

ENGL 1301W Composition I Syllabus

Fall 2017; Credit 3 Hours

Ethics of Western Culture and American Traditions

“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful” – Samuel Johnson

Meeting Time/Place: Section 09 / CRN 82059: MWF 9-9:50 am (EV 353)
Section 13 / CRN 82070: MWF 10-10:50 am (EV313)
Section 30 / CRN 82147: MWF 1-1:50 pm (EV 353)
Section 26 / CRN 82154: MWF 2-2:50 pm (EV 260)

Instructor: Jennifer Child
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Office Hours: MWF 11:00 am-12:00 pm, or by appointment

Course Description: The Theme of Man and the State

ENGL 1301, Composition I, is the basic study in English diction, sentence structure, and rhetoric with emphasis on the development of a thesis or claim. More specifically, the course involves the study of skills and methods used in writing at the university level, with the focus on writing academic texts and incorporating appropriate documentation. As the first half of a two-semester sequence that constitutes first-year composition at SHSU, ENGL 1301 is designed to introduce students to the nature of writing for academic purposes so that they will be able to develop ideas through invention and express them clearly and persuasively. The course builds a solid framework for students' understanding of how reading and writing operate concurrently in academic contexts. Learning the rules and conventions of Standard American English is an essential part of learning to write competently in a university setting.

The curriculum of the EWCAT composition I class will focus around the theme of man and state. One of the problems which has troubled mankind since the beginning of human civilization has been the problem of individual liberty; the problem of the personal will to freedom in its conflicts with the restrictions of social taboos and the laws of government. Since man has always found it necessary to live in social groups, and since he found it impossible to live safely and fruitfully in such groups without the aid of laws, restrictions, and standards, he has always searched for a society or state that gives him both order and sufficient liberty. A state that can give complete order, justice, and protection, and can at the same time allow for individual liberty and free exercise of the individual conscience has never been achieved. Even in America the price of dissent may be social ostracism or a prison sentence.

This course is designed to encourage a productive discussion over the loss of core personal integrity through a reinvigoration of the values of Western civilization. Furthermore, it will demonstrate that politicians, public figures, academics, and the general public have endured throughout history the same

dilemmas that we as Americans bear today. As first semester freshman students, you have the opportunity to gain awareness, insight, and knowledge through a new and innovative experience that is designed to address the questions that have been asked in one form or another in ancient Greece and Rome, and in every generation from that time to the present. The questions are general and overlapping, and any tentative answer to one question will begin to answer the others. Certainly, there is no one answer to any of the questions; our main concern is with the answers which may be suggested in the literature that we are to read and with the actual posing of the questions in the various works.

Aims and Outcomes

Freshman composition is a core requirement because writing well is an essential part of a university education. By the end of ENGL 1301, students will be able to develop a thesis or claim, in a discernible and effective order, and demonstrate that they have a command of the conventions of written English appropriate to the freshman level in college. The course includes a review of usage and grammatical terminology as they relate to the writing process. The main aims of ENGL 1301 are (1) to strengthen students' ability to read a variety of texts representing several rhetorical types and (2), through this reading component, to improve their writing skills, oral expression, and visual literacy. Students will also learn to work with peers to review their own writing and the writing of others. They will learn to draft and revise their own texts for content and organization of thought, as well as for editing. Thorough revision includes the re-visioning of the text, its structure, its contents, its visual effect, and how appropriately it meets the needs of its intended audience and purpose. Discussions, peer reviews, and oral critique will develop students' competence in clear verbal expression.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of ENGL 1301 students will be able to

- analyze audience, purpose, and context,
- respond appropriately to different rhetorical situations and constraints,
- read analytically and think critically, with the aim of solving problems through the development of exposition and argument,
- build a solid connection between reading and writing, with the emphasis on understanding texts, oral, written, and visual,
- use the modified process method (prewriting, writing, and rewriting) to develop well-organized, formal texts in support of a thesis or claim,
- evaluate and critique others' writing, including that of their peers, logically and constructively,
- based on careful listening, give constructive verbal criticism to their peers' oral team presentations,
- work in collaboration to improve their written and oral expression through revision and editing,
- identify persuasive appeals in written, oral, and visual texts,
- use the MLA citation method for documenting basic, fundamental research tasks,
- demonstrate the conventions of Standard American English grammar and appropriate mechanics across various genres and writing situations.

Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL)

The PLTL is designed to allow you the opportunity to discuss and debate the contents of your courses. That is, it offers the occasion to present insights, facts, and opinions regarding the historical and contemporary applications of Western intellectualism and provides a change for academically stimulating conversation. It is your responsibility to attend and participate in PLTL sessions. Failure to meet

attendance and participation requirements during the semester will result in a reduction of your overall average.

