

English 1301.309: Composition I
Lubbock High School -- Room 2018

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Conference: 6th period M-F

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Tutorials: 7:55-8:15 M-F, 3:55-4:25 MW, or by arrangement

Course Philosophy

The English IV Academic / Dual Credit course is different from other senior English classes in that it is taught using college curricula and materials. The course will give you the opportunity to earn credit for 1301/1302 at South Plains College. The workload is demanding but rewarding and will ultimately prepare you to be successful in post-secondary learning environments. Your presence in this class signifies that you are ready to actively engage in a college-level academic community and to assume a vital role in the development and discussion of new ideas in cooperation with your classmates. You have an important voice to share and an obligation to share it; your commitment to open-minded listening and inquiry will help ensure that your classmates are able to share theirs as well.

Course Description

This course is an intensive study and practice of the composition process from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. The curriculum includes the teaching of effective rhetorical modes as well as audience, purpose, arrangement, style, and collateral readings. The instructional focus is on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

Core Curriculum Objectives Addressed

- **Communications skills:** to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility:** to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of English 1301, the student will have written a minimum of six 500-word essays or the equivalent that reflect the following objectives:

- understand writing as a process: that is, writing conceived as a connected and interactive process which includes prewriting, writing, and revision;
- apply the principles of writing as a process and the analysis of audience and purpose to writing assignments;
- 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;
- write an essay in standard English, the criteria for standard English being those described in the current required handbook;
- understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking in the development of exposition and argument.

Course Readings

This year we will focus on texts that support our understanding of the major modes of composition. Nonfictional selections will include those from two college-level anthologies, *Patterns for College Writing* (12th ed.) and *The Norton Reader* (13th ed.). Major literary selections this year (subject to change) include *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and *1984* by George Orwell. While students are encouraged to purchase their own copies of the literary works, school copies will be provided to anyone who needs one. Students who check out school copies are responsible for keeping them clean, bringing them to class, and paying any necessary replacement costs.

Required Materials

You will need the following materials for this course:

- blue or black pens (pencils and colored gel pens will not be allowed on most assignments)
- tools for annotation -- highlighters, colored pencils, narrow post-it notes, etc.
- red pens or pencils
- #2 pencils
- loose-leaf, college-ruled notebook paper
- a non-spiral composition book (*for daily writing assignments*)
- a 2-pocket folder or three-ring binder (*for class handouts*)
- Kleenex (*travel size*)

Classroom Guidelines*

- **Be attentive.** You are expected to be ready to learn at all times and to actively participate throughout the entire class period. Using your phone, sleeping, having personal conversations, and passing notes are all unacceptable, as is any other behavior that impedes your ability to focus on class instruction, activities, or discussion. You will receive one warning if you are working on an assignment from another class; the second request will result in my confiscating the assignment.
- **Be responsible.** You are expected to arrive to class on time having studied for any quizzes or tests and having completed any and all outside assignments. If you are not in the classroom when the bell rings, you will be counted tardy. You are expected to work diligently on any in-class assignments. If you are absent, you are expected to take the initiative to find out what you have missed.
- **Be honest.** You are expected to maintain a high degree of personal and academic integrity at all times. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will be dealt with severely.
- **Be cool.** You are expected to have a respectful attitude towards the teacher and your fellow students at all times -- even when they voice beliefs, opinions, and ideas that are different from your own. Belittling comments, aggressive behavior, harassment, and other disrespectful, violent, and/or unsafe conduct will not be tolerated.

**All rules related to LHS school policies and to the LISD Student Code of Conduct will also apply.*

Cell Phone / Personal Electronics Policy

Attention and investment are essential to a good experience in this class. Upon arrival, all students are required to silence/turn off their phones and store them in the designated area at the front of the classroom. Each individual will have a space assigned to him/her for phone storage. Any student found using a cell phone or other electronic device without prior permission from the instructor will have that item confiscated. Students who repeatedly have difficulty with adhering to the phone policy will have their devices confiscated and turned over to his/her alpha principle for retrieval.

