you and other students cheat on an assignment, all of you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

Disability Policy:

If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, and wish to request accommodations in this class, notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, if you request accommodations, you must provide acceptable documentation of your disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611, ext. 2529.

Discrimination Policy:

It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnic background, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations and / or resolutions of professional organizations in education and psychology, my diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences to be inconsistent with my instructional mission and educational goals.

Diversity Policy:

“In this class, 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 and can be.”

Class Attendance Policy and Drop Policy:

You are expected to attend this course several times each week, and you are required to submit assignments by their deadlines. I do not accept late work! Failure to submit an assignment will result in a “0” for the work. If you miss five assignments in this course, I will drop you with an X. However, if you miss the fifth assignment after the last day in which you may drop the course, you will earn an F in the course.

If you do meet every assignment by the deadline and complete the assignment in its entirety, you will have four points added to the final course average.

Your instructor reserves the right to make changes in these policies.

Course Calendar for English 1301

Tuesday, January 17th

Introduction to the Course: The Course Materials, Objectives, Types of Assignments, and Policies

Thursday, January 19th-Tuesday, January 24th

Study of the Descriptive Essay

--“Chapter 7: Description” (*Patterns* 135-145; 150- 151)

--“The Valley of Windmills” (*Patterns* 149-152)

--“Ground Zero” (*Patterns* 159-163)

Assessment: “Study Guide for the Descriptive Essay”

Thursday, January 26th

In-Class Lab to Organize and Develop the Descriptive Paper

--Special Review of the MLA Format (*A Writer’s Reference* 465-470)

---Assessment: Descriptive Short Essay

Tuesday, January 31st -Thursday, February 16th

Part I: Study of Grammatical Sentences

--Sentence Fragments (*A Writer's Reference* 235-240)

--Run-on Sentences and Comma Splices (*A Writer's Reference* 241-245)

Assessment: In-Class Tests Covering These Errors

Part II: Study of Grammatical Sentences

--Subject-Verb Agreement (*A Writer's Reference* 197-205)

--Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement (*A Writer's Reference* 218-221)

--Unclear Pronoun References (*A Writer's Reference* 221)

--Pronoun Case (*A Writer's Reference* 223-227)

Assessments: In-Class Tests Covering Pronoun Agreement, References,
Cases

Tuesday, February 21st-Thursday, February 23rd

Chapter 8: Writing the Illustrative Paper (*Patterns* 172-187)

--Reading and Studying the Process of Writing This Type of Essay

--Studying Model Illustrative Papers

“Why Looks Are the Last Bastion of Discrimination” (*Patterns* 202-206)

“Midnight” (*Patterns* 183-185)

Assessment: In-Class Test Covering These Essays

Tuesday, February 28th-Thursday, March 2nd

In Class Lab: Student Preparation of the Illustrative Paper

Tuesday, March 7th-Thursday, March 9th

Study of Proper Usage of Adjectives, and Adverbs (A *Writer's Reference* 205-217; 218-229)

Assessment: In-Class Test Covering these Issues

Monday, March 13th-Friday, March 17th: Spring Break

Tuesday, March 21st-Thursday, March 23rd

Improving Sentence Style

Parallelism (A *Writer's Reference* 129-132)

Modifiers (A *Writer's Reference* 135-140)

Active Verbs (A *Writer's Reference* 175-178)

Tuesday, March 28th-Thursday, March 30th

Continued Study of Improving Sentence Style

Shifts (A *Writer's Reference* 141-143)

Wordy Sentences (A *Writer's Reference* 172-175)

Assessment: In-Class Problems Covering These Errors

Tuesday, April 4th-Thursday, April 6th

Introduction to the Cause / Effect Paper (*Patterns* 249-264)

“Chapter 10: What Is Cause and Effect?” (*Patterns* 249-260)

“The Irish Famine: 1845-1849” (*Patterns* 260-264)

“Who Killed Benny Paret?” (*Patterns* 267-271)

“A Peaceful Woman Explains Why She Carries a Gun?” (*Patterns* 272-277)

Assessment: “Study Guide for the Cause / Effect Paper”

Thursday, April 6th-Tuesday, April 18th

Organizing, Developing, and Writing the Cause / Effect Paper

Assessment: Creation of a Basic Outline for the Paper

Monday, April 17th: Easter Holiday

Tuesday, April 18th-Thursday, April 20th

Assessment: The Cause-Effect Paper

Tuesday, April 25th-Thursday, May 4th

An Intense Study of Mechanics in Writing

Source: *A Writer's Reference*, 8th ed.

Assessment: Study Guide of Mechanics in Composition