Textbooks

Required Texts:

Glenn Cheryl and Loretta Gray. *The Hodges Harbrace Handbook*. 19th ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-305-67644-2 (student edition)

Machiavelli, Niccoló. *The Portable Machiavelli*. Eds./Trans. Peter Bondanella & Mark Musa. New York: Penguin, 1979. ISBN-13: 978-0-14-015092-6.

Aeschylus. *The Oresteian Trilogy*. Trans. Philip Vellacott. New York: Penguin, 1959. ISBN: 978-0-140-44067-6.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. New York: Penguin, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-14-310594-7.

Shakespeare, William. *Julius Caesar*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-0-300-10809-5.

Recommended Texts:

A good collegiate dictionary, such as *Webster's College Dictionary*, *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* or the digital copy of *The Oxford English Dictionary**

(***This resource is free to students through the library home page**)

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for successful completion of this course. Even a moderate number of absences may seriously jeopardize your ability to learn the material and pass the course. Because much of the work will build on material previously completed and may include team interaction, you should make every effort to attend class and be on time. Students must be in the classroom for the entire time in order to receive full credit for attendance. Your attendance is expected and will be documented. Up to three hours of absence will receive no penalty. This translates into three absences for the MWF class and two absences for the TuTh class (i.e., one full week for both). Plan this time carefully, because **any absence beyond the three hours will result in a 2-percentage-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade, every time you do not attend class.**

Class activities and assignments (quizzes and exercises) cannot be made up. It is imperative that you notify the instructor if there is an issue or if classes will be missed for a university approved excused absence (i.e. death in the family, illness with doctor's note, etc.). **Major essays turned in after the beginning of class to the following class day will be assessed a 15-point penalty. Essays turned in 2 days late will be given a 30-point deduction. Essays will not be accepted after 2 class sections.**

Should an emergency arise (such as a serious illness or death in the family) please report your absences through the Dean of Students. His office will assist you in gathering the required documentation and make sure all your instructors are made aware of the circumstances. The instructor will decide whether the documented circumstances qualify as an emergency or not.

If you are unable to attend a class, you must make sure you are prepared for the session when you return. Much of what you need to know in order to be prepared will be on the calendar, but unanticipated events can occur during classes that may change the calendar. Contact a classmate to see what unanticipated assignments, discussions, etc., you might have missed; this will help ensure that you are not surprised when the class is doing something for which you are not prepared.

Class activities and assignments **cannot be made up**, and no exam may be made up unless **prior arrangements** have been made with the instructor. If emergencies occur during scheduled exam times, the student **must** contact the instructor **within 24 hours in order to qualify for a make-up and provide documentation of emergency**. No make-up tests will be administered during class time. **It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding any missed test.**

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If you are unable to attend a class, you must make sure you are prepared for the session when you return. Much of what you need to know in order to be prepared will be on the calendar, but unanticipated events can occur during classes that may change the calendar. Contact a classmate to see what unanticipated assignments, discussions, etc., you might have missed; this will help ensure that you are not surprised when the class is doing something for which you are not prepared.

Grading Plan

This is a "W" or "writing enhanced" course, which means that at least 50 percent of your course grade will be derived from writing activities designed to help you master course objectives. Writing in this course is one of the tools your instructor will use to help you learn course material. Some writing activities will require you to draft and revise your work, with or without instructor feedback. Other assignments may not receive a grade but are designed to assist you in critical reflection of the course material. You should approach writing in this course as a tool to use as part of your learning as well as a tool your instructor will use to assess your level of learning.

Course requirements:

Formal essays (3 x 10%).....	30%
Final P-4 Essay	20%
PLTL Meetings and Responses.....	15%
Reading and Grammar Quizzes.....	15%
Midterm Exam.....	10%
Final Exam.....	10%

**** Note: According to department policy, no extra credit is offered.**

Explanation of assignments

Formal essays. The bulk of your grade will come from your ability to create formal written compositions through invention, organization, drafting, revision, and editing. Each of the four (4) essays will include time spent in various stages of the writing process. Essays will be drafted, will go through guided peer-editing, and will be revised by the original author before the instructor collects the paper for evaluation

and assessment. **All formal assignments will be turned in as portfolios for the full credit.** The four essays will be expository in nature, centering on the development and support of a single thesis. Together, the formal essays will count as fifty (50) percent of the course grade. The first 3 each constitute 10% of the final grade, and the last 20%. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

Usage and Grammar quizzes. Because the intent of ENGL 1301 is to develop and practice writing skills that are academically and professionally essential, it is important to give brief weekly attention to those grammatical and usage principles that are most frequently and glaringly violated. This may take the form of an in class review lesson, online quizzes through The Bedford Handbook throughout the week, and/or an in class mastery quiz (typically given on Fridays). See class schedule for details on topics to be covered. On Fridays, always bring The Bedford Handbook to class unless you are in a peer discussion group that day.

