



SOUTH
PLAINS
COLLEGE

Policy Statement

Instructor: B. Kyle Keltz
Office: LBD2026
Phone: (806) 716-2585
Email: bkeltz@southplainscollege.edu
Office Hours: T/R 1:00pm–2:30pm

Department: English
Campus: Online
Course Number: Engl 1301-181
Course Title: Composition I
Semester/Year: Spring II (8-Week) 2026

I. 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.

II. Prerequisites

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

III. Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

IV. This Course Partially Satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement

Communication Foundational Component Area (010)

V. Core Curriculum Objectives Addressed

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, 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.

VI. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

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

VII. Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

A writing assignment graded by a rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

VIII. Textbook

Required Text

Langan, John. *College Writing Skills with Readings*. 11th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2022.

ISBN: 9781265635732 (physical); 9781265635527 (ebook). (This textbook is included in the course, so you don't need to buy it; see IX below)

Recommended Texts (optional; not necessary for course)

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*. 30th ed., HarperCollins, 2006.

Lester, Mark, and Larry Beason. *The McGraw-Hill Handbook of English Grammar and Usage*. 3rd ed., McGraw-Hill, 2019.

IX. SPC TexBook Syllabus Statement

This course is part of your TexBook program, which means **you don't need to purchase a textbook or access code for this course**. TexBook is the required content (either an eBook or online Courseware) for your course, and is provided for you via the Bibliu platform from Day 1 of class.

Cost of TexBook: this required content is provided as part of a Program called "Inclusive Access," which means that content is provided for you at the lowest price available from the publisher. The cost for this is included in your tuition.

How to access your digital content via Bibliu: you can access your material via the Bibliu link inside your Blackboard Course, or directly via the Bibliu app. If you have issues with this, please contact your professor, the Bookstore Manager or Bibliu Support (see below).

The Bibliu platform: you can use the Bibliu platform to enhance your learning experience, with features including highlighting, notes, and reading text aloud. For more details and support on how to use Bibliu, please visit the BibliU support pages, or contact Bibliu support via the email: support@bibliu.com.

Opting out: you can opt-out of the TexBook Program, up until the opt-out deadline, via the banner displayed when you open the Bibliu platform. Remember that opt-out deadlines vary by term, and if you choose to opt-out, you will lose access to this low price option and will need to purchase the content through a different method. If you opt-out, the fee will be refunded to your account.

Useful contacts:

Bibliu Support: email support@bibliu.com

Bookstore Manager: Christian Bruno - christian.bruno@bibliu.com

Bookstore Text Coordinator: Trish Wells - patricia.wells@bibliu.com

X. Technology Requirements

1. SPC Username and Password: email helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or call the SPC Help Desk at 806-716-2600 for help with your username/password.
2. SPC Student Email Access
 - SPC Student Email Account: If you haven't already, you must go 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 (e.g., 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](#).
 - 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.
3. Regular Access to a Computer and Reliable Internet Service
 - Open computer labs are available free to students with an SPC ID on all SPC campuses (Levelland, 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 building, some SPC parking lots, most coffee shops, etc.
4. 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.edu.blackboard.com>.
 5. Office 365: Word and PowerPoint: 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:
yourSPCusername@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.
 6. Adobe Reader: Available to download free from this website: <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>

XI. Computer Help

Need help with your computer, laptop, email address, username/password?

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

XII. Blackboard Help

1. 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 8:00am–10:00pm, 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 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday–Friday, except on holidays)

3. Get Help Online: click on the Help link listed in the Blackboard course menu.

XIII. Course Syllabus and Organization

- This syllabus is available on the Syllabus and Schedule page in our Blackboard course.
- The course calendar is available on the Syllabus and Schedule tab.
- The course is organized into sixteen weeks. Each week has its own folder on the Course Content page in our Blackboard course.
- A weekly planner and assignment checklist is provided for each week.

