

# English 1301 – College Composition I

Fall 2017

Dr. Roy Bearden-White / Department of English

Sections: English 1301-016 & English 1301-025

Class times: TR 9:30 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.

Classroom: Levelland Campus, Technology Center 101

## Required Texts:

Langan, John. *College Writing Skills with Readings*. 9th ed. United States: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2013. ISBN: 9780078036279

Access to a computer with printer and Internet access

## Suggested Texts and Supplies:

A standard collegiate dictionary, such as *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*

A flash drive or internet cloud storage.

**Required means of communication:** All electronic correspondence for this class will be sent to your southplainscollege.edu address, so it is your responsibility to monitor the account on a regular basis.

**Departmental 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.

**Scope/Purpose:** The purpose of English 1301 is to help students understand and apply the standards of correctness in formal thought and the written English language. English 1301 helps students to think well by teaching them to read and write well through its focus on the writing process, on the use of appropriate grammar and diction, on the use of logic, and on the different methods of essay development.

## Prerequisites:

- Students must be TSI-compliant in both writing and reading.
- International students who do not have a TOEFL score of 550 must enroll in ENGL 0301 or 0302 or ESOL 0301 or 0302.

**This course satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement** of the Communication Foundational Component Area

## 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 Objectives:** Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able (1) to understand writing as a process: that is, writing conceived as a connected and interactive process which includes pre-writing, writing, and revision; (2) to apply the principles of writing as a process and the analysis of audience and purpose to writing assignments; (3) to write an essay that follows the principles of unity and coherence and that is appropriately developed by means of narration, description, illustration, definition, process analysis,

cause and effect, comparison and contrast, classification and division, argumentation, and/or persuasion; (4) to write an essay in standard English and (5) to understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking in the development of exposition and argument.

**How to Contact me:**

Office: Levelland Campus, CM 103d

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.  
Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Other times by Appointment

Office Phone: 806-716-4030

Email: [rbeardenwhite@gmail.com](mailto:rbeardenwhite@gmail.com) or [rbeardenwhite@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:rbeardenwhite@southplainscollege.edu)

**Grading of Course work:**

Participation/Daily Quizzes	10%
Descriptive/Narrative essay (2-3 pages)	10%
Definition essay (2-3 pages)	10%
Cause and Effect essay (3-4 pages)	15%
Compare and Contrast essay (3-4 pages)	15%
Argumentative essay (4-5 pages)	20%
Grammar/Style Quiz	10%
Final Exam	10%

**Drafting Process:** This class views writing as a process. The ability to consistently write well requires the author to constantly re-read and re-evaluate his or her written work. One of the main purposes of this class is to introduce the student to the revision process. Writers should never fall in love with their first drafts. A concentrated effort to revise all papers will be expected. The final drafts **must** display a substantial effort toward improvement. For any of the assigned papers, failure to engage in the revision process, regardless of the quality of the first draft, will result in a failing grade for that paper.

**Format of Assignments:** As you will discover, part of the writer's job is to orchestrate how the reader perceives the ideas and opinions presented. To that end, meticulous attention needs to be given to the full presentation of papers. All assignments need to conform to MLA standards, although other styles such as Chicago or APA will be acceptable with prior confirmation. All assignments should be typed or computer generated papers with all text in Times New Roman, 12 point font. All assignments should have 1" margins on the sides, top, and bottom. Your name, section number, and date should be in the upper left (or right) hand corner of the first sheet, and your last name with the page number should appear on the top right of any remaining pages. Drafts should be clearly labeled as to 1st or final. Assignments with multiple pages must be stapled. Failure to conform to the above guidelines without prior approval from me may result in a reduction of credit for that assignment. Remember also that all electronically-submitted assignments may be processed through Turnitin.Com to verify originality.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Students' work is evaluated by means of A, B, C, D, F: Superior, Good, Average, Poor, and Unacceptable. Numerical grades are assigned for convenience in averaging grades only. All assignments must be completed and turned in on the date due before a student will receive credit for the assignment. Essays and writing assignments will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Use of the conventions of standard grammar;
2. Use of the appropriate method of development for the assignment;
3. Use of the principles of unity and coherence; and
4. Use of logical, factual arguments to advance the thesis of the assignment.

**Essay Assessment Guidelines:** The grading of essays in this course is neither arbitrary nor subjective. Students are expected to meet specific criteria for each written assignment. Detailed guidelines and grading rubrics for essays can be found on Blackboard.

**Late Work:** Unless prior approval is received, late submission of assignments will result in a grade deduction of one half-letter grade for each calendar day (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays) that the assignment is late.

**Attendance:** According to the *South Plains College General Catalog*, “Punctual and regular class attendance is required of all students attending South Plains College. There are no excused absences. Students are responsible for all class work covered during absences. Any student who misses two consecutive weeks will be dropped from the class. Anytime absences become excessive, and, in the instructor’s opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met, students may be dropped.” Regular attendance is imperative for successful completion of this course. Mere physical presence, however, is not enough to master the learning objectives outlined in this syllabus. You must also be prepared for each class. This includes having read the assignment, being ready to discuss the topic, and having completed any writing assignments that were due.

**Absence Policy:** Any student who misses more than four class sessions may be dropped with a grade of “X” if the student has a passing grade average at that time. If the student is failing, due to poor work or missing assignments, the student will be given a grade of “F.” In special cases because of extenuating circumstances, a student may miss more than four absences and not be dropped, but the student must **immediately** notify me of the attendance difficulty and submit **proof** of those extenuating circumstances, especially if the student already has surpassed the four allowed absences. Students should consult the *South Plains College General Catalog* on pp. 20-22 for the college’s detailed policy on class attendance and drops & withdrawals. Students have their own responsibility for dropping a class for too many absences or too much missed work.

