

# English 1301 SPC Composition I

## Policy Statement

### Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Professor Rob Knight  
**SPC Office:** 316 H  
**SPC Office Phone:** 806-716-4889  
**Class Times:** W—7 PM  
**Office Hours:** W—6-7 PM

\*Office hours are for your use! Please stop by and see me if you are struggling in the course or need clarification, help, or individual instruction, on essays, readings, etc. I am in office hours for your benefit, so please come and take advantage of those as one of your resources in this course.

**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.

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

#### **Necessary Resources:**

You are required to have access to the following technologies:

- SPC Blackboard account
- **A word processing program (Papers will only be accepted in .doc or .docx format.)**
- Folder (Something to put your papers in and keep them organized.)
- Flash Drive/ Thumb Drive/Google Drive/Drop Box/etc. to store each of your typed assignments for this course. The computer will not store your work.

\*Save often to avoid heartache later: “My computer crashed with my assignment on it, so I had to start over, and that’s why my paper is late,” is not an acceptable excuse. Save your work in numerous places, and save it frequently.\*

#### **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:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
2. Exhibit logic, unity, development, and coherence to create essays.
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 edited American English, with an emphasis on correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics, in academic essays.
7. Write a minimum of six 500-word essays.

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

**Methods of Evaluation:** Students' work is evaluated by means of A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), F (59-0): Superior, Good, Average, Poor, and Unacceptable. Numerical grades are assigned for convenience in averaging grades only. All assignments must be completed and turned in by the beginning of class on the date due. Failure to turn in an assignment on time will result in a grade of 0/F for the assignment. **If you are absent, you are still responsible for turning-in assignments on time, especially essays or essay components. No late work will be accepted.**

### **Grading Policy:**

Essays	700 points—essay grades will be on a graduated scale with content and grammar grades adjusting with each essay and each essay becoming a larger percentage of the grade Essay 1—100 points Essay 2—100 points (Content 75% Grammar 25%) Essay 3—150 points (Content 70% Grammar 30%) Essay 4—200 points (Content 60% Grammar 40%) Essay 5—250 points (Content 50% Grammar 50%)
Exercises	300 points—reading comprehension exercises, peer review, grammar exercises
Final Exam	Optional ( <b>Supplemental to grade—If you desire to improve your grade to the next level, you may take the final exam.</b> )

### **Essay and Writing Assignment Evaluation Standards:**

Essays and writing assignments will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Use of the conventions of standard grammar;
2. Use of the appropriate method of development for the assignment;
3. Use of the principles of unity and coherence; and
4. Use of logical, factual arguments to advance the thesis of the assignment.

**\*Note: In college, a “C” is an average paper; it does not have anything “wrong” with it; it fulfills the assignment; it simply does not move beyond the average.\***

**For a full explanation of the writing rubric and essay grading standards, refer to the documents in the General Info module in Blackboard.**

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant it.

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 direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Giving an in-text citation only at the end of a paragraph.

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.

### **Absence Policy:**

An absence is defined as the following:

- Failure to attend a scheduled class
- Missing more than 20 minutes of class
- Leaving a class early without obtaining approval from the instructor
- Three tardies to a class (Tardy is arriving 5 minutes after class starts up to the time for an absence to be counted)

### **3 absences are allowed in the class.**

In accordance with policy, students may be dropped from the program after 3 absences. (This amount is the equivalent of 9 MWF or 6 TR.) **All absences, excused and unexcused, may be included in this count.** A differentiation is usually not made between “excused” or “unexcused” absences. Whenever possible, students should let the instructor know about expected absences as soon as possible and before the class meeting. **After the allotted number of absences is exceeded, the student could be dropped from the class with an “F” or “X”.**

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student’s responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor.

**Student Withdrawals:** Students are responsible for dropping themselves if they cannot or no longer wish to participate in the course. If a student does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, that student may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of “X” or “F” as determined by the instructor.

It is the student’s responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

**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.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class 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 his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call 806-716-4606 or visit the Disability Services Office in Building 8 at Reese Center.

**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.

**Campus Concealed Carry:** Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at

[http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php)

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1 .

