

Syllabus: ENGL 1301W Composition I

Ethics of Western Civilization and American Tradition

Course: ENGL 1301, Fall 2017, 3 Credit Hours

Course Section/Meeting Times/Location:

10-10:50 am : EV 353 Section: 1301.14

11-11:50 am : EV 417 Section: 1301.21

12-12:50 pm : EV 351 Section: 1301.24

1-1:50 pm : EV 356 Section: 1301.28

Instructor: Jonathan Antonini

Office: EV 409

Contact Information: jda016@shsu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 2 pm-3 pm

If these times conflict with your schedule, contact me and I will meet you at a mutually convenient time.

Course Description

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. 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.

This course is designed to encourage a productive discussion of core personal integrity through an investigation 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 an 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. Dr. John de Castro, former dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, argues that high school is for crystallizing knowledge; college is for understanding. This course is designed to encourage your first steps toward this goal.

Aims and Outcomes

This course addresses specifically the following Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Skill Objectives, reflected further in course objectives, requirements, and assignments:

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Teamwork

- Personal responsibility

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 course. That is, it offers the occasion to present insights, facts, and opinions regarding the historical and contemporary applications of Western intellectualism and provides an opportunity 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*. 19th ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017.
ISBN: 9781337293136

*Aeschylus and Philip Vellacott. *The Oresteian Trilogy*. London: Penguin, 1956. ISBN: 9780140440676

*Machiavelli, Niccolò, Anthony Grafton, and George Bull. *The Prince*. London: Penguin, 1961. ISBN 9780140449150

*Shakespeare, William, Burton Raffel and Harold Bloom. *Julius Caesar*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. 2006. ISBN: 9780300108095

*Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. London: Penguin, 1985. ISBN: 9780143105947

* You may use other **unabridged** versions of these texts with your **instructor's prior approval**.

Recommended Texts:

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

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. Since much of our work will build on material previously completed and will include team and group 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. Department policy is that up to three absences will receive no penalty. **Plan this time carefully, because any absence beyond three will result in a two-percentage-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade.** For example, if you miss class five times beyond the excused three, your grade will go down ten percent (5 x 2%), i.e., an entire letter grade.

Class activities and assignments cannot be made up, and no quiz 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. No make-up tests will be administered during class time. **It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding any missed test or quiz.** [Instructors have the option of administering all the missed tests and quizzes during one session on the last class day. To qualify to take the test on that day, you must have had a documented emergency (see below).] **Major essays turned in after the beginning of class to the following class day will be assessed a 10-point penalty. Essays turned in 2 days late will be given a 20-point deduction. Essays will not be accepted after 2 class sessions.**

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 professors 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.

Grading Plan

This is a writing enhanced (W) course, which means that at least 50 percent of your course grade will derive 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

Required components:

Formal essays (4 x 12.5%).....	50%
PLTL sessions	15%
Reading and grammar quizzes	20%
Final exam.....	10%
Peer-Review/First Draft.....	5%

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 documents in the course. 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 grading. All formal assignments must include all preliminary work in order for you to get credit for the paper. The essays will be expository in nature and developed through examples and details from the assigned works. Together, the formal essays will count as fifty (50) percent of the course grade.

Grammar and usage quizzes

Together with the reading quizzes, grammar quizzes form twenty (20) percent of the course grade. 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. Each of these quizzes will focus on a specific aspect of usage/grammar/mechanics, but they are comprehensive in nature and will include questions from previous usage topics.

Reading quizzes

Together with grammar quizzes, reading quizzes form twenty (20) percent of the course grade. Short quizzes will be given based on the assigned readings. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that the students have done the readings, comprehended their meaning, and are able to analyze and synthesize the content.

Departmental final exam

Students will take a final exam, based on usage and mechanics (basic editing skills). The final is an objective test, which will be administered (designed and scored) centrally by the Department of English. Your instructor does not know the detailed content of the exam in advance. The final comprises ten (10) percent of the grade.

Classroom Policies

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. This means peer-reviews are required to be turned in with the final draft of the formal essay.

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

Email

Your instructor will convey essential information to you via email. For this reason, you are required to check your email often, at least once each morning and each evening, so you may remain aware of changing course requirements and schedules.

Cell phones and electronics

The use (including visible presence) of cell phones, text messages, and all similar electronic devices is disruptive to the conduct of the class and, therefore, prohibited during class-time. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the offending student being marked absent for the day of the offense. Even the visible presence of such a device during a test will result in a zero for that test. All such devices should be turned off or put in a silent mode and not be taken out during any class. Emergencies occasionally arise; should you have an emergency situation where you are expecting an important call or text, please step into the hallway, deal with your issue, and then return to class.

