

ENGL 1301.196 Composition I Syllabus – Fall 2026

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Conference: M-F 3:00-3:45

Catalog 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.

Prerequisite:

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

Scope/Purpose:

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

Texts:

Kirszner and Mandell. *Patterns for College Writing*. 12th Ed. Bedford/St. Martin's.
Hacker and Sommers. *A Writer's Reference*. 9th Ed. Bedford/St. Martin's.
MLA Handbook. 9th Ed. MLA Assn.

Goals:

1. Students will write six to eight essays (750-850 words each), including the final exam essay, that exhibit logic, unity, development, and coherence.
2. Students will read essays and short stories, participate in class discussions of the readings, and complete tests over their understanding of the readings through quizzes, unit examinations, and/or written assignments.
3. Students may write additional assignments including, but not limited to, homework or reaction papers.
4. Students will take quizzes and examinations covering, but not limited to, grammar, MLA style, reading assignments, logic, and rhetorical modes.
5. Students will use American English with an emphasis on correct grammar, parallelism, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics, in academic language.

Core 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

Instructional Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will show competence in these objectives:

1. Understand that writing is an interactive process that includes prewriting, writing, and revision, and apply those principles to all assignments/papers.
2. Develop a minimum of six essays in an appropriate and logical order/ structure/mode.
3. Use revision to rectify structural, unity/focus, developmental, grammatical, or mechanical issues within a paper.
4. Analyze and appreciate professional writers' works by understanding their message, how they communicate, and how they impact the reader and be able to synthesize and discuss these elements.
5. Apply the principles of the writing process in tailoring sentence structure, tone, diction, overall style, and mode to fit both the assignment and audience in order to promote coherence and effective communication.
6. Apply the principles of logic to the writing in order to make its communication more efficient, coherent, and powerful.
7. Apply the principles of unity and coherence in order to help the writing be focused and promote more effective communication.
8. Apply the principle of parallelism in order to make the writing more coherent, logical, structured, and easily read and understood.
9. Write an essay in American English (the criteria being those described in the current required handbook) in order to follow the writing process regarding the style requirements of academic writing.
10. Understand and apply the grammatical and mechanical elements of writing in order to promote effective and powerful communication.
11. Be able to analyze a student's own work or a classmate's work and to determine whether revisions are needed for the work to fit the assignment, be better developed, or communicate more effectively, and then to convey this in writing to the writer.
12. Make constructive suggestions for others' work during peer editing or other critiques and presentations.

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.

Technology Requirements:

- **SPC username and password:** email helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or call the SPC Help Desk at 806-716-2600 for help with your username/password
- **SPC student email access:**
 - **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).
 - 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 [here](#)
 - 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.
- **Regular access to a computer and reliable internet service:**
 - Open computer labs are available free to students with an SPC I.D. on all SPC campuses (Levelland, Reese, Lubbock, Plainview).
 - 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! Line up three friends TODAY who would be willing to loan you a laptop if yours suddenly crashes.
 - Free WiFi is available in all SPC campus buildings, some SPC parking lots, most coffee shops, etc.
- **Blackboard:** grades, assignments, quizzes, videos, and many other resources for this class are accessed through the Blackboard learning management system. Use your SPC credentials to log in here: <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>
- **Office 365: Word and PowerPoint:** You are required to use Microsoft Word to create papers for this course. As a member of the SPC community, you have free access to Office 365. Office 365 provides free 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 download for free and install to your PC, Mac, or mobile device.

