

South Plains College  
 “SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT’S LIFE”  
 ENGL 0301: Basic Developmental English  
 FALL 2026  
 Syllabus and Class Policies

**Departments:** English and Philosophy

**Instructor’s Contact Information:**

**Instructor:** Mrs. Madison Wachtel

**Office Location:** Lubbock Downtown Center Office # 2028

**Office Phone:** 806-716-4030

**Office Hours—**

| Monday          | Tuesday             | Wednesday       | Thursday | Friday                                  |
|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------------------|
| 10:00am -1:00pm | 12:15pm -<br>1:00pm | 10:00am -1:00pm | None     | 10:30-12:00 pm<br>AND<br>By Appointment |

**Email:** This is the best way to reach me: [mwachtel@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:mwachtel@southplainscollege.edu)

- I try to answer emails within 24 hours Monday-Thursday and Friday morning. I will not answer emails past 6PM. Please know that I will get to you the next morning.
- Required for emails: Type your name, course, and subject in the subject box of your email to me (example: *Jane Doe – Corequisite - Question about Week 2*).

**Word of Welcome**

WELCOME to your English course! The fact that you are signed up for this college class suggests that you are motivated and capable. I will hold high expectations for each of you, but I will also offer you any help you might need along the way. I want each of you to succeed and feel good about what you have produced in this class. Let’s work together to make this class an extraordinary opportunity for you to grow as readers and writers. You can expect a rigorous (but fun) class this semester.

**INRW 0300 Course Description:** INRW 0300 serves as a developmental course for students who are not yet TSI-complete in reading and/or writing. The focus is on teaching students critical reading and academic writing skills to equip them for success in Composition I. Successful completion of this course fulfills TSI requirements for reading and/or writing.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Locate explicit textual information, draw complex inferences, and describe, analyze, and evaluate the information within and across multiple texts of varying lengths.
2. Comprehend and use vocabulary effectively in oral communication, reading, and writing.
3. Identify and analyze the audience, purpose, and message across a variety of texts.
4. Describe and apply insights gained from reading and writing a variety of texts.
5. Compose a variety of texts that demonstrate reading comprehension, clear focus, logical development of ideas, and use of appropriate language that advance the writer's purpose.
6. Determine and use effective approaches and rhetorical strategies for given reading and writing situations.
7. Generate ideas and gather information relevant to the topic and purpose, incorporating the ideas and words of other writers in student writing using established strategies.
8. Evaluate relevance and quality of ideas and information in recognizing, formulating, and developing a claim.
9. Develop and use effective reading and revision strategies to strengthen the writer's ability to compose college-level writing assignments.
10. Recognize and apply the conventions of Standard English in reading and writing.

**TSIA Compliance:**

- Students must take READ 0301/EDUC1100 (reading skills) concurrently with ENGL 0301 (writing skills) unless they have demonstrated college-level reading skills through some other method.
- Students must earn a C or better in ENGL 0301 to be eligible to move to the next level-- INRW 0300 + ENGL 1301 Corequisite Courses.
- Students may choose to retest on the TSIA2 ELAR/Essay tests at any time. If they pass them, they should inform their ENGL 0301 and READ 0301 instructors immediately. They may register for stand-alone ENGL 1301 during the next available semester.

**Diagnostic Writing:** Students will complete a diagnostic essay on **the first day of class**, which will be used in conjunction with the Nelson-Denny reading test administered in READ 0301 to ensure that students are accurately placed in courses matching their writing and reading skill levels.

**TSIA Writing, Essay, and Reading Tests**

1. You may sign up to take the TSI writing, essay, and/or reading tests any time they are offered during the semester if you feel you are ready.
2. If you have taken the TSI Writing Test at least once, then you may retake the essay portion only or the multiple choice part by itself.
3. If you attend class each day and pass the writing and/or reading sections of the TSI test during the semester, then show your scores to me, and you will then receive the final grade of A, B, or C. You do not need to drop the course, but you are no longer required to attend the course.
4. Visit the South Plains College Testing Center website to find out dates when the TSIA test is offered and to register online:

<http://www.registerblast.com/levelland/Exam/Index?Group=1409>

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment:** A pre- and post-test and/or a writing assignment rubric may be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

**Course Evaluation:** You will read and write a variety of types of texts this semester. You will not be graded on all of the following assignments. These are here to give you an idea of ways your progress/learning may be assessed this semester. Because the class will be based on your skill level, the instructor will assess weekly choosing from the following types of assignments, based on student abilities and needs:

