

Composition I: ENGL 1301

Fall 2026 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Taylor Guesnier (she/her/hers)

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Office Hours

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30a – 11:00a	11:00a – 12:00p 1:00p – 2:00p	9:30a – 11:00a	11:00a – 12:00p 1:00p – 2:00p	10:00a – 11:00a

& by scheduled appointment

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.

Textbook & Supply Requirements

All texts and reading material for the course will be provided at no cost via open educational resources (OER) and PDFs via Blackboard.

Required Software & Materials

You will need access to a laptop or computer for this course to complete your writing activities and class assignments. If you need a personal device to use outside of class, you can request to borrow a Chromebook from the SPC Library. For more information, see:

<https://library.southplainscollege.edu/c.php?g=1021659&p=7400614>

You are required to have access to the following technology & software:

- ® Blackboard
- ® Google Docs

Communication

The best way to contact me is via email at tguesnier@southplainscollege.edu. During office hours, you may also call me in the office. I will respond to emails as quickly as possible during working hours (M-F, 8-3). 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, and you are responsible for all information disseminated via email about the course. To protect your privacy as a student, I ask that all emails originate from your official SPC email address. I cannot guarantee that emails from a third-party account (Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.) will be read or responded to. I only prioritize emails that are written by an actual human student in my course. In order to receive a timely reply, I advise that you do not use ChatGPT or other chat bots to write your emails to me.

In all correspondence with me (and I recommend with all your instructors), you should communicate at the level of a college student by including your course/section number, a useful subject line, a salutation, and complete sentences.

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 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! Your attendance is taken at the beginning of class each day via Microsoft Forms. You must answer a unique question that is only provided during class to be counted present. If you arrive after your attendance question has been given, it's your responsibility to check in with me at the end of class to be marked present. **If you miss more than 15 minutes of class at any point during a class meeting, you are counted absent for the day.** Be aware that you must also be mentally present in class to be counted present for the day.

You are allowed three absences without penalty this semester. Four absences and beyond can result in a drop from the course with an X. It's your responsibility to initiate your own withdrawal in the event that you stop attending the course and do not plan to complete it. While I encourage you to be in open communication with me about legitimate absences, it is not necessary to provide doctor's notes or other documentation as you will still accrue an absence for every day you are not present, regardless of reason. I will accommodate extenuating circumstances at my discretion.

Screens and Technology

During class, we will be speaking to each other the majority of the time. It's rude to stare at your phone while someone is speaking to you, and it is expected in this course that you will be courteous and polite with your phone and screen usage. If you have an emergency, you may step outside to use your device. If you are using technology for something unrelated to the course, you will receive a zero for the day's process work and could be marked "absent" for the class period.

Grading Policy

Final grades are calculated as follows:

Major Projects Persuasive Essay (20%) Multimodal Remix (20%)	40%
Midterm Exam	15%
Process Work Outlines, Peer Feedback, Readings, Participation	30%
Final Exam	15%

Student grades may be interpreted as follows:

- A—Excellent (90-100)
- B—Good (80-89)
- C—Average (70-79)
- D—Below Average (60-69)
- F—Failure (59 and below)

General Guidelines for Major Writing Assignments

All major papers should meet the guidelines of the assignment prompt and be properly formatted in MLA 9th edition. Points will be deducted for final drafts that do not meet basic formatting standards for a college essay. This includes:

- 12 pt. serif font (Times New Roman or Garamond recommended)
- Double-spaced
- Centered title
- Left-aligned body paragraphs
- Correctly indented paragraphs
- Correct margins
- Correctly formatted Works Cited page with hanging indents for all citations.

Here's a more detailed MLA reference: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>.

