

COURSE TITLE: Composition I

ENGL 1301 - Internet

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**\*Office hours may be held virtually. Be in touch via email or phone to schedule an appointment.**

*“Have something to say, and say it as clearly as you can. That is the only secret of style.”*

-Matthew Arnold

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**Course Description:** This course includes a grammar review and a study of the principles of good writing, methods of paragraph and theme development, frequent essays, and collateral readings in literature and other humanities.

**Prerequisites:**

- Students must be TSI-compliant in both writing and reading.
- International students who do not have a TOEFL score of 550 must enroll in ENGL 0301 or 0302 or ESOL 0301 or 0302.

**Textbook:** Blau's *Writing in the Works*, MindTap, with inclusive access – 9781305674691

**\*Students will have immediate access to the textbook once they log in to Blackboard and begin the process of creating an account or logging in to Cengage's MindTap program.**

**Inclusive Access Syllabus Statement****Inclusive Access:**

- **Textbook:** The textbook and resources for this course are available in digital form through the Inclusive Access textbook program at South Plains College. That means the e-book edition of the textbook and/or all required resources are provided in the Blackboard portion of the course from the first day of class. The fee for the e-book/resources is included in the student tuition/fee payment, so there is no textbook or access card to purchase for this course.
- **E-book features:** Access to a cloud-based e-reader is provided by RedShelf via Blackboard. RedShelf e-book features include the ability to hear the text read aloud, highlight, take notes, create flash cards, see word definitions, build study guides, print select pages, and download up to 20% of the book for offline access. Visit <https://solve.redshelf.com/hc/en-us/requests/new> for e-book issues and support.

- **Upgrading to a physical textbook:** Students who prefer a printed textbook rather than an e-book may purchase a loose-leaf edition from the SPC Bookstore or the textbook publisher at a reduced price.
- **How to opt out of Inclusive Access:** As long as they meet the opt-out deadline, students may choose not to participate in the Inclusive Access program if they have a textbook from another source. They should check the course syllabus to see if the instructor also requires course work to be done in an online platform (like Mindtap or Connect). If so, the student would be required to have access or purchase access to that platform in addition to acquiring the e-book. To opt out of the Inclusive Access e-book/resources, students will need to locate the [RedShelf](#) tool in their Blackboard course and follow the instructions given there. Students who need assistance to opt out should contact their instructor or the SPC Bookstore. The Inclusive Access fee will be refunded to students who opt out after the twelfth class day.

**Other supplies or necessary tools:** Access to computer with printer and internet access

**Core Objectives addressed:**

- Communication 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

**Course 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.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

1. Understand that writing is an interactive process that includes prewriting, writing, and revision and apply those principles to the assignments/paper
2. Develop papers using appropriate and logical structures and modes
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose
4. Apply the principles of logic, unity, development, and coherence to create papers that are focused and effective
5. Understand and apply correct grammar and mechanics in writing to promote effective communication

6. Use Edited American English in academic essays
7. Make constructive suggestions for others' writing during peer editing or other critiques/presentations
8. Work collaboratively with other members of the class in order to complete group assignments
9. Read, reflect on, and respond critically to a variety of texts

**Attendance Policy:** This is an online class. Students must be responsible for checking in *weekly if not daily*, for announcements/assignments and submitting work in a timely manner.

\* *Instructor's note: **You must be present in your own life!*** When a course is structured to be completed online, you must hold yourself accountable for communication (with both your Instructor and your classmates), and for checking on and completing work. This is key to your success in the course!

**Face Covering per COVID-19:** It is the policy of South Plains College for the Spring 2021 semester that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the SPC community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings while in SPC buildings including in classrooms, labs, hallways, and restrooms. Failure to comply with this policy may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Dean of Students on the Levelland campus or the Dean/Director of external centers for Student Code of Conduct Violation. Students who believe they have been exposed or may be COVID-19 positive, must contact Health Services, DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN at (806) 716-2376 or [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu).

**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 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 or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Discrimination Policy:** The instructor will do his or her best not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnic background, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

**Diversity Policy:** In this class, the instructor will endeavor to 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 participants to learn about others, about the larger world, and about themselves.

**Academic Honesty:** Please see the *SPC General Catalogue* (online at <https://www.southplainscollege.edu>) for policies and ramifications regarding plagiarism and cheating. Your instructor will be watching for signs of any such practice, and measures will be taken to ensure that the consequences for this type of behavior are serious. Respect yourself and others by putting forth original ideas and work in this class.

**Classroom Behavior:** Since all communication will take place online, please make every effort to behave appropriately in that setting. Discussion between classmates and/or between Instructor and student should always be respectful and professional. Refrain from using offensive language or making derogatory comments. Repetitive or extreme misconduct may result in a drop from the course. Remember that we are here to learn, and we will benefit ourselves the most by maintaining a positive and mature attitude towards others.

