

**English 1301: College Composition and Rhetoric  
Ms. Glenda Bryant  
Course Syllabus  
Spring 2016**

**General Information:**

- **Office Location: CM 100 in the Communications Building on the Levelland campus**
- **Weekly Office Hours**  
**MW: 12:30-2:30 PM**  
**TTR: 10:50 AM-12:50 PM**
- **Office Phone Number: 806.894.2190**  
**When you call, leave your full name and a phone number so that I may contact you. I do not have access to voicemail from home; thus, I will not be returning phone calls once my office hours end.**
- **E-Mail Address:**  
**Use Blackboard's email system to ask me questions about the course work, to give information why you were absent from class, and so forth. In this email system, you may contact one another about course-related issues as well. Please do not email me in regular campus email. I will be checking my email in *Blackboard* on Mondays-Fridays until 3:30 PM.**

**Course Goals:**

- **Learn that writing is a valuable way to discover who you are: what you know, think, value, love, and one of the few ways to leave behind a part of yourself to those friends and family members who outlive you**
- **Understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking in the development of exposition and argument**
- **Discover that writing is a process, conceived as a connected and interactive process which includes prewriting, writing, and revision**
- **Be able to write an essay that follows the principles of unity and coherence and that is appropriately developed to prove a thesis by means of narration, description, illustration, definition, process analysis, cause and effect, comparison and contrast, classification and division, argumentation, and / or persuasion**

- Compose essays in the multi-paragraph theme structure, which includes an introductory paragraph, three or more body paragraphs, and a closing paragraph.
- Write an essay in Standard English, the criteria for appropriate diction, grammar, sentence structure, mechanics, and so forth as described in the current required handbook entitled *A Writer's Reference*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

#### Required Texts and Materials:

- Kirsznner, Laurie G., and Stephen R. Mandell. *Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide with LaunchPad Solo*. Brief Edition. Boston / New York: Bedford / St. Martin's, 2015. Print. (available in the Levelland or Reese campus bookstore)
- Hacker, Diana, and Nancy Sommers. *A Writer's Reference*. Eighth ed. Bedford / St. Martin's, 2015. Print. (This textbook should include the LaunchPad online program.)
- A large spiral notebook to contain your handouts and power point presentations
- Two flash drives to save typed written assignments
- *Microsoft Word* to prepare your writing assignments on your home computer
- *Microsoft Power Point*  
You will need this program to download and view the power points from *Blackboard*. These presentations will enable you to take notes for the class and also serve as instructional information so that you can complete the assignments.

#### Blackboard Information:

- Use *Blackboard* to do the following: to acquire your class assignments, note-taking forms, and any additional handouts; to send me messages; and / or correspond with other students about assignments. Please do not email me in regular campus mail.
- Using your personal computer or one in the Technology Center on the Levelland campus, go to this website: [www.southplainscollege.edu](http://www.southplainscollege.edu). Then, click on *Blackboard*, a link that appears in the upper left corner of the homepage for the college. Once you see the *Blackboard* page, you will be directed how to create your username and password. After giving this information, you will be connected to the homepage for this course.

- **On the homepage for your Blackboard course, you will see a list of items in the left menu of the homepage: Announcements, E-Mail Center, Assignment Sheets, Course Handouts, to name a few. To access the information for each of these items, click the title of the link. As you course continues, you will acquire future assignment sheets and other special handouts and power point presentations.**
- **To access the power point presentations, you will need this program: *Microsoft Power Point*. This program is installed on the computers in the Technology Center. You may also purchase this software at any Best Buy, Office Max / Office Depot, to name a few.**
- **You will be preparing grammar, punctuation, diction, and other types of exercises that improve your writing skills. Most of these exercises will come from the *LaunchPad* program that comes with *A Writer's Reference*.**
- **Contact technical support for Blackboard by email ([lkirk@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:lkirk@southplainscollege.edu)) or by phone during regular business hours: 8 AM-4 PM on Monday-Friday. You will not be able to acquire technical help after these normal business hours.**

#### **Grading Policies:**

- **Your work will be evaluated by means of this scoring system: *A* (90-100), *B* (80-89), *C* (70-79), *D* (60-69), and *F* (59 and below).**
- **You will be able to view your grades and current grade average in *Blackboard*; however, you will not see your scores until I have time to grade each person's work for that assignment. I will announce when each specific grade is available for your viewing.**
- **Types and Weights of Assignments**  
You will have several papers to write for this course and also grammar, capitalization, punctuation, sentence writing, and diction exercises to prepare for this course. You will have reading assignments and quizzes to complete for these readings. The weights of these assignments will vary in weight.
- **Handling of Late Work and Computer Problems** You are required to turn in or complete every assignment by the due date. If you do not meet the deadline, you will earn a "0" for the assignment unless you notify me prior to the deadline and have a justifiable reason for not submitting the work by the deadline.

### **Attendance Policies:**

You are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. You are officially enrolled in this course when you pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should you, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, you will be counted absent for every class session you miss beginning with the first official class day.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, you are permitted to complete the assignment you missed. However, you must contact me prior to or on the day that you are missing or missed class in order to be able to complete the missed work. You may contact me in *Blackboard's* email or by calling me at 806.716.2190 on the day that you are missing class. If you do not contact me by phone or email on the day of the absence, you will not be permitted to complete the work for that class session.