Reading quizzes/ responses. Short quizzes and/ or reading responses will be given based on the assigned readings. The purpose of the quizzes/ responses is to ensure that the students have done the readings, comprehended their meaning, and are able to analyze and synthesize the content.

Midterm exam. Students will take an exam covering coursework from both reading and grammar/usage materials midway through the semester.

Departmental final exam. Students will take a final exam based on usage and mechanics (basic editing skills) as well as course content and objectives. The final is an objective test, which will be administered, designed and scored centrally by the Department of English. The instructor will not know the detailed content of the exam in advance.

Classroom Policies

Individual and group responsibility

During the semester you will be working in teams whose responsibility will be to read and provide constructive criticism on each member's written work and you may, at times, be required to create a document as a team. Because your input is essential to the success of the entire team, your attendance is required. Failure to work as part of the collaborative team will mean that you do not have the proper background to do the assignment and no grade will be recorded.

If you are to bring a draft of an assignment, make sure you are clear about its purpose and have that draft with you. **Do not come to class without the needed materials, including your book, your drafts, and supplementary materials (such as PDFs from Blackboard).** You must have prepared the proper materials by the calendar deadline in order to be able to participate and get the full benefit of the class interaction. Failure to work as part of a classroom cooperative will jeopardize your individual grade.

Assignments

Because writing is a process and involves various stages, students are expected to work through projects in a step-by-step fashion and **turn in all of these steps** when the assignments are due. If any step in the process of a particular assignment is missing or completed unsatisfactorily, **the final paper will not be accepted.**

Your instructor will require that you submit all of your essays to a plagiarism detecting service such as turnitin.com. Enrolling in the course and electing to stay in that section constitutes your agreement to submit your work as your instructor requires.

Cell phones and electronics

Use (including visible presence) of cell phones, and all similar electronic devices is **prohibited during class-time**. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the student's expulsion from the classroom. **Even the visible presence of such a device will result in a zero for that day, including expulsion from the class for the day.** All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during any class. In the rare case of an emergency, the student should step outside to take a call and then inform the instructor of the emergency.

Computer use

Using the computer during class for other than class assignments will not be tolerated. If you access Facebook, Twitter, or any other site not affiliated with our coursework during class, you will be **asked to leave the classroom**, since it is obvious that you do not care to attend to the class activities, and you will receive an absence for the day.

DO NOT check e-mail, surf, or engage in any activity with the computers while the instructor is lecturing or while you are working on an assignment. DO NOT use the computer for any activity other than that assigned while students are working independently. If you need to access the Internet or your email for the assignment, be sure you receive permission before accessing the sites. Ask your instructor for permission to use computers during class.

The penalties for using the computer for other than course work during class are: 1) an absence being registered for that day, and 2) a zero being recorded for the current assignment.

University Policies

Academic Honesty

English Department policy states that a paper or assignment, which evidence can support as plagiarized or in any manner not the result of a student's own intellectual endeavors, will receive zero points. **The second offense will result in failure of the course and possible university disciplinary action.** Submitting your own previously written work for a current assignment or submitting an assignment in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors is also considered academically dishonest. For information on plagiarism and other **Classroom Rules of Conduct**, see the following site: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide>.

Americans with Disabilities Act

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the **Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)** located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936.294.3512, TDD 936.294.3786, and email disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept

strictly confidential. **NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Services for Students with Disabilities.**

Religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

Instructor Evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

**** Additional Note: You MUST have the text that we are discussing for the day with you when you come to class. Failure to have the text being discussed will result in your expulsion from the class for the day and a zero on all assignments for the day.**

COURSE SCHEDULE*

***NOTE: The syllabus/course schedule is tentative and subject to change.**

Abbreviations: **OT = Aeschylus' *Oresteian Trilogy***
 JC = Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*
 HF = Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
 Mach = Machiavelli's *The Prince*
 HHH = *Hodges Harbrace Handbook*