**Formal Writing (Higher Stakes) Assignments: examples of assignments :**

- *Rough Drafts or Rough Draft Essay Exams*
- *In-class Essay Exams*
- *Narration/Description Paragraph or Essay*
- *Process Analysis Paragraph or Essay*
- *Cause and/or Effect Paragraph or Essay*
- *Comparison and/or Contrast Paragraph or Essay*
- *Definition Paragraph or Essay*
- *Division-Classification Paragraph or Essay*
- *Argument Essay*
- *Revision of an essay = may be counted as one essay*
- *Daily Journal Entries = may be counted as one essay*
- *Resume and Cover Letter*
- *Final Exam Essay*

**Quizzes/Practice or Daily Work (Lower Stakes) Assignments : examples of assignments:**

- *Pre-Tests and Post-Tests to check understanding and progress*
- *Grammar lessons/practice/quizzes*
- *Paragraph/essay invention work and outline*
- *Group projects*
- *Reading skill-building activities*
- *Reading Quizzes*
- *In-class daily work/group activities*

## Grade Breakdown:

|                                                                                                     |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Attendance (2 Excused Absences)                                                                     | 5%          |
| Low Stakes Writing: Practice and Summary Paragraphs and Draft Writing (Brainstorms, Outlines, etc.) | 25%         |
| High Stakes Writing: Assessments: Formal, Polished Pieces; Final Drafts                             | 30%         |
| Active Reading/Annotating Assignments                                                               | 20%         |
| Grammar Lessons/Quizzes                                                                             | 20%         |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                        | <b>100%</b> |

## Structure of the semester:

We will work in a rhythm of reading and writing to better help you understand nonfiction text structures in all the reading you do as well as to help you to write in the required text structures.

To that end, each writing module will begin with:

- An introduction to a text structure (text structures include but may not be limited to Description, Process/Sequence, Compare/Contrast, Cause/Effect, and Problem or Solution/Argument).
- After an introduction to the structure, we will read and annotate samples of that structure in real world writing
- This reading will prepare you to write an outline and draft of a paragraph using the structure you just learned.
- After writing a draft of a paragraph, you will then be more prepared to write a formal paragraph, which will serve as your assessment/progress indicator.
- Interspersed with our writing instruction will be reading that we do to bolster both our reading and writing skills.

## Required Materials

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PURCHASE A TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE. ALL READING MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU THROUGH BLACKBOARD!**

## Other Materials:

- Folder/Binder for any printed materials
- Pens/Pencils
- Paper/Spiral Notebook
- Highlighters, colored pens/pencils (assorted colors for marking text)

**Required Computer and Internet Access:** We will do as much required computer work during class time as possible. However, there will be some homework assignments which will require you to access Blackboard

- Blackboard is designed to work best with **Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome** browsers, so download this browser now and use it every time you access Blackboard to avoid many technical issues.
- Computer or internet connection problems may occur for you at some point this semester. **Understand that it is your responsibility to find alternate computers you may use to submit your work on time.** Find your alternate resources **now**; do not wait until you suddenly need them! You can find computers and/or Wi-Fi in the following places:
  - SPC Reese Campus Student Computer Lab (806-716-4666)
  - SPC Levelland Campus Student Computer Lab (806-716-2179)
  - SPC Levelland Campus Library Computer Lab (806-716-2299) - this lab is open on Sundays also
  - your local city library
  - restaurants or cafes with free Wi-Fi
  - neighbors or friends (line up at least three)

**Computer Help:** need help with your computer, laptop, email address, username/password?

- [helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu)
- 806-716-2600

#### **Blackboard Help:**

1. **Get Help by Email:** [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu)
  - Be sure to include your full name, your instructor's name, the course and section you are enrolled in, and a detailed description of the problem.
  - The [blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu) account is monitored from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Monday – Sunday.
  - You can expect a response within 24 hours by email; however, the average response time is less than one hour.
2. **Get Help by Phone:** 806-716-2180 (available between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday, except on holidays)
3. **Get Help Online:** click on the **Help** link listed under the Course Tools menu.