XIV. Assignment Deadlines

- The weekly assignment deadline is Monday at 9:00am with the following exceptions, which are due Friday at 09:00am in the weeks they are assigned:
 - Peer Review Workshops (each student is assigned a peer's essay draft to review)

XV. Course Evaluation

A final letter grade will be assigned based on this grading scale: A (90–100), B (80–89), C (70–79), D (60–69), F (59 and below). Essay portfolio grades are usually made up of an outline, peer review workshop, and final draft. No extra credit assignments are offered in this class.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Descriptive Essay | 10% |
| • Peer Review Workshop 10% | |
| • Final Draft 90% | |
| Narration Essay | 10% |
| • Peer Review Workshop 10% | |
| • Final Draft 90% | |
| Compare and Contrast Essay | 15% |
| • Peer Review Workshop 10% | |
| • Final Draft 90% | |
| Persuasion Essay I | 20% |
| • Peer Review Workshop 10% | |
| • Final Draft 90% | |
| Blackboard Grammar Quizzes | 15% |
| Blackboard Discussions/Journals | 15% |
| <u>Final Exam</u> | <u>15%</u> |
| Total | 100% |

XVI. 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.

“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.”

XVII. Essay Portfolios Folder

1. The Essay Portfolios folder is located in Blackboard toward the top of the Course Content. The Essay Portfolios folder is a central location where all essay-related assignments and activities are submitted and completed:
 - Initial Essay Drafts
 - Peer Review Workshops
 - Final Drafts
2. Peer Review Workshops: these are comprehensive peer review experiences. Students review one other student’s initial draft, rating it on the rubric criteria of unity, support, coherence, and sentence skills. Scale ratings are used and written comments are sometimes required.

XVIII. Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to:

1. Regularly login to Blackboard to participate in the class
2. 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

3. Be responsible for having an appropriate attitude and using appropriate language in academic environments; not use condescending, inflammatory, threatening, or profane rhetoric, whether verbally or in written form, in academic environments
4. Have respectful behavior toward instructor and classmates in order to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning
5. Be responsible for courteous actions to others, especially by putting away cell phones and other distractions while in class
6. Be responsible for writing down all grades and applying them to the grading scale used for the class, which is shown in the course's policy statement/syllabus
7. Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements
8. Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration
9. Ask questions when something is unclear.

XIX. Attendance Policy

In this online class, attendance will be assessed through assignment submissions and Blackboard logins. A login on our class's Blackboard website or a submission of an academic assignment (reading quiz, discussion board, etc.) will count as attending class for the week.

Any student who fails to login to the class's Blackboard website or submit an assignment for **two consecutive weeks will be dropped** from the course with a grade of "X" if the student does not have a passing grade average at that time.

XX. Late Work

Unless prior approval is received, late submission of assignments will result in a grade deduction of one letter grade (10%) for each calendar day (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays) that the assignment is late.

XXI. 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. 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 **and/or revise** all or part of a paper or other assignment;

2. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student or from an online site;
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; or
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, 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;
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; or
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

XXII. Student Code of Conduct Policy

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 that 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.

If a student is exhibiting disruptive behavior (for example, making demeaning statements in a discussion board forum), that student will receive a zero for the assignment. The second time this happens, I will contact the dean. The dean will usually contact the student to schedule a time to discuss the cause of the disruptions. After this, if there is a third disruption, I will drop the student from the course with a grade of "F."

XXIII. Disability Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations should notify the Disability Services 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 the individual's disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302.

XXIV. Nondiscrimination Policy

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

XXV. Intellectual Exchange Statement

In South Plains College courses, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference 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 intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

XXVI. Title IX Pregnancy Statement

If you are pregnant or parenting (paternal or maternal) with children under the age of 18 per [Texas Education Code 51.982](#) and Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a [Title IX pregnancy and parenting accommodations request](#), along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email rcanon@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

XXVII. SPC Syllabus Statement Link

Here is a link to the official SPC page with institution policies that are updated as needed: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

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.