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments	Notes
WEEK 1 August 23-25	Introduction to the course. Distribution of the syllabus. Overview of the course.	W: N/A F: Writing Self Assignment Due	<i>Late registration open.</i>
WEEK 2 August 28-September 1	Intro to Ethics Intro to Grammar and Usage Intro to Greek Drama and Aeschylus	M: Outside Reading W: Ethics Reading F: <i>OT</i> (Introduction—pgs. 9-37)	<i>Aug. 30: Last day to register and to process schedule changes online.</i>
WEEK 3 September 4-8	<i>Oresteian Trilogy: Agamemnon</i>	M: No Class—Labor Day W: <i>OT</i> (<i>Agamemnon</i> —pgs. 41-69) F: <i>OT</i> (<i>Agamemnon</i> —pgs. 69-100)	<i>Sept. 4: Labor Day, holiday for students and faculty.</i> <i>Sept. 8: 12th class day. Last day to drop without a “Q” and receive 100% refund and to submit degree applications.</i>
WEEK 4 September 11-15	Intro to the Writing Process Intro to Grammar and Usage <i>Oresteian Trilogy: The Choephoroi</i>	M: Outside Reading/Exercises W: Intro to Grammar—selected readings from <i>HHH</i> F: <i>OT</i> (<i>The Choephoroi</i> —pgs. 103-143)	

WEEK 5 September 18-22	<i>Oresteian Trilogy: The Eumenides</i>	M: <i>OT</i> (<i>The Eumenides</i> —pgs. 147-182) W: Writing Process, cont. F: PLTL 1	PLTL 1: Friday, September 22nd
WEEK 6 September 25-29	Work on P-1 Essay (Peer Editing) Intro to Shakespearean Drama and <i>Julius Caesar</i>	M: P-1 Peer Editing in-class (P-1 Draft Due) W: P-1 Due in-class F: <i>JC</i> (Intro & Act I—pgs. xvii-34)	P-1 Draft DUE: Monday, September 25th P-1 DUE: Wednesday, September 27th
WEEK 7 October 2-6	<i>Julius Caesar</i> , cont.	M: <i>JC</i> (Act II—pgs. 35-64) W: <i>JC</i> (Act III—pgs. 65-96) F: PLTL 2	PLTL 2: Friday, October 6th
WEEK 8 October 9-13	<i>Julius Caesar</i> , cont. Grammar work	M: <i>JC</i> (Act IV—pgs. 97-121) W: <i>JC</i> (Act V—pgs. 122-end) F: selected work from <i>HHH</i>	
WEEK 9 October 16-20	Work on P-2 Essay (Peer Editing) Intro to <i>Huckleberry Finn</i>	M: P-2 Peer Editing in-class (P-2 Draft Due) W: P-2 Due in-class F: <i>HF</i> (Intro & Ch. 1-7—pgs. ix-46)	P-2 Draft DUE: Monday, October 16th P-2 DUE: Wednesday, October 18th
WEEK 10 October 23-27	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , cont.	M: <i>HF</i> (Ch. 8-16—pgs. 47-107) W: <i>HF</i> (Ch. 17-22—pgs. 108-162) F: PLTL 3	PLTL 3: Friday, October 27th
WEEK 11 October 30-November 3	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , cont.	M: <i>HF</i> (Ch. 23-30—pgs. 163-222) W: <i>HF</i> (Ch. 31-37—pgs. 223-271) F: <i>HF</i> (Ch. 38-Appendix—pgs. 272-end)	

WEEK 12 November 6-10	Work on P-3 Essay (Peer Editing) Grammar Work	M: Outside reading W: P-3 Peer Editing in-class (P-3 Draft Due) F: P-3 Due in-class	P-3 Draft Due: Wednesday, November 8th P-3 DUE: Friday, November 10th <i>Nov. 10: Last day to “Q” drop.</i> <i>Students cannot drop after this date; they will receive grade earned.</i>
WEEK 13 November 13-17	Machiavelli’s <i>The Prince</i> and Analysis	M: Mach pgs. 7-39 W: Mach pgs. 40-end F: PLTL 4	PLTL 4: Friday, November 17th
WEEK 14 November 20-24	Revision & Editing Process	M: Outside Reading W-F: No class—Thanksgiving Break	<i>Nov. 22-24: Thanksgiving holidays for students and faculty.</i>
WEEK 15 November 27-December 1	Work on P-4 Essay (Peer Editing) Review for Final Exam	M: Outside Reading W: P-4 Peer Editing in-class (P-4 Draft Due)	<i>Nov. 27: Classes resume.</i> P-4 Draft Due: Wednesday, November 29th P-4 DUE: Friday, December 1st <i>Dec. 1: Last class day. Last day to resign by 5:00 p.m. in Registrar’s Office.</i>
Finals week December 4-7	Departmental final	<i>The Hodges Harbrace Handbook</i> and all the lectures	<i>The final is an in-class final to be administered during the time to be specified for each section by the University. The final (10% of course grade) focuses on editing skills (grammar, usage, and mechanics).</i>

Grades will be posted by Monday, December 11, 12:00 p.m.