

Syllabus: English 1301 — Composition I
Spring, 2018; Three Credits
CRN 20027

Time & Location: Tuesday-Thursday 11:00—12:20 pm; Evans 315

Instructor: Dr. Craig Plunges Email: cep027@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 1:00—2:00 pm, Tuesday 5:00-6:00 pm; Evans 209

Course Description:

ENGL 1301 introduces students to the study of writing and critical reasoning in English. The course teaches students to write college essays and prepare presentations that meet the high standards of academic discourse. Students will learn to read carefully, discern arguments, and appreciate a variety of rhetorical modes, both literary and expository. They will learn to model different modes of writing and speaking, and use what they learn to develop convincing original arguments.

In response to assigned readings, students will learn to identify the author's concerns and motives for writing, and respond to the author appropriately. Over the course of the semester students will develop a better sense of what and how others think, and use this knowledge to clarify and develop their own values, beliefs, and motivations. The readings assigned during the course will raise challenging issues ranging from personal relationships and individual psychology to the economic and ideological systems that influence one's experience of the broader social and political world.

Aims and Outcomes

Composition I is a core requirement because it teaches students to listen to the ideas of others and develop their own ideas in turn. It requires students to find their own voice as thinkers and teaches them how to contribute to the ongoing social conversation with its many controversies and conflicting points of view. By the end of the semester, students will have gained confidence in their use of the English language and competence in plying the language to their own purposes and ends. They will learn to listen to the ideas of others with patience and compassion, and develop a sense of how to disagree with respect and consideration for others. They will learn to craft effective sentences, paragraphs, and short essays that express their own convictions and original ideas.

Textbooks and Readings

1. Schilb, John, and John Clifford. *Arguing about Literature: A Guide and Reader*. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017.

2. Glenn Cheryl and Loretta Gray. *The Hodges Harbrace Handbbook*. 19th ed. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2017. ISBN: 978-1-305-67644-2 (student edition).
3. Handout on most common literary terms (to be given out in class)

Recommended Texts:

4. A good collegiate dictionary, such as *Webster's College Dictionary* or *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*.
5. Graff, Gerald, and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2014.

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

**Abbreviations: ABL = Arguing about Literature: A Guide and Reader
 HHH = Hodges Harbrace Handbook**

Date	Topic	Class Activities	Readings / Hmwk
WEEK 1 January 18	Introduction to English 1301		<i>Late registration open</i>
WEEK 2 January 23 January 25	Article: "Adolescence now lasts from 10-24" Comparing Poems: William Blake and ee cummings	Using templates to respond to other's claims Finding features in common	
WEEK 3 January 30 February 1	Summarizing what others say: What is the argument? What is the take away ? Summarizing continued: Summary of less formal, creative arguments	In class: In groups, summarize Orwell's argument in "You and the Atomic Bomb." TBA	
WEEK 4 February 6 February 8	Summarizing Continued Introduction to Argument	Discussion: Different ways of making a point. Who's the audience? Why does it matter? Group work: Argument analysis and claim summary	Selection of short argumentative essays What constitutes an argument? How are arguments dependent on context, audience, and desired outcomes?

WEEK 5 February 13	Argument continued: standing up for your values	Discussion: How are the essays we read similar? Different? How do the writers <i>frame</i> their concerns?	HMWK: Choose a topic for Assignment One and bring a short draft to class (printed out or on a laptop)
February 15	Assignment One: In-class workshop		HMWK: Complete Assignment One
WEEK 6 February 20	Introduction to Arguing about Literature	Discussion: Stories by Le Guin and others—what matters to these authors? What are the issues ?	
February 22	Arguing about Literature: Evidence	Discussion: What counts as evidence? How does your choice of <i>issue</i> influence what you can use as evidence?	HMWK: Read <i>They Say, I Say</i> , chapter 3 (handout)
WEEK 7 February 27	Evidence of feeling, mind, mood: How does our point of view influence our interpretation and experience of the greater world?	In class: “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,” by T.S. Eliot (p. 109). Assignment Two distributed	HMWK: Closely re-read “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.”
March 1	Evidence and Perspective:	In class: “Dover Beach” by Matthew Arnold. “The Ambassadors” by Hans Holbein; Assignment Two workshop	HMWK: Assignment Two due Tuesday, March 6
WEEK 8 March 6	Assignment Two Due	In class: Selection of poems; Edward Hopper, “Nighthawks”; W.H. Auden, “September 1, 1939”	HMWK: TBA
March 8	Verbal and Visual Analysis	In class: Workshop for Assignment 3	HMWK: Assignment Three due on Tuesday, March 20
WEEK 9	**SPRING BREAK**		
WEEK 10 March 20	Assignment Three Due	Discussion: Historical change and cultural evolution	TBA
March 22		In class: James Eli Adams, “Narrating Nature”	
WEEK 11 March 27	Questions of context and frames of reference	TBA	