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### South Plains College English Department Essay Grading Standards

To evaluate essays, the SPC English department uses a set of uniform grading standards. These standards designate that essays in composition classes should demonstrate at least a basic level of competence in college-level writing and be an appropriate foundation for writing in academic and professional environments.

#### **Grading Criteria for Essays**

Essays are evaluated on four bases: unity, support, coherence, and sentence skills. The criteria considered in each base include characteristics essential to the success of an essay. Depending on the assignment, certain bases and criteria may be weighted more than others, and the instructor's assignment may establish additional, more specific criteria.

#### **Base 1: UNITY**

- **Thesis.** The thesis statement concisely expresses the main idea of the essay, is appropriate for the assignment, and establishes a sustained and consistent focus for the paper. The thesis may preview the supporting ideas.
- **Body Paragraph Structure.** A body paragraph includes a main idea expressed in a topic sentence strongly tied to the stated thesis, unified supporting details, and clear connections among ideas.
- **Purpose and Audience.** The content and style are tailored for a specific purpose and audience.

#### **Base 2: SUPPORT:**

- **Details/Development.** A well-developed essay supports the thesis with ample evidence; uses a variety of specific examples, facts, or other details; and explains the evidence to show its connections to the thesis.

- **Logic.** The essay presents clear, sophisticated, insightful ideas that recognize the complexity of the topic without inaccuracies or errors in reasoning.
- **Use and Documentation of Sources.** If research is used, the essay accurately quotes and paraphrases credible sources, effectively balances source material with the writer's own ideas, and cites and documents correctly according to the required standards of the style (MLA, APA).

### Base 3: COHERENCE

- **Organization and Transitions.** The essay demonstrates a logical progression of ideas, provides clear and smooth transitions among ideas, and uses structure appropriate to an academic essay.
- **Title, Introduction, and Conclusion.** An appropriate title is provided. An introduction captures the reader's attention, transitions to the topic by giving context or background information, and presents the thesis statement. A conclusion reemphasizes the essay's thesis and main ideas and provides a sense of closure.

### Base 4: SENTENCE SKILLS

- **Use of Standard American English.** The essay is written in Standard American English without major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form), and other errors in grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanics, or point of view.
- **Word Choice and Sentence Variety.** The student writes in a consistent, academic tone, using varied sentence structure and accurate and precise word choice.
- **Format.** The essay is formatted according to the standards set forth in the assignment, in the syllabus, or in the required style guide (MLA, APA).

### Assessment of the Grading Criteria

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.

### "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 error types (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 error types (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 error types (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 major error types (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.”

### **Acknowledgments:**

Illinois Valley Community College: English Department Stylebook

Langan, John. *College Writing Skills with Readings*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition

### **Grading Breakdown:**

3 essays each weighted differently	600 points	
5 journals worth 50 points each	250 points	
MindTap/textbook Work	75 points	
Tutor Review (for each paper)	75 points	Total = 1000 points

A = 900-1000 pts.

B = 800-899 pts.

C = 700-799 pts.

D = 600-699 pts.

F = 599 and below

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**\*All syllabus policies and schedules are subject to change, per professor's discretion.**

### **Tentative Class Schedule – ENGL 1301 Internet**

This schedule serves to outline the material/subject matter we will cover in class. All major assignments will be accompanied by instructions detailing specific requirements and due dates via your instructor and/or BlackBoard. ***Any written assignment submitted past the due date will receive an automatic deduction in points after the first 24 hours. Late assignments must be turned in within 48 hours of the due date to receive partial credit. After 2 days papers will not be accepted and you will receive a zero for the assignment. If there are excusable circumstances which might justify an extension on the assignment, arrangements must be made with your Instructor.*** Please note that if there are readings or assignments due on a certain date, you need to be working on them and have them completed *before* they are due on the schedule. You are responsible for all outside work and assignment submission. ***All Cengage MindTap assignments are to be completed by due dates as indicated by the textbook schedule.***

***Your Instructor will only reopen assignments based on circumstances which can be reasonably supported with documentation. This is an online textbook (with an App. Option for your phone; therefore, only extreme circumstances would justify assignment extensions).*** This is a working schedule, and is subject to change during the semester. I will notify students of any modifications and will make sure all adjustments are reasonable.

### **Unit 1**

Gain textbook access

Complete first journal entry as instructed

MindTap quiz – “Essay Structure”

Profile Essay Intro

## **Unit 2**

Second journal entry due

Have draft of Profile Essay reviewed by MindTap tutor / turn in to Blackboard

***Profile Essay Due***

## **Unit 3**

Third journal entry due

Argument Essay introduced

MindTap quiz – “Paraphrasing, Quoting, Summarizing”

## **Unit 4**

Have Argument Essay reviewed by MindTap tutor / turn in to Blackboard

***Argument Essay Due***

## **Unit 5**

Fourth journal entry due

Analysis Essay introduced

MindTap quiz – “Understanding Writing Assignments”

Final journal entry due

Have Analysis Essay reviewed by MindTap tutor / turn in to Blackboard

***Analysis Essay Due***

