

Department of English  
Fall Semester 2017

**Course:** English 1301  
**Days/Time:** MWF 11:00-11:50  
**Location:** Evans 358  
**Professor:** Dr. Douglas Krienke  
**Office:** Evans 208  
**Phone:** (936)-294-1413  
**E-mail:** [eng\\_mdk@shsu.edu](mailto:eng_mdk@shsu.edu)  
**Office Hours:** MWF 8:30-10:00; 12:30-2:00

---

**Course Description**

*The Theme of Man and the 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 answers 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 that may be suggested in the literature that we are to read – and with the actual posing of the questions in the various works.

## **Objectives**

The primary subject of English 1301 is writing. Specifically, the course provides the skills needed to write a college-level essay. By the end of English 1301, you should be able to compose – in our out of class – essays that exhibit clear and adequate development of a single thesis, a discernable and effective order, and a command of the conventions of written English appropriate to the freshman level in college. Additionally, you will learn to employ the three appeals of argument in your writings: logos, ethos, and pathos. This method of composition encourages clarity, purpose, and credibility (ethos); the use of factual information and rationale (logos); and an understanding of emotional appeal to a target audience (pathos).

Second, you will receive semester long instruction in how to minimize grammatical and mechanical mistakes through reviews of grammar and grammatical terminology, specifically as these relate to the writing process. Drill, practice, and testing will provide you with sufficient instruction in the fundamentals of Standard American English (SAE). This objective aims for skill in recognizing duplication and disorganization in sentence construction; identifying sentence fragments and run-on sentences; identifying standard subject-verb agreement; identifying placement of modifiers, parallel structure, and use of negatives in sentence formation; and recognizing imprecise and inappropriate word choice, such as profanity, colloquialisms, and shorthand – e.g. text message language. A further objective strives for skill in the standard use of verb forms and pronouns; the standard formation and use of adverbs, adjectives, comparatives, superlatives, and plural and possessive forms of nouns; and recognizing standard punctuation, such as commas, colons, semicolons, and end marks.

Third, you will learn how to write clear, concise, logical sentences, paragraphs, and compositions. This objective incorporates elements of composition that recognizes purpose and audience, unity, focus, development, and effective organization. English 1301 is intended to improve student-writing skills through the study of and writing of essays representing several rhetorical types. It emphasizes the importance of reading and demonstrates the relationship between the reading and writing process. This objective is achieved through the content-based approach of reading poetry, drama, essays, and novels.

## **Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL)**

The PLTL is designed to allow you the opportunity to discuss and debate the contents of your EWCAT class. That is, it offers the occasion to present insights, facts, and opinions regarding the historical and contemporary applications of Western intellectualism and provides a chance 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.

## Texts

1. *Harbrace Handbook*, 19<sup>th</sup> edition
2. *The Oresteian Trilogy*, Aeschylus
3. *The Prince*, Machiavelli
4. *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare
5. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain

## Requirements

1. **ATTEND CLASS AND BE ON TIME:** You will have the option of missing up to three (3) classes during the semester. If you exceed the above, a deduction of five (5) points will be deducted from your overall average for each infraction. If you exceed six (6) absences for the semester, you will NOT receive credit for the course. Absences may be excused when valid documentation is provided (e.g. doctor's note, jury summons, obituary, etc.) If you achieve perfect attendance for the semester, you may earn up to five (5) additional points on your final average.
2. **BE PREPARED FOR CLASS:** Assignments – whether in class or for homework – are given to promote learning and to enhance classroom participation. With the exception of major writing assignments, all assignments will be due in class or at the beginning of the following period. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUPS FOR QUIZZES OR IN-CLASS/HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS** unless a valid written excuse is provided. I will, however, consider dropping up to two in-class OR homework grades. If you attend class and show an interest in your education, I will gladly remove one or two of your lowest daily grades from my grade book. I will not drop or modify major grades.
3. **PREPARATION FOR AND COMPLETION OF MAJOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:** While writing a major essay, you will be required to hand in a rough draft, or multiple drafts, by an assigned date.
4. **PARTICIPATION IN CLASSROOM DISCUSSION/ASSIGNMENTS:** Along with being prepared for every class, you will be expected to participate while in class.