#### **Required Computer Software:**

1. **Internet Browser:** *Blackboard Learn* is designed to work best with the **Mozilla Firefox** browser. Blackboard experts do not recommend using Internet Explorer 8 or 9. Visit this website for a free download of the Mozilla Firefox browser: <http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/>. Mac users may use either Firefox or Safari--both seem to work well with Blackboard.
2. **Office 365: Word and PowerPoint:** You will need a good word processing program to create papers for this course. As a member of the SPC community, you have free access to Office 365. Office 365 provides online access to Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, and 1TB of free online storage with Microsoft OneDrive. You can use Office 365 online or install to your PC, Mac, or mobile device.
  - a. To access Office 365, go to <https://www.office.com> and sign in with the following credentials: [SPCusername@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:SPCusername@southplainscollege.edu) and your SPC password.

- b. You can then click the link for the individual application you want to use online, or click the install office link towards the top right to install the application to your computer.
3. **Google Account for Google Docs:** In this class you will be expected to use google docs to write your paragraphs. Before submitting the document will need to be converted to a word document (doc.x), but must be written in Google Docs before converting.
4. **Adobe Reader:** Available to download **FREE** from this website:  
<http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>

**SPC Student Email Account:** If you haven't already, you must go ahead and activate your SPC student email account. Not only will you need access to your SPC email account to receive TURNITIN digital paper submission receipts for our class, but you must use it to communicate with me.

- Your SPC Email address is: **yourSPCusername@southplainscollege.edu** (ex. [jsmith1234@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:jsmith1234@southplainscollege.edu)).
- Your student email password is the same as your Blackboard password. If you need help, call the SPC Help Desk at 806-716-2600.
- To access your SPC email account, log in to MySPC and click the **Unread Messages: South Plains College O365** link at the bottom of the page.
- You can also set up access to your SPC email account through mobile phone mail apps, such as default smartphone Mail app or the Outlook app.
- Check with the SPC Help Desk for assistance: 806-716-2600.

**Brainfuse:** You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with Brainfuse each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Brainfuse can be accessed through Blackboard under the “Assist” and “Tools” tabs in Blackboard. Brainfuse tutors are available nights and weekends:

- Monday-Thursday 8:00 PM-8:00 AM
- Friday 6:00 PM-8:00 AM
- Saturday-Sunday 24/7

### **Course Details**

**TURNITIN (where you submit papers in our Blackboard course):**

- TURNITIN is where papers are submitted and graded inside our Blackboard course.
- TURNITIN accepts files saved in the following formats: Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, Rich Text Format (.rtf file ending), and PDF. TURNITIN does NOT accept Microsoft Works documents. Do not submit Text documents (.txt file ending) because they will not retain the proper MLA formatting.
- Many students make the mistake of uploading a paper and thinking they are done. There is a second step, which is to confirm submission. If the second step isn't confirmed, the paper will not be submitted, and there will be no digital receipt.
- After you submit a paper to TURNITIN, you must immediately check your South Plains College e-mail account, including your junk, bulk, or deleted folders (it is sometimes

filtered as spam) for the digital receipt email. If you do not see a digital receipt, then your submission was **not** likely received by TURNITIN, and you will need to resubmit your paper immediately.

- Without a digital receipt, you cannot prove that you submitted your paper before the deadline, and I don't accept late papers.
- Once your paper has been graded, click on the **View/Submit** link to view my comments and marks.

**Course Organization in Blackboard:** Click on the current Learning Module. Within that module, you will find Weekly Assignments in Blackboard, then . . .

- Click on the current week's assignment folder.
- Check out that week's overview and digital materials—this is to help you know the basics of what we covered if you must miss a class for any reason.
- Discussions and Attendance are an important part of this course. At times, a grade will be given for participation during a class discussion.
- **All assignments given in class are due before our class next meets each day unless otherwise noted on the schedule.**
- Due dates will be posted inside each weekly folder. Major assignment due dates will be posted on the schedule, found on the syllabus and schedule tab in Blackboard

#### **Student Responsibilities:**

- Be on time and regularly attend class
- Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussions, including asking relevant questions; getting assignments and/or notes if absent; and accepting responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment
- Have a cooperative attitude and use appropriate language in academic environments; avoid condescending, inflammatory, threatening, or profane rhetoric, whether verbally or in written form
- Behave respectfully toward instructor and classmates to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning
- Be courteous to others, especially by putting away cell phones and other distractions while in class
- Write down all grades and apply them to the grading scale used for the class, which is shown in the syllabus
- Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements
- Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration and unauthorized AI usage
- Ask questions when something is unclear