#### **Classroom Rules:**

**BE PREPARED.** Being prepared means that the student has carefully read all required readings and completed any out-of-class writing assignments. **For example, on “Editing” days (as listed on the schedule), any student who does not bring a completed and printed copy of his/her essay to class will be counted absent and will not be able to participate in class that day.**

**BE PROFESSIONAL:** All actions and words should reflect kindness and respect for both the instructor and all other students. I will not tolerate rude, disrespectful, or unprofessional behavior directed at any member of this class. Disruptive behavior is not restricted to behavioral issues alone; it can include interruptions from cell phones, iPods/mp3 players, sidebar conversations, or beeping watches. None of these behaviors is conducive to the environment we hope to promote this semester.

**BE HONEST:** Honesty is an important part of integrity. Academic integrity is non-negotiable in a university environment. Students who plagiarize the work of another, whether through outright copying off of the internet or other sources or having another person produce the student’s work and then claiming the work as the student’s own, will receive a 0/F for that particular assignment and could be dropped from the course with an X or F at the instructor’s discretion. There are no extenuating circumstances for cheating of any kind. My recommendation – for the very first offense – will be for a failing grade for the course at a minimum and, very likely, recommendation for suspension from South Plains College. I have zero tolerance for cheating. If I suspect a student or group of students of cheating, I will drop him/her/all involved without discussion. Please believe me when I say that I have ways of determining whether or not a student has cheated that he/she/they cannot get around.

The SPC General Catalog specifically addresses academic integrity as follows: “It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit 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” (23). “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” (23). Students must consult the General Catalog for the college’s detailed policies on plagiarism and cheating. Ignorance

of the college's policies and procedures is not a viable defense for plagiarism or cheating.

**BE MENTALLY PRESENT:** The use of any electronic devices (cell phones, iPhones, iPods, Blackberry, or any other device) will not be tolerated. Your cell phone needs to be set to silent, not vibrate and out of sight; texting under the desk/in your lap is NOT out of sight. Any student using a cell phone, iPod, or any other electronic device not previously approved by the instructor will not be dismissed for the day, but will be counted absent; I will not interrupt class to dismiss you. (However, I understand that sometimes emergencies occur. If you need to have your cell phone on during class for an emergency, please discuss it with me before class begins that day.) Laptops will be allowed only with prior approval.

**CONTACT:** I typically check my messages twice a day (Monday-Friday), once in the morning and once again in the afternoon. If you have a question, please feel free to message me through Blackboard; however, please allow at least 24 hours for a response. Additionally, I do not check my messages on weekends until Sunday evening; Students should limit messages to "quick" questions. My office hours or appointments are the best way to address more complex questions and concerns about the course. If the answer to your question can be found in course website or syllabus, please do not email me as I will only refer you to one of these sources. Please note: you will find my response in your SPC BlackBoard messages.

**COMMUNICATION ETIQUETTE:** I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communication with me. "Sooooooooooooooooo B4 u snd me a msg. B sure i can read it." If the student does not follow these guidelines, I will not respond to his/her email. Students must use proper grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Students should never ask that I respond ASAP and should refrain from using ALL CAPS and excessive punctuation in the subject line of the email.

**GRADING TIME FRAMES:** I grade all work as efficiently and quickly as possible. I teach 8 classes, 6 of which are ENGL 1301. When your assignments are evaluated, you will have them back; please do not inquire as to whether or not your papers are graded.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Any information posted as an announcement on the course website is important and is, accordingly, an extension of course requirements. Students will be held responsible for any information posted in the announcements.

**FINAL COURSE AVERAGES:** At the end of the semester, there is always a temptation for a student to email professors and ask, "Is there anything I can do to make a [insert grade here] in your class?" The quick answer is "No." The longer answer is this: throughout the semester, you are given numerous opportunities to earn grades in this course. At the end of the semester, it is too late to do anything. I rarely give extra credit or drop grades; however, you have many participation grades, essay-participation grades (most of which are completion grades), and opportunities to "help" you. The most efficient and effective way to achieve a desirable grade in this course is to attend each class and be prepared with all materials and readings and submit all course work in a timely manner. If you do what is required of you, you will be successful. Remember: What you put into this course is what you will get out of it.

**COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:** Students are responsible for completing the critical reading, writing, and grammar assignments as identified in the weekly summaries. As this is a college-level course, students are responsible for their own time and course-management strategies.

**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.**

**\*Continued enrollment by the student in the course indicates that the student agrees and will abide by all policies set-forth in this syllabus by the instructor.\***

## Student Information Sheet

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone-- cell \_\_\_\_\_

Major area of study \_\_\_\_\_

Minor \_\_\_\_\_

Future Career? \_\_\_\_\_

High School you attended? \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else I need to know?