ENGL1301 - 8-Week Spring 2026 Course Calendar

Textbook: *College Writing Skills with Readings*, 11th ed., by John Langan and Zoe Albright

Note: Assignment and deadlines may be changed, deleted, or added, so always check in Blackboard and with the instructor.

| Week | Start Date | Writing and Grammar Lesson Topics | Textbook Chapters | Assignments and Due Dates |
|------|------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | Mar 09 | Introduction to Course; Introduction to Writing and the Writing Process; Descriptive Writing; The Writing Process (1st & 2nd Steps); Subjects and Verbs | Course Syllabus, Ch. 1 (pp. 2–26), Ch. 2 (pp. 27–54), Ch. 3 (pp. 55–87), Ch. 8 (pp. 208–228), Ch. 21 (pp. 481–488) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All assignments are due on Mondays by 9:00am unless otherwise noted Always check Blackboard for assignments and deadlines Discussion Board 1 (Due: Mar 24) Plagiarism Quiz (Due: Mar 24) |
| 2 | Mar 16 | Spring Break | No Readings | No Assignments Due |
| 3 | Mar 23 | The Writing Process (3rd Steps); Narrative Writing; Fragments; Run-Ons Regular and Irregular Verbs; | Ch. 4 (pp. 88–114), Ch. 9 (pp. 229–249), Ch. 22 (pp. 489–502), Ch. 23 (pp. 503–514), Ch. 24 (pp. 515–524) | Peer Review Workshop - Description (Due: Mar 27) Description Essay (Due: Mar 30) |
| 4 | Mar 30 | The Writing Process (4th Step); Revising Essays; Commas; Subject/Verb Agreement | Ch. 5 (pp. 115–149), Ch. 6 (pp. 150–178), Ch. 36 (pp. 597–606), Ch. 25 (pp. 525–531) | Peer Review Workshop - Narration (Due: Apr 06) Fragments Quiz (Due: Apr 06) |
| 5 | Apr 06 | Introduction to Essay Development; Compare/Contrast Writing; Verb Types; Pronoun/Reference Agreement | Ch. 7 (pp. 179–204), Ch. 13 (pp. 308–331), Ch. 26 (pp. 532–536), Ch. 27 (pp. 537–545) | Run-Ons Quiz (Due: Apr 13) Journal Entry 01 (Due: Apr 13) Narration Essay (Due: Apr 13) |
| 6 | Apr 13 | Exemplification Writing; Process Writing; Cause and Effect Writing; Adjectives and Adverbs | Ch. 10 (pp. 250–268), Ch. 11 (pp. 269–288), Ch. 12 (pp. 287–307), Ch. 29 (pp. 553–559) | Peer Review Workshop - Compare/ Contrast (Due: Apr 20) Subject/Verb Agreement Quiz (Due: Apr 20) |
| 7 | Apr 20 | Definition Writing; Division - Classification Writing; Argumentation Writing; Dangling Modifiers | Ch. 14 (pp. 332–352), Ch. 15 (pp. 353–369), Ch. 16 (pp. 370–392), Ch. 31 (pp. 564–568) | Commas Quiz (Due: Apr 27) Journal Entry 02 (Due: Apr 27) Compare/Contrast Essay (Due: Apr 27) |
| 8 | Apr 27 | Logic and Essay Structure; Fallacies; Misplaced Modifiers; Pronoun Types; Capital Letters; Numbers and Abbreviations | Ch. 28 (pp. 546–552), Ch. 30 (pp. 560–563), Ch. 32 (pp. 570–577), Ch. 33 (pp. 578–581) | Peer Review Workshop - Persuasive (Due: May 04) Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Quiz (Due: May 04) |
| 9 | May 04 | Writing Principles and Style; Commonly Confused Words; Effective Word Choice; Apostrophes and Quotation Marks Other Punctuation Marks Final Exam | Ch. 37 (pp. 608–617), Ch. 38 (pp. 618–624), Ch. 34 (pp. 582–588), Ch. 35 (pp. 589–596), Final Exam Study Guide | Persuasive Essay (Due: May 06) Final Exam (May 07) |