You are officially enrolled in all courses for which you pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should you, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, you will be counted absent for each class day you miss.

If you enroll in this course but have “Never Attended” by the official census date, which is February 3, 2015, you will be administratively dropped from the course. If you do not meet the attendance requirements of this class as stated in the course syllabus and do not officially withdraw from that course, I will administratively withdraw you from the course. If you miss five class sessions of class, I will withdraw you from the course. However, if you miss the fifth time after the last day to drop the course, which is April 28, 2015 and / or fail to submit five or more course assignments after the last drop date, you will receive an “F” in the course.

**Students who arrive five minutes late to class will be counted tardy for that class session. Students who arrive more than ten minutes late will be counted absent for that class period. Being on time to class and having a positive attitude are essential for success in this course!**

### **Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:**

- “Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This idea applies to quizzes of whatever length as well to final examinations, to daily reports, and to term papers” (SPC General Catalogue 23).
- **Cheating:** “Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the textbook or from the examination paper of another student, assisting

others to cheat, alteration of grade reports, illegal entry of unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating” (*General Catalog 23*).

- **Plagiarism:** “Offering the work of another as one’s own, without proper acknowledgements, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines and other reference works, or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student [or another person], is guilty of plagiarism” (*General Catalog 23*).
- **This instructor deems work as plagiarized if you fail to write your own essays, copy responses from another student’s paper, or receive help from someone else to complete any assignment. These situations are some of the most common forms of plagiarism.**
- **“Except in extreme cases, disciplinary action in cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled by and at the discretion of the instructor, and, if necessary, in consultation with the departmental chairperson.” If you turn in a plagiarized paper or any assignment, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. If you and other students cheat on an assignment, all of you will receive a 0 for the assignment.**

#### **Disability Policy:**

**If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, and wish to request accommodations in this class, notify the Special Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, if you request accommodations, you must provide acceptable documentation of your disability to the Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services Building, 894-9611, ext. 2529.**

#### **Discrimination Policy:**

**It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnic background, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations and / or resolutions of professional organizations in education and psychology, my diversity policy declares harassment based on individual differences to be inconsistent with my instructional mission and educational goals.**

#### **Diversity Policy:**

**“In this class, the teacher 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.”

#### **Classroom Conduct Policies:**

- **“Failure to comply with the lawful direction of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeat violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course” (*South Plains College Student Guide 11*).**
  
- **In this classroom, you are expected to conduct yourselves as follows:**
  1. **Bring all needed materials to class: textbooks, pens, pencils, paper, computer jump drives, and supplemental guides or handouts. You may not share these items with another student.**
  
  2. **Be on time to class. If you are more than five minutes late, you are tardy. If you arrive more than ten minutes after class has started or leave ten minutes early and / or are gone for any reason for more than ten minutes, you will be counted absent for the class period.**
  
  3. **You are not permitted to leave the class to use the restroom or to call or text someone or receive such communication. You are not permitted to use your cell phone during class; thus, you may not call, text, or read messages. Turn off the device before the class starts. You also may not use computers to surf the Internet for personal reasons, to email others, or to check your communication to or from others.**
  
  4. **Be attentive in class. As I, your instructor, lectures or reads from the textbook or a handout, you are to be attentive by reading the material, highlighting the information as needed, and taking notes. Avoid talking with classmates, turning around to look at the clock or checking the time on your watch or sleeping. Failure to be attentive will result in an absence for the class session.**
  
  5. **Dress in a manner that does not distract from the academic environment. “Revealing clothing or attire carrying obscene or offensive slogans are not permitted. . . . Students are required to wear shirts and shoes” (*South Plains College Student Guide 13*).**
  
  6. **Respect—show it to yourself, your classmates, and your instructor.**
  
  7. **Communicate—if you are late to class, tell your instructor why you are tardy at the end of class. If you miss a class, ask about your assignments by either e-mailing in *Blackboard* or calling and visiting me during my office hours.**

- 8. Tobacco—this substance is not permitted in class.**
- 9. Alcohol or illegal substances—you should not use or be under the influence of these during class. If you are, you will be asked to leave the class and / or may be dropped from the course.**
- 10. Yawn silently, not audibly.**
- 11. Leaving the classroom—do not leave the classroom unless it is an emergency. Blowing your nose, getting a drink of water, talking on a cell phone, or boredom do not qualify as emergencies.**
- 12. Profanity is not permitted. Disruptive, offensive, threatening, physical, emotional, or verbal abusive behavior—you will be asked to desist or leave the classroom and will be dropped from the course.**
- 13. Any extreme disruptions involving the above or including other issues mentioned in “Student Conduct” in the *South Plains College Student Guide*, pp. 11-15, will be handled in the manner outlined in this manual.**