Academic Dishonesty / Cheating Policy

Unless I specify that an assignment may be done with a partner or in a group, **all assignments** are to be completed individually. Students who cheat through copying, plagiarizing, stealing, downloading (cutting and pasting) information, or sharing work will receive a ZERO and forfeit the opportunity to redo that assignment. Students will be referred to the administration for further punishment, and parents will be notified. **All rules related to the LHS Academic Integrity plan (included in this syllabus) will be enforced at all times.**

Grading Policy*

Grades will be calculated using 4 categories defined and computed in accordance with legal and local grading policies:

- Summative Assessments: 30%
- Formative Assessments: 30%
- Assignments: 20% (10% for composition book entries + 10% for all other daily assignments)
- Student Products: 20%

One chance to redo a failed assignment will be provided during the designated tutorial time or by other arrangement with the instructor. Students who redo an assignment will receive the higher of the two grades, for a maximum of 70 points.

*** Dual-credit Students: According to FERPA regulations, parents do not have automatic access to academic records for college coursework. Students and parents who are interested in having shared access to such information may contact South Plains College to complete a waiver form.**

Handouts

Handouts and notes are your responsibility. Please put your name on your handouts; extras are generally not available. Handouts left on the floor after class will be thrown away. Find a friend in your class who will let you borrow notes or make copies of handouts if needed.

Written Work / Class Assignments / Writing Outside of Class

Composition book writing assignments can be completed in pen or pencil. All written work is to be done in blue or black ink on college-ruled paper and should use a standard heading. It is imperative that all handwritten assignments are neat and legible in order to receive full credit. Typed documents should be double-spaced with 11- or 12-point font and 1" margins.

Extra Credit

No extra credit is offered on an on-going basis. You should expect to earn your grade by completing regular assignments. Extra credit is **NEVER** offered on an individual basis.

Late Work / Make-up Work

All homework is due at the start of the class period. Any work not completed at that time will be counted late and penalized 10 points per day late. Students will not have the opportunity to redo late work. **Students who are tardy to class will not receive extra time to complete quizzes or other in-class assignments.** Always assume that you have make-up work after an absence. It is your responsibility to check with me individually before/after class and to check for any handouts in the make-up work box located at the front of the room. **You will need to come in during to complete assignments. Additionally, you may make up / redo no more than two assignments per day. Alternate arrangements will only be made in extenuating circumstances.** These guidelines apply for absences due to illness, doctor's appointments, and school activities. **Maintaining strong attendance and turning in assignments on time are essential to your success in this course.**

Email

Please remember to be courteous and professional when communicating electronically with your instructors. Include a proper salutation and closing in all of your emails, and take the time to carefully proofread what you've written before sending it. Do not email a teacher unless you have exhausted all other methods of finding out the answer to your question. Please know that I often do not check email after school hours. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, last-minute emails will usually not receive a reply. In order to ensure that I *can* reply to your message, please send me an email through your email service (Yahoo, Gmail, etc.); **do not email me through the electronic grade book.**

Student Code of Conduct Policy

Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The instructor will do his or her best not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnic background, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Diversity Policy

In this class, the instructor will endeavor to 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 participants to learn about others, about the larger world, and about themselves.

Tips for Success

- When you are absent or tardy, you miss discussions, explanations, assignments, and quizzes. To maximize your learning experience and to achieve the grades you undoubtedly want, avoid missing class.
- Plan ahead. If you know you will be out for school activities or personal reasons, see me about your assignments.
- Complete missed assignments as soon as possible. Assignments cumulatively build upon one another throughout the year, and you will frequently be asked to compare new readings or concepts to those encountered previously.
- Speak up in class, even if you do not like talking in front of a group. If you do like talking in front of a group, let everyone else have an opportunity to speak. Class discussions will be an important element of our understanding of the texts this year. You will be graded on your participation or lack thereof.
- It is important to me that you perform to the best of your abilities in my class this year. Please speak to me about any concerns you have or difficulties you are facing outside of class so that together we can put together a game plan to help ensure your success in English.

General Course Overview*

- **August-October** Close reading and critical analysis
Writing as process
Writing: narration, description, and definition
Literary text: *The Things They Carried*

- **October-December** Rhetorical analysis
College Application Essay
Writing: argumentation, comparison, classification, exemplification, and cause & effect
Literary text: *1984*

**Calendars with specific assignment deadlines will be provided in class. All items are subject to change with prior notice.*