Computer use (for computer classrooms)

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**.

Do not check email, 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. If you need to access the Internet or your email for the assignment, be sure you receive permission before accessing the sites.

The penalties for using electronic devices for other than course work during class are:

- an absence being registered for that day
- a zero being recorded for the current assignment

University Policies (More at www.shsu.edu/syllabus)

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/StudentGuidelines2010-2012.pdf#page=29>.

Students with Disabilities Policy

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 located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail 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.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

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.

Course Schedule

GQ=Grammar Quiz – RQ=Reading Quiz – HH=Hodges Harbrace –HW = Homework

****PLTL/Syllabus dates subject to change****

August 2016

23rd (W) – Intro/syllabus

25th (F) – Personal Introductions

28th (M) – Thesis and The Writing process

- **Due:** “What Defines Me” (1-2 paragraphs)

30th (W) – Grammar – Comma splices, fragments, etc.

September 2016

1st (F) – GQ 1

- MLA –citations, works cited, etc. Research
- **HW-** Read play 1 of *The Oresteian Trilogy* – *Agamemnon*

4th (M) No Class – Labor Day

6th (W) – RQ 1

- Background of Greek Drama and *The Oresteian Trilogy*
- *Agamemnon*
- Handout for Essay 1

8th (F) – Continued Analysis and Discussion of *Agamemnon*

- **HW** – Read play 2 – *The Choephoroi/ The Libation Bearers*

11th (M) – Continued discussion on *The Oresteian Trilogy*

- **HW** – Read play 3 – *The Eumenides*

13th (W) – Continued discussion on *The Oresteian Trilogy*

15th (F) – RQ 2

- Continued discussion on *The Oresteian Trilogy*

18th (M) – Finish discussion on *The Oresteian Trilogy*

20th (W) – **Peer Review: First Draft of Essay is Due** (bring three copies)

22nd (F) PLTL

- **HW**- Read *The Prince*

25th (M) – ****Paper 1 is Due****

- Analysis of *The Prince*
- **HW** – Read second part of *The Prince*

27th (W) – RQ 3

- Continued analysis of *The Prince*
- **HW**- Read third part of *The Prince*

29th (F) – Continued discussion of *The Prince*

October 2016

2nd (M) – RQ 4

Finish discussion on *The Prince*

- **HW** – read *On Compassion*

4th (W) – Discuss *On Compassion*

6th (F) – **PLTL**

9th (M) – Grammar – S/V agreement

11th (W) – GQ 2

- Usage and Mechanics (i.e. there, their, they're, etc.)

13th (F) – GQ 3

- **Peer Review: First Draft of Essay is Due** (bring three copies)
- Read Act 1 of *Julius Caesar*

16th (M) - **Paper 2 is Due****

- Handout for Essay 3
- Analysis of *Julius Caesar*
- **HW** – Read Act 2

18th (W) – Continued analysis of *Julius Caesar*

- **HW** – Read Act 3

20th (F) – RQ 5

- Continued analysis of *Julius Caesar*
- Read Acts 4 & 5

23rd (M) – Continued analysis of *Julius Caesar*

25th (W) – Finish *Julius Caesar*

27th (F) – **PLTL**

30th (M) – Grammar (Usage and Mechanics)

November 2016

1st (W) – GQ 4

- To be announced

3rd (F) – **Peer Review: First Draft of Essay is Due** (bring three copies)

6th (M) - **Paper 3 is Due****

- Intro and analysis of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- Handout for Essay 4
- **HW** – Read chapters 1-10

8th (W) – Analysis of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

- **HW** – Read chapters 11-20

10th (F) - RQ 6

- Analysis of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- **HW** – Read chapters 21-30

13th (M) - Analysis of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

- **HW** Finish Huck Finn

15th (W) – RQ 7

- Conclusion and Analysis of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

-

17th (F) – **PLTL**

21st (M) – Grammar and discussion

22nd (W) – **No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**

24th (F) – **No Class (Thanksgiving Break)**

27th (M) – Grammar Review

29th (W) – **Peer Review: First Draft of Essay is Due** (bring three copies)

December 2016

1st (F) – ****Paper 4 is Due****

- Review for Final

*****Exam Week – Dec. 4-7*****