**\*This instructor reserves the right to make changes or add to these policies.**

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| January 19 <sup>th</sup>                      | <u>Introduction to the Course: Course Materials, Objectives, Policies</u>  |
| January 21 <sup>st</sup> -January 28th        | <p><u>Study of the Narrative Essay</u><br/> <b>Reading Assignments:</b><br/> <b>Background Information for the Narrative”</b> (<i>Patterns</i> 97-111)<br/> <b>Junot Diaz’s “The Money”</b> (<i>Patterns</i> 114-117)<br/> <b>Bonnie Smith-Yackel’s “My Mother Never Worked”</b> (pp. 118-122 in <i>Patterns</i>)</p> <p><i>Blackboard</i> Test: “Study Guide for the Narrative Essay”</p> <p>Essay Writing Assignment #1: The Narrative Paper</p>   |
| February 2nd                                  | Enrollment in Online Writing Lab for <i>A Writer’s Reference</i>   |
| February 2nd-February 11th                    | <p><u>Study of Grammatical Sentences</u><br/> <b>Subject-Verb Agreement</b> (pp. 197-204)<br/> <b>Pronouns</b> (pp. 218-229)<br/> <b>Adjectives and Adverbs</b> (pp. 230-234)<br/> <b>Sentence Fragments</b> (pp. 235-240)<br/> <b>Run-On Sentences</b> (pp. 241-245)</p> <p>Grammar Lab Work: Online Grammar Exercises (<i>LaunchPad</i>)</p>   |
| February 16th-February 25th                   | <p><u>Study of the Cause-Effect Essay: “Chapter 10” in <i>Patterns</i></u></p> <p>“What is Cause and Effect?” (pp. 249-250)<br/> “Using Cause and Effect” (pp. 240-251)<br/> “Understanding Main and Contributory Causes” (pp. 251-252)<br/> “Understanding Immediate and Remote Causes” (pp. 252-254)<br/> “Avoiding <i>Post Hoc</i> Reasoning” (pp. 254-255)<br/> “Planning a Cause and Effect Essay” (pp. 255-257)<br/> “Structuring a Cause and Effect Essay” (pp. 257-260)</p> <p>Model Essays to Study:<br/> “Who Killed Benny Paret?” (pp. 267-269)<br/> “A Peaceful Woman Explains Why She Carries a Gun” (pp. 272-276)<br/> “The Movies That Rose from the Grave” (pp. 278-281)</p> <p><i>Blackboard</i> Test: “Study Guide for the Cause / Effect Essay” in <i>Blackboard’s Tests</i></p> <p>Essay Writing Assignment #2: The Cause / Effect Paper</p> |
| March 1st-March 3rd                           | <p><u>Study of Proper Word Choices</u> (pp. 259-193 in <i>A Writer’s Reference</i>)</p> <p>Diction Lab Work: Online Exercises (<i>LaunchPad</i>)</p>   |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup> -March 10 <sup>th</sup> | <p>A Study of Sentence Style (pp. 129-156 in <i>A Writer’s Reference</i>)</p> <p>Sentence Writing Lab Work: <i>LaunchPad</i></p>   |



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| March 14 <sup>th</sup> -March 18 <sup>th</sup> | Spring Break   |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup> -March 31 <sup>st</sup> | <p><u>Study of the Classification and Division Essay</u> (pp. 329-341 in <i>Patterns for College Writing</i>)</p> <p>Special Essay Readings:<br/>         “The Dog Ate My Flash Drive and Other Tales of Woe” (pp. 344-347)<br/>         “The Ways We Lie” (pp. 358-367)</p> <p><i>Blackboard Test</i>: “Study Guide for the Classification Essay”</p> <p>Essay Writing Assignment #3: The Classification Paper</p>  |
| April 5 <sup>th</sup> -April 19 <sup>th</sup>  | <p><u>Study of the Argument Essay</u> (pp. 401-425 in <i>Patterns for Writing</i>)</p> <p>“Just Say No” (pp. 421-423)<br/>         “Is Football Too Dangerous?” (pp. 462-463)<br/>         “Why Parents Should Let Their Kids Play Dangerous Sports” (pp. 474-478)<br/>         “Football Does a Body Good (Nannyism Doesn’t)” (pp. 479-481)</p> <p><i>BlackBoard Test</i>: “Study Guide for Argumentative Writing in <i>Blackboard’s Tests</i>”</p> <p>Essay Writing Assignment #4: Writing the Argument Essay</p>  |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> -May 5 <sup>th</sup>    | <p><u>Study of Punctuation and Mechanics</u></p> <p>“The Comma” (<i>A Writer’s Reference</i> 287-299)<br/>         “The Semicolon and the Colon” (<i>A Writer’s Reference</i> 300-303)<br/>         “The Apostrophe” (<i>A Writer’s Reference</i> 304-306)<br/>         “Quotation Marks” (<i>A Writer’s Reference</i> 307-311)<br/>         “Other Punctuation Marks” (<i>A Writer’s Reference</i> 312-316)<br/>         “Capitalization” (<i>A Writer’s Reference</i> 322-324)<br/>         “Italics” (<i>A Writer’s Reference</i> 329-330)</p> <p><i>Blackboard Test</i>: Proper Sentence Punctuation and Mechanics</p> |
| May 9 <sup>th</sup> -May 12 <sup>th</sup>      | Final Exam   |