- To access Office 365 for free as an SPC student, go to <https://www.office.com> and sign in with the following credentials: SPCusername@southplainscollege.edu and your SPC password.
- 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.
- **Adobe Reader:** Available to download free from this website:
<http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>

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

- helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu
- 806-716-2600

Blackboard Help:

- **Get Help by Email:** 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 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.
- **Get Help by Phone:** 806-716-2180 (available between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday, except on holidays)

Course Requirements and Policies:

1. Be on time and regularly attend class.
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class such as reading and homework; participate in class discussions including asking relevant questions; collect assignments and/or notes from the instructor if absent; and accept responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment.
3. Be responsible for having an appropriate attitude and for using appropriate language for an academic environment; avoid condescending, inflammatory, or profane rhetoric whether verbal or written.
4. Maintain respectful behavior toward the instructor and classmates in order to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning.
5. Act courteously to others especially by not becoming a distraction in class.
6. Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements. All tests and quizzes must be completed in this classroom, and all essays must be submitted in this classroom. Work is due when or before class begins whether you are present or absent.
7. Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments including improper collaboration. Students will earn a zero for plagiarized work including AI assistance and may be removed from the course.
8. Ask questions when something is unclear. You are responsible for your own learning.

9. Bathroom visits should be taken care of before or after English. Do not use your phone without permission, which will only be granted if you need to speak with someone at SPC, access your SPC credentials, or utilize a hot spot.
10. Students that make below a face value grade of 70% (without ten points added) the first six weeks grading period will be removed and placed in the corresponding regular course.
11. Students making below a face value grade of 70% (without ten points added) in any succeeding six weeks grading period will be placed on probation for the remainder of the school year.
12. If a student's grade falls below a face value of 70% (without ten points added) for a second time, a student will be removed for the remainder of the year and placed in a corresponding regular course.
13. Any student that falls below 70% (without ten points added) at semester in an honors course will be placed in the corresponding regular course.

Grading Policy:

Tests/Essays	70%
Homework/Quizzes/Discussions	30%

Grading Scale:	A/90-100	Superior
	B/80-89	Good
	C/70-79	Average
	D/60-69	Poor
	F/below 60	Unacceptable

Because this is a college course, students will be required to take the semester exam. In this course, the semester exam will be one of the required essays. All assignments must be completed and submitted on (or prior to) the due date during this class period before a student will receive credit. Failure to turn in any single assignment will result in a student scoring an F for the semester (fail the course). Late work will earn a grade of zero.

Homework and Quizzes:

Homework will be assigned each class period. Students with questions regarding homework assignments should see me before or after class and/or may make an appointment. Reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class period; reading the assigned homework is crucial to success. Students are responsible for all assignments, whether in attendance or not at the time the assignments are given. Work must be completed before an absence or before school as soon as the student returns if that is not possible. Missed work will not be completed during the regular class period.

Attendance Policy:

In the event of absences due to illness or emergency, students, not parents, remain responsible for meeting with the instructor and completing assignments on time or before class. You must also come in to make up missed time; either you can make arrangements to come by at a time convenient for you, or I can assign tutorials/zero hall if that works better. *On time* for assignments is when the class is in session. For school-sanctioned absences, students must meet with the instructor and must submit work on or before the due date. The *due date* is during the scheduled class period. This is a college course for which you are receiving double credit; late work will earn a grade of zero. Attendance is critical to success in the course. **Sleeping in class will count as an absence...sleepers will be moved to local credit English.** Four absences per semester are allowed but NOT recommended. Upon your fifth absence (except in cases of documented extreme circumstances as determined by the professor), you will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of X or F. If you are withdrawn from the course, you are financially responsible for the course tuition and fees. "Whenever absences become excessive (for ANY reason), and, in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student will be withdrawn from the course" (*SPC General Catalog*).

Academic Integrity—Plagiarism and Cheating:

"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*). "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*). Students should consult the *General Catalog* online 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 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 any kind of AI;
4. Using phrases or sentences written by another person;
5. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
1. Missing in-text citations.

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. Using phrases or sentences written by another person;
10. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

Disability Statement:

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the 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 appropriate department. For more information, visit with the counselor or principal.

Statement of Nondiscrimination:

It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

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.

NOTE:

English 1301 is a freshman-level college course for which the SPC English department determines the content. Some readings contain adult language and subject matter. Students who are not yet ready for mature, college-level content should consider carefully before continuing with this course.

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.