March 29	Assignment 4 distributed		HMWK: TBA
WEEK 12 April 3	Credibility: Yours and Others	Discussion: Self-Presentation through language	HMWK: TBA
April 5		In class: Opening paragraphs of Cicero, "Against Catiline"	HMWK: Complete Assignment Four for Tuesday, April 10
WEEK 13 April 10	Assignment 4 due; Introduction to Logical and Rhetorical Transitions	Discussion: What makes a piece of writing seem <i>complete</i> and <i>persuasive</i> ?	HMWK: finish reading Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
April 12	Transitions: Between sentences	In class: Examples to be distributed	
WEEK 14 April 17	Final Assignment distributed	Close reading practice in class	
April 19	Oral presentation guidelines distributed	Workshop	
WEEK 15 April 24	In-class Oral Presentations		HMWK: Prepare for Class Presentations
April 26	In-class Oral Presentations		
WEEK 16 May 1	In-class workshop: Assignment 5		Assignment 5 due by Friday, April 27th (uploaded to Blackboard) <i>The final is an in-class final to be administered during the time to be specified for each section by the University.</i>
May 3	In-class workshop: Assignment 5		
----- Finals week May 7-11	----- Final Examination: TBA		

Grades will be posted by Monday, May 14, 12:00 p.m.

Course Policies

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 5-percentage-point deduction from your end-of-semester grade, every time you do not attend class.

Class activities and assignments (exercises and assignments) cannot be made up. 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.

Grading Plan

This is a “W” course, which means that at least fifty (50) percent of the course grade will derive from writing activities designed to help the student master course objectives.

Assignments:

1. Assigned essays (4 x 10%) **40%**
2. Final Paper (Assignment 5) (**30%** altogether):
 - Draft (presented both verbally in class and in writing) 5%
 - Oral report on the topic of the research paper 10%
 - Research paper 15%
3. Final exam **10%**
4. Attendance, Participation, and Dedication **20%**

Total 100%

Grading scale:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

According to department policy, no extra credit will be offered.

Explanation of Assignments

- *Assigned Essays* (4 x 10%):

The bulk of your grade will come from your ability to create formal written papers. Each of the four 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. These papers will be developed through the method of *example* and *persuasion/argumentation*. Two (2) will be based on current issues and critical thinking and two (2) will be based on literature. It is important that these papers utilize parenthetical referencing, i.e., citation from primary sources.

- *Weekly assignments* (TBD):

These may include readings and/or reading quizzes based on questions emerging from the required collection of literature as well as quizzes on literary terminology and general vocabulary; peer workshop responses; et al.

- *Oral component*:

In addition to the *oral research paper report* (10% of the grade, see below), students must present also smaller assignments orally. The final paper draft (see below) must be presented orally, as well as in a written form, and students must articulate their reflections on readings and feedback on their peers' writings in both oral and written modes. This enhances the students' ability to work with peers in order to reach the shared goal of efficient oral and written expression.

- *Research paper draft* (5%):

Writing drafts for all your essays is mandatory; however, your final paper draft will receive a grade. Half of that grade (2.5/5%) comes from your oral explanation of your research plan. The purpose of the draft is to allow you to get early feedback on your research process.

- *Oral report* (10%):

You will give an oral report to the class on the topic of your research paper.

- *Final paper* (15%):

This is a demonstration of close textual analysis on a literary, social, or political text of the student's choosing (must be approved by the professor).

- *Final exam* (10%): TBA

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 and oral work and at times 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 and your drafts. 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 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.

Cell phones and electronics

The use (including visible presence) of cell phones, text messaging systems, and all similar electronic devices is prohibited during class-time. Failure to comply with this policy will result to expulsion from the classroom. 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.

Computer use (for computer classrooms)

Using the computer during class for other than class assignments is not allowed. 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 will be obvious that you do not care to attend to the class activities.

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.

The penalties for using the computer 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

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.