#### **Attendance and Late Turn-In Policy:**

In ENGL 300, face-to-face courses, students are required to attend every class. Students are considered absent if they miss 45 minutes of a class or more. Students are considered late if

they arrive 6 or more minutes late, so if a student shows up to a 9:30 class at 9:36 am or later, they will be considered late. For every 2 late classes, a student will be given an absence. Students must attend 90% of this course to receive credit, so **a student is only allowed 2 excused absences, no questions asked.** *I may drop the student from both courses with an "X" if a student has more than two absences.* An important part of college courses is also submitting your work in a timely and professional manner. To that end:

*\*Note that this late policy applies to **major assignments only**. Late work is not accepted for any reason on all other assignments, such as outlines, drafts, peer reviews, quizzes, activities, or reflections.*

1. If you submit after the deadline without a prior authorization for an extension, 20% is automatically deducted from your grade, and this penalty increases by 10% each day until submission. Major assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the deadline.
2. If technical difficulties prevent you from submitting a major assignment, email me and attach the assignment or document the issue including a timestamp. This may help avoid late penalties in the event of technical difficulties, but you're expected to upload the final draft appropriately after technical issues are resolved. I will not grade assignments sent via email.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY:** It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course averages will be updated twice each week, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

### Plagiarism and Cheating:

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Do not under any circumstances use words you didn't write in an essay or assignment without proper documentation (including AI generated content). If you're not sure about proper documentation, you must reach out via email or office hours to ensure academic integrity. Plagiarism will automatically result in an F for the assignment and can result in getting dropped from the course with an F. In addition, an Academic Dishonesty Report may be filed with the Dean of Students.

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

1. Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate or revise all or part of a paper or other assignment;
2. Turning in a paper or submitting work that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another writer or from an online site or is the product of collusion with another person or mechanism;
3. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;

4. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them;
5. Submitting an assignment for this course that you also submitted to another course without my express approval;
6. Missing in-text citations and/or missing works cited entries.

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, texting, internet, Quizlet, etc.) 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;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Reviews so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

### Artificial Intelligence Statement

The learning outcomes of English 1301 rely on your own original reading, writing, and thinking. It is simply not possible or ethical to use generative AI and accomplish these goals in our course. Accordingly, you're expected to refrain from all usage of generative AI in the production of your work. This includes tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, or other LLMs as well as software like Grammarly, Chegg, or Quill that uses AI to edit your work. These tools are not allowed for any of the following:

- To generate words, phrases, or sentences used in an assignment
- To generate ideas, claims, or interpretations in substitute of original thinking
- To outline, organize, or otherwise direct the composition of your own work
- To spin, elevate, enhance, or rewrite your own originally produced work

Any work containing indications of AI involvement must be verified as original to receive credit via Google Doc edit history, verbal review, and language analysis. If authorship cannot be verified after exhausting all methods at our disposal, the work can be determined to be unethically produced and therefore ineligible for credit, and it may receive a penalty up to and including zero. As a student writer in the age of AI, it is your responsibility to protect the integrity of your work and ensure complete ownership of the ideas and language therein.

Students have the right to decline verbal review of their work. If a request for verbal review is not answered within a week, it will be assumed that the student has chosen the option to

decline. In doing so, the assignment may be determined in violation of the integrity standards of the course and assigned a zero.

### **Fabrication & Ethical Research Disclaimer**

Students are responsible for every word, quote, citation, paraphrase, and claim included in their submitted work. Fabrication and/or falsification of cited material in an assignment—regardless of whether it was caused by AI misuse or a student’s own negligence—constitutes a violation of the academic integrity policy. This can include, but is not limited to:

- Citing non-existent sources in a Works Cited or References list
- Misrepresenting or inventing information, words, or ideas and citing them from a text, source, or author
- Inventing quotes from a text, source, or author that are not actually present in the source
- Attributing an idea or quote to the incorrect text, source, author, or publication
- Providing inaccurate publication information, links, page numbers, or bibliographic details in a way that misrepresents the source
- Submitting citations to sources that the student cannot produce or access for verification purposes

Students are expected to maintain access to all cited material used in the production of their work and must be able to provide full-text copies, active links, PDFs, screenshots, database records, notes, annotations, or other reasonable forms of authentication upon request. Failure to authenticate cited material may result in penalties up to and including a zero for the assignment.

Intellectual Exchange Statement, Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry: For information regarding official South Plains College policies on these topics, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.