- If you are absent, you are still required to complete the assigned work by the indicated due date.
- Students involved in school-sponsored activities need to show me their documentation from the appropriate coach/sponsor before they are absent from class. Students will make arrangements at that time for completing any in-class assignments they may miss.
- I expect you to be on time to class. Tardiness is disrespectful of your classmates and of me.
- I take attendance at the beginning of class. If you arrive late to class, you may inform me of the fact at the end of class, so I can change your absence to a tardy.
- If you are 10 or more minutes late to class, you remain marked absent for the day. Three tardies equal one absence.
- If you leave class before you have been dismissed, you will be counted absent.
- Ultimately, your attendance is your responsibility.

**Cell Phones, Ipods, Blackberries, Laptops, etc.:** I don’t know many people who love electronic gizmos more than I do. Not only are they usually incredibly useful, informative, and even educational, they are also typically fun to use. Because of the enormous benefits technology can provide, I do not want to categorically forbid electronic devices from the classroom. With that said, however, electronic gadgets can be quite disruptive in a classroom. In order to negotiate this potential problem, I will need your cooperation in following two simple guidelines:

- The classroom is a communal environment which requires each student to respect the learning experiences of the others. Please consider how your devices may impact, and in some cases simply annoy, others who sit near you.
- You enrolled in, and paid for, this class with a specific purpose in mind, whether it is to improve your writing skills or to fulfill a core requirement. While surfing on Facebook, text-messaging a friend, or playing Pokémon Go might be more fun, realize that such actions will impair your progress in this class (and yes, by progress I do mean your final grade).

**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.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant it.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another student, an online term paper site, or a mail order term paper mill;
2. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
3. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them; or
4. Giving an in-text citation only at the end of a paragraph.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, text messaging, internet) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records; or
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment.

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Discrimination 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.

**Campus Concealed Carry:** Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php)). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the

open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

Class Schedule - Fall 2017  
ENGL 1301.016 & ENGL 1301.025

All assignments are to be completed before the day they are listed. For example, not only should you have read pages 203-215 and 22-32 of *College Writing Skills with Readings* before Thursday, August, 31<sup>st</sup>, but you should also be prepared to discuss the text in class. Submission of all assignments is the responsibility of the student. Please refer to the course syllabus for the complete class policy of late papers. I also reserve the right to modify this schedule according to class needs.

**Week One**

Tuesday 8/29

**In Class:** Introduction to class

Thursday 8/31

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 203-215, 22-32

**Week Two**

Tuesday 9/5

**Write:** An descriptive paragraph for the Narrative Essay

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 145-172, 33-37

Thursday 9/5

**Write:** Rough Draft of Narrative Essay

**In Class:** Peer Review

**Week Three**

Tuesday 9/12

**In Class:** Focused discussion of revisions and sentence structure

Thursday 9/14

**Write:** Final Draft of Narrative Essay

**In Class:** Introduction to Definition Essay

**Week Four**

Tuesday 9/19

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 304-315

Thursday 9/21

**Write:** Thesis for the Definition Essay

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 50-60

**Week Five**

Tuesday 9/26

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 3-7, 60-66

Thursday 9/28

**Write:** Rough Draft of Definition Essay

**In Class:** Peer Review

**Week Six**

Tuesday 10/3

**In Class:** Focused discussions of paragraph and essay structure

Thursday 10/5

**Write:** Final Draft of Definition Essay

**In Class:** Introduction to Cause and Effect Essay

**Week Seven**

Tuesday 10/10

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 260-273

**In Class:** Grammar Quiz

Thursday 10/12

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 83-101

### **Week Eight**

Tuesday 10/17

**Write:** Thesis for the Cause and Effect Essay

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 110-133

Thursday 10/19

**Write:** Rough Draft of Cause and Effect Essay

**In Class:** Peer Review

### **Week Nine**

Tuesday 10/24

**In Class:** Focused discussion of thesis statements and audience

Thursday 10/26

**Write:** Final Draft of Cause and Effect Essay

**In Class:** Introduction to Compare and Contrast Essay

### **Week Ten**

Tuesday 10/31

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 281-296

Thursday 11/2

**Write:** Thesis for the Compare and Contrast Essay

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 413-436

### **Week Eleven**

Tuesday 11/7

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 375-378

Thursday 11/9

**Write:** Rough Draft of Compare and Contrast Essay

**In Class:** Peer Review

### **Week Twelve**

Tuesday 11/14

**In Class:** Focused discussion of essay structure and purpose

Thursday 11/16

**Write:** Final Draft of Compare and Contrast Essay

**In Class:** Introduction to Argumentative Essay

### **Week Thirteen**

Tuesday 11/21

**Write:** Thesis for the Argumentative Essay

**Read:** *College Writing Skills with Readings*, pages 343-355

Thursday 11/23

**Holiday – No Class**

Thanksgiving Break

### **Week Fourteen**

Tuesday 11/28

**Write:** Revise Thesis for the Argumentative Essay

Thursday 11/30

**Write:** Rough Draft of Argumentative Essay

**In Class:** Peer Review

**Week Fifteen**

Tuesday 12/5

**In Class:** Focused discussion of persuasion and rhetoric

**In Class:** Writing Workshop

Thursday 12/7

**Write:** Final Draft of Argumentative Essay

**In Class:** Discussion of Final Exam

**Week Sixteen – Finals week**

**Final Exam Date & Time: To Be Announced**