

English 1301: Composition I

Course Syllabus

Fall 2026

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Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:39 am – 11:27 am	10:39 am – 11:27 am	10:39 am – 11:27 am	10:39 am – 11:27 am	10:39 am – 11:27 am

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.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
Write essays that exhibit logic, unity, development, and coherence.
- Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
- Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
- Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.
- Use American English, with an emphasis on correct grammar, parallelism, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics, in language appropriate for academic essays.
- Write a minimum of six 500-word essays.

Required Software & Materials

Your textbook is provided at no cost to you via Blackboard. All required software for the course is provided at no cost and/or free to sign-up. You do not need to make any additional purchases for the course. You will need access to a laptop or computer for this course to complete your writing activities and class assignments. You should come to each class prepared to engage with the necessary supplies, including your laptop charger.

Communication

The best way to contact me is via email at blogsdon@southplainscollege.edu. In all correspondence with me (and I recommend with all your instructors), you should communicate at the level of a college student. E-mails should include a subject line, salutation, and closing. I will respond to emails as quickly as possible during regular business hours (M-F, 8-4). In the evenings and on the weekends, please allow up to 48 hours for a response.

As I make every effort to be current and prompt with my email, I ask that you do the same. **You should check your official SPC email at least once per day.** You are responsible for all information disseminated through SPC email and course announcements. You can find instructions to access your SPC email account below.

SPC Student Email Account: If you haven't already, you must go ahead and activate your SPC student email account.

- Your SPC Email address is: yourSPCusername@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 the default smartphone Mail app or the Outlook app.
- Check with the SPC Help Desk for assistance: 806-716-2600.

Attendance

This is a face-to-face course, which means that regular and active course attendance is required in order to complete the course successfully. I have a professional responsibility to ensure that any student has met the course learning outcomes in order to receive credit for English 1301. Quite simply, I cannot do this if you're not here!

As this is a dual credit course, there are no attendance requirements in addition to what is required by Floydada Collegiate Independent School District. However, if you are absent from class for any reason, you are still required to complete the assignments and be knowledgeable of any information, notes, announcements, etc. that occurred during your absence.

This can be achieved by simply checking your email and Blackboard when you are absent. If you miss an assignment due to your absence, it cannot be made up or turned in late without email communication on that same day. Simply put, if you are going to be absent for any reason, you need to email me. If you do not, it may result in a late penalty or no credit for missing assignments. I will accommodate extenuating circumstances at my discretion.

Grading

Grades will be evaluated as follows

Assignment Weight

Project 1: Language Story	15%
Project 1: Process Work	15%
Project 2: Standard Persuasive Essay	20%
Project 2: Process Work	15%
Project 3: Multimodal Remix Project with Statement of Goals and Choices	20%
Project 3: Process Work	10%
Project 4: Final Multimodal Remix Showcase	5%

Process work for all projects includes reading assignments, in-class brainstorming, drafting, workshops, written feedback to peers, etc. This work, while informal, will be some of the most important work we do for the course. Your collective process work counts as a percentage for each project (see above), and failure to complete process work will have a significant impact on your grade. The goal of this regular writing and practice is to generate ideas, thinking on the page, not about having a finished product. Your process work grade should be a reflection of your continued engagement and preparation, not of perfection or mastery.

General Guidelines for Major Assignments

All major papers should meet the guidelines of the assignment prompt and be properly formatted in MLA 9th edition. You are responsible for understanding and following MLA format and asking questions when needed. Here's a quick overview: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>. Points will be deducted for final drafts that do not meet basic formatting standards for a college essay.

Final drafts should be **double-spaced**, and written in a 12-pt, readable font. The title of your essay should be centered; the body of your essay should be left-aligned. Margins should be 1" on all sides. The [Purdue Owl](#) website is also extremely helpful.