****All major written assignments must be written from start to finish in Google Docs to preserve a detailed draft and edit history. When submitting a writing assignment for the course, you should download the completed assignment from Google Docs as a Microsoft Word file (.doc, .docx) or PDF (.pdf) for submission to Blackboard or Turnitin. Incorrect file types are considered**

late until the appropriate file is uploaded. It is your responsibility to make sure you receive submission confirmation and that your file is readable in the preview on Blackboard when turning in assignments. Any submission that is blank or corrupt is considered late until properly submitted. **Essays that do not reach at least 50% of a minimum length requirement do not constitute an acceptable attempt at the assignment and receive a zero by default.**

Late Assignment Policy for Multimodal Project ONLY:

All deadlines are at 11:59 p.m., unless otherwise disclosed by Professor Guesnier. A late penalty of 15% per day up to three days will be permitted for the Multimodal Remix Project only. Extension requests up to two days are granted for students who email by noon on the due date with the specific date the assignment will be turned in. **Note that this policy only applies to major projects. Late work is not accepted for any reason on quizzes, activities, exams, or discussions.**

Late Assignment Policy for Major Assignments:

*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, in-class activities, Socratic Seminars, or reflections.

1. If you submit after the deadline without a prior authorization for an extension, 15% is automatically deducted from your grade each day for up to three days. After three days, it will not be accepted for any reason.
2. If technical difficulties prevent you from submitting a major assignment, email me and attach the completed assignment and 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.

Always backup your electronic files. The best practice is to store digital files in at least two locations. Develop a strategy for consistently and frequently backing up your digital files. A lost file or a crashed computer is not an excuse for late work in this class.

Grading Procedures:

Essay grades are typically returned within two weeks; on average, you can expect them within ten days. I will provide feedback via TurnItIn by request only. You are responsible for reading and understanding all grading feedback. If feedback is given for a process step in a multi-component assignment, new comments are given once previous feedback has been applied.

You are welcome to ask questions about your grading; however, I ask that you wait at least 24 hours after an assignment has been returned to do so. Any disputes or requests for review of an

assignment grade should be brought to my attention within a week after grades are returned and cite the specific rubric categories of concern.

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.

Perusall (Reading Annotations)

You will complete your reading of our most major texts in the course through the Literature Annotations assignments, which are completed in Perusall. 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 with your peers as part of our ongoing literary discussion. 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 in the week for the best outcomes in learning the concepts of each week's material.

These graded assignments are scored based on Perusall's algorithm that includes a variety of tasks that fall into two basic categories: (1) quality of annotation and (2) overall engagement with the assignment. You accumulate points for a variety of interactions, but the best strategy for high scores accumulated in Perusall is:

- Start early in the week and invest time in each step of the assignment, including video components. Interact with the assignment on multiple days throughout the week.
- Leave high-quality, substantive comments throughout each component of the assignment.
- Engage with your peers by asking questions, replying to others, and liking comments.

Perusall utilizes TurnItIn similarity software and detection for non-human content. It will also detect any comments or responses that have been copied from elsewhere and pasted into a Perusall comment. Any pasted comments are removed and earn zero points the first time. A second incident and beyond will result in a zero for the assignment.

Process Work

Process work 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.

Class Discussions

Each reading and subsequent questions will be assigned before class through Perusall. If students do not come to class having read and answered the questions they will not be permitted to participate in that day's discussion. They will be allowed to stay and watch but may not receive a grade.

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.

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.

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.

Do not attempt to submit an assignment for this course that you also submitted to another course without my express approval. Do not, under any circumstances, turn in another student's work as

your own. Do not, under any circumstances, give your work to anyone else to turn in as their own. Each of these situations are representative of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such. 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 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 via Google Doc edit history, verbal review, and language analysis. If authorship cannot be verified after exhausting all of these methods, the work is determined to be not ethically produced and therefore ineligible 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>

Brainfuse

South Plains College has partnered with Brainfuse to provide free online tutoring and academic resources. Brainfuse can be accessed through Blackboard under the “Assist” and “Tools” tabs.

You can access tutor.com tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8pm-8am

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

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: [Syllabus Statements \(southplainscollege.edu\)](https://southplainscollege.edu/syllabus-statements).

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.