All assignments/dates are subject to change. Students will be given adequate notification when changes occur. Students not in class when changes are announced remain responsible for gathering the information from the professor.

Essay Assessment Guidelines:

Essays may earn grades ranging from A to F based on the instructor's grading scale. Depending on the assignment, certain criteria may be weighted more than others, and the instructor's assignment may establish additional, more specific criteria. The quality of each of the criteria determines the letter grade. Not every essay will fit a single grade's description completely. Instructors may also include process assignments and drafts in their assessment of the final grade.

Essay Rubric:

“A” Essay (Superior)

To earn an “A,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences strongly support the thesis, and body paragraphs are unified around their topic sentences. The essay conveys a clear purpose and is tailored to a distinctive audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain abundant, fresh details and examples that provide specific, concrete, logical evidence. If sources are required, the paper accurately integrates and correctly documents credible source material to add insight, sophistication, and complexity to the paper’s ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is excellent and logical (emphatic order, chronological order, etc.), transitions are sophisticated, and the paper exhibits mastery of basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and is virtually free of other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety (simple, compound, complex) are effective and powerful.

“B” Essay (Strong)

To earn a “B,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences directly support the thesis, and body paragraphs display unity. The essay conveys good awareness of purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs are well-developed with specific details, examples, and sound logic. If sources are required, the paper accurately uses and correctly documents credible source material to supplement its ideas.

4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is clear and helpful, transitions are helpful, and the paper exhibits strong basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than two major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and very few other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“C” Paper (Acceptable)

To earn a “C,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** A thesis is stated but may lack a strong claim or be obvious or predictable; topic sentences adequately support the thesis. One error in paragraph unity may occur. The essay’s purpose and audience are adequately conveyed.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain relevant details or logical reasons but need more specific examples/evidence. If sources are required, credible outside sources are usually integrated and cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization of ideas is satisfactory, transitions are logical, and the paper indicates competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than four major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Some other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors are present but not distracting. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“D” Paper (Developing)

To earn a “D,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper only partially fulfills one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis may announce the topic but no claim, contain more than one idea, or be too vague, too broad, or too narrow. Topic sentences are not tied to the thesis. Two errors in paragraph unity may occur. Essay conveys little awareness of audience or purpose.
3. **Support:** Details are sparse or vague and consist of generalizations, clichés, or repetition. If applicable, sources are insufficient and/or not always integrated or cited correctly.

4. **Coherence:** Organization is attempted but disjointed or confusing; transitions are sparse. The paper indicates awareness of but not competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than six major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Several other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors distract from the content. Informal word choices occur with little or no variety in sentence type and length.

“F” Paper (Unacceptable)

To earn an “F,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper fails to fulfill one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis is illogical, incomplete, or missing, so the essay lacks focus on one central idea. Topic sentences are missing, so body paragraphs lack unity. The essay ignores the purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Details are illogical, irrelevant, or missing from body paragraphs. If sources are required, the paper fails to use sources, does not meet the minimum source requirements, uses source material inaccurately, uses sources that are not credible, fails to document fully or correctly, and/or includes plagiarism.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is incoherent, transitions are missing or illogical, or the paper indicates lack of competence in basic paper components (for example, lack of introduction and/or conclusion, lack of paragraphing).
5. **Sentence Skills:** Seven or more major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) occur with numerous other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice is often inaccurate, immature, or inappropriate. Multiple sentence structure/syntax errors make the paper difficult or almost impossible to read. If one type or a combination of types of errors, regardless of whether they are major or minor, seriously affects the readability of a paper, it will receive an “F.”

No Essay (0)

Any essay, or other assignment, not written or turned in receives a Zero and is averaged into the student’s grade as such. Except in special circumstances, teachers will not grade late work, so the assignment must be turned in on time, and teachers do not allow make-up assignments for work missed, or re-writes to improve the grade given. As in the “real world,” the job must be done right the first time, and completed on time, or no credit is given.