All major assignments should be submitted as **Microsoft Word files (.doc or .docx)**. You should not submit PDF, gdoc, .pages, .odt, .rtf, or .txt files. I will not accept assignments written in the "Submission Text" or "Comments" portion of a submission link. Incorrectly submitted files are counted late until the appropriate file type is uploaded. Any submission that is blank or corrupt is considered late until properly submitted. Make sure you receive confirmation and a readable preview through Blackboard after submission. If you have a problem submitting your work, please send a screenshot of your attempt via email to avoid late penalties.

Late Assignment Policy for Major Assignments:

All deadlines are at 11:59 p.m., with a grace period until 8 a.m. the following day before the late penalty goes into effect. Late projects receive a 10% deduction per day up to one week, and projects are not accepted more than a week after the deadline. Extensions are granted at instructor discretion and must be requested at least twelve hours ahead of a deadline. **Note that this policy only applies to major projects. Late work is not accepted for any reason on quizzes, activities, exams, or discussions.**

Grading Procedure:

Essay grades are returned within two weeks; on average, you can expect them within ten days. I will provide feedback via TurnItIn. You are responsible for reading and understanding all grading feedback. You are welcome to ask questions about your grading feedback; however, I ask that you wait at least 24 hours after an assignment has been returned to do so.

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. All rubrics are available in Blackboard.

Perusall

You will complete activities through Perusall periodically as part of your learning media for the course. Perusall is a social annotation platform where you will complete a multi-step assignment that may include videos, reading, and other media and provide annotations in small groups with your peers as part of our ongoing writing discussion. These graded assignments are scored on the quality of annotations and overall engagement, including some or all of the criteria below:

- Contributing thoughtful questions and comments to the class discussion, spread throughout the entire reading
- Starting the reading early
- Breaking the reading into chunks (instead of trying to do it all at once)
- Reading all the way to the end of the assigned reading
- Posing thoughtful questions and comments that elicit responses from classmates
- Answering questions from others
- Upvoting thoughtful questions and helpful answers

Reading and thinking critically about literature is the foundation of this course, and these assignments are the most important part of your coursework to start with each week. You are strongly encouraged to start these early and complete them over several days in order to be successful and get the best outcomes in your learning.

Blackboard

We will also use Blackboard in this course. You may access the Blackboard login page at southplainscollege.blackboard.com. Do not—under any circumstances—give your username and/or password to anyone else or allow anyone else to log in to your Blackboard account. Doing so will be viewed as academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.

If you need technical support for Blackboard, please contact the Instructional Technology Department at blackboard@southplainscollege.edu. Include your name, student ID, the name of the course you're taking, a description of the problem you are having. Like all other areas of this course, there are no exceptions to the late work policy, for any reason, including technical difficulties.

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.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

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. Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

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

- Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate all or part of a paper or other assignment;
- Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another writer or from an online site;
- Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
- Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
- Missing in-text citations.

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

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

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will automatically result in a 0 for the assignment and can, in many cases, result in getting dropped from the course with an F. Assignments that earn a zero for plagiarism cannot be made-up under any circumstances and will be reported to South Plains College.

Artificial Intelligence Statement & Procedure for Academic Integrity

I have an ethical responsibility to ensure that all students receive credit for only work that they have originally and ethically produced, and 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 (but is not limited to) using AI for any of the following:

- To generate words, phrases, or sentences to use 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

Our course uses an extensive set of tools to analyze machine language mechanics against original language. This includes the use of the most reliable AI detection platforms currently available, linguistic data, comparative writer analytics, and LLM output testing. Any work containing indications of AI involvement must be verified as original to receive credit through verbal review. Verbal review includes an in-person or virtual conference and/or proctored writing sample. If authorship cannot be verified after exhausting all of these methods, the work is not ethically produced or eligible for credit, and it receives a 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 a verbal review. 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 is considered a first violation of the integrity standards of the course and assigned a zero.

SPC Tutors

Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, get to know the tutors, and view tutoring locations.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

Tutor.com

You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with tutor.com each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, click on the tutor.com link on the left-hand tool bar and grab a session with a tutor. You can access tutor.com tutors during the following times: Monday – Thursday: 8pm-8am

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.

For information regarding Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Non-Discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, use the following link:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>