## Assignments

1. Diagnostic/Assessment Tests: Diagnostic/assessment tests will be given at the beginning of the semester and will consist of A) questions related to the EWCAT course B) a fifty (50) question review of the grammatical and mechanical elements of Standard American English.

2. Reading Quizzes: Reading quizzes will be given regularly throughout the semester. Each will cover the readings assigned to you in class. They will be evaluated individually as a daily grade and collectively as a major grade.
3. Journal Assignments: Journal assignments or out of class writing prompts will be assigned throughout the semester. With this assignment, you will be expected to write up to two (2) pages discussing a piece of literature or text. This literature or text may include magazine articles, current events available in a newspaper or on a website, textbook sections, or short stories. The purpose of these exercises is to promote out of class reading and writing and to offer practice in these areas.
4. Major Writing Assignments: Five major writing assignments/compositions are expected for English 1301. These assignments will range in length and subject, and I will discuss with you the requirements and expectations for each prior to making the assignment.  
*\*Note: If a paper is not to be submitted on time, you must formally request an extension from the professor. No final drafts or papers may be submitted via e-mail. All submissions must be given directly to the professor, so do not leave papers in mailboxes, under office doors, with a secretary, etc.*
5. Final Examination: A comprehensive final examination will be given during the scheduled final period at the end of the semester.

### Grading

1. Major Writing Assignments = 50% (10% each) – One assignment is a mid-semester exam.
2. Reading Quizzes = 15%
3. Journal Assignments = 5%
4. Final Examination = 15%
5. PLTL Participation = 15%

**Total: 100%**

6. Breakdown: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, 59% and below = F

## **Tutoring**

For free assistance on any of the writing requirements for this course, visit the Writing Center in Farrington 111. Check online to determine specific hours of operation during the current term. (It is generally open mornings through early evenings, Monday through Thursday, and mornings through early afternoon Friday.)

## **Classroom Conduct**

As you are all adults enrolled at a university, there are manners that you will observe in this classroom. Foremost, this is a learning environment and will be treated as such. Each student has a set of skills that are to be admired and embraced. At no point will any student in this class be made to feel unworthy of his/her place at this university by his/her peers.

Second, cell phones, music players, or any other devices that may inhibit instruction are strictly prohibited. I will offer fair warning should these devices become a distraction in the classroom. If the matter becomes habitual, you will be asked to leave the classroom and marked absent for the period.

Finally, carrying on individual discussions during lectures is not only rude, but it distracts other students from obtaining necessary information. Please hold personal conversations before or after class or during designated discussion periods. If you have questions or comments, please raise your hand and I will be happy to address your concerns.

**Sam Houston State University Mandatory Information** (may also be found at [www.shsu.edu/syllabus](http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus))

### *Student Absences on 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. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” 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.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

### *Students with Disabilities*

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](mailto: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.

### *Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct*

It is academically dishonest, and often illegal, to present someone else's ideas of writing as your own. You cannot use even short phrases or parts of sentences obtained from other sources unless you properly document those sources. Documentation includes marking quotations as well as providing notes, citations, and a reference list. If you receive assistance from a source other than your instructor, your colleagues in the class, or The Writing Center, then you must acknowledge that assistance. Identify the source and the nature of the assistance in an acknowledgements note at the end of the assignment. Failure to acknowledge constitutes academic misconduct. In addition, it is academically dishonest to submit your own previously written work for a current assignment or to submit an assignment in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors. You will be held responsible for furnishing upon request all the sources and preliminary work (notes, rough drafts, etc.) that you used to prepare written assignments. If you cannot produce these materials upon request, the assignment will be considered incomplete and so will not fulfill the requirements, and you will

be given the opportunity to redo the assignment on a different topic, one you negotiate with your instructor. You are responsible for protecting your own work. It is your responsibility to ensure that other students do not copy your work or submit it as their own. Allowing your work to be used in this manner constitutes academic misconduct. Plagiarism and academic misconduct of any kind may constitute grounds for failing this course and may result in further disciplinary action according to university policy. Consult the SHSU Student Handbook regarding your responsibilities and rights concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. (In addition, writing textbooks often contain a useful discussion of plagiarism.)

### *Visitors in the Classroom*

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

### *Instructor Evaluations*

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