

South Plains College
Course Syllabus: ENGL 1301
Spring 2024

Instructor's Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jamie Wormsbaker

Office Location: Lubbock Downtown Office# 2028

Office Hours:

Scheduled Office Hours:				
*By appointment Monday-Friday				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:00 AM– 01:00 PM	9:30 PM – 11:00 PM	11:00 AM – 01:00 PM	9:30 PM – 11:00 PM	8:00 AM – 10:00 AM and by appointment

Office Phone: 806-716-2481

Email: jwormsbaker@southplainscollege.edu

- I try to answer emails within 24 hours Monday-Thursday and Friday morning.
- Required for emails: Type your name, course, and subject in the subject box of your email to me (example: *Jane Doe – ENGL 1301-002 - Question about Week 2*).
- PLEASE: Do NOT message me on Blackboard messenger; I will often not see your messages there. Please, send emails from your SPC student Outlook account only.

Department: English and Philosophy

Discipline: English

Course Number: ENGL 1301

Course Title: Composition I

Course Description:

This course is designed to ground first-year students in the reading, writing, and rhetorical demands and practices necessary for engaging in civic discourse and for success in college and beyond. This class teaches students to be both critical readers of complex texts and critical writers and creators of effective texts. This course assumes that the key to critical reading and effective writing is rhetorical knowledge. Rhetoric is foundational for this course because it helps you to understand how other people's texts work and have effects on audiences and helps you to compose effective and purposeful texts yourself. Rhetorical knowledge prepares you to participate in and respond to a variety of writing situations, whether it be in public arenas, professional settings, personal

situations, or future college courses. This course teaches you how to identify other writers' choices and how to make your own choices across a variety of writing situations.

Prerequisite: Students must be TSI-complete or waived in both writing and reading.

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Communications Foundational Component Area (010)

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: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
2. Write essays that exhibit logic, unity, development, and coherence.
3. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
4. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
5. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.
6. Use American English, with an emphasis on correct grammar, parallelism, punctuation, spelling, and mechanics, in language appropriate for academic essays.
7. Demonstrate the ability to specify audience and purpose and to make appropriate communication choices.
8. Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate form and content in written, visual, and oral communication.
9. Demonstrate the ability to apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving and technical proficiency in the development and documentation of exposition and arguments.

Course-Specific Writing Goals

Rhetorical Knowledge

- Use key rhetorical concepts through analyzing and composing a variety of texts
- Develop facility in responding to a variety of situations and contexts (academic and nonacademic) calling for purposeful shifts in voice, tone, level of formality, design, medium, and/or structure
- Use a variety of technologies to address a range of audiences

- Read and compose in several genres, understanding how genre conventions shape and are shaped by readers' and writers' practices and purposes

Inquiry & Research

- Locate and evaluate a variety of primary and secondary research materials
- Summarize, paraphrase, analyze, and synthesize information from a variety of sources in their writing
- Incorporate work created by others in a variety of media (e.g., text, images, sound, video) ethically and effectively for rhetorical purposes
- Apply citation conventions appropriate for genre, purpose, and audience
- Formulate viable research questions, hypotheses, and conclusions

Writing Processes & Craft

- Develop a writing project through multiple drafts
- Develop flexible strategies for reading, drafting, reviewing, collaborating, revising, rewriting, rereading, and editing
- Evaluate the work of others, give useful feedback to others on their writing, and evaluate and incorporate feedback from others in their own writing
- Assess accurately the strengths and weaknesses of their own writing, and develop individual plans for revision and improvement
- Enact revision as substantive change

Technology Requirements:

1. **SPC username and password:** email helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu or call the SPC Help Desk at 806-716-2600 for help with your username/password
2. **SPC student email access:**
 - **SPC Student Email Account:** If you haven't already, you must go ahead and activate your SPC student email account. Not only will you need access to your SPC email account to receive TURNITIN digital paper submission receipts for our class, but you must use it to communicate with me.
 - Your SPC Email address is: **yourSPCusername@southplainscollege.edu** (ex. jsmith1234@southplainscollege.edu).
 - Your student email password is the same as your Blackboard password. If you need help, call the SPC Help Desk at 806-716-2600.
 - To access your SPC email account, log in to [MySPC here](#)
 - You can also set up access to your SPC email account through mobile phone mail apps, such as default smartphone Mail app or the Outlook app.
 - Check with the SPC Help Desk for assistance: 806-716-2600.
3. **Regular access to a computer and reliable internet service:**
 - Open computer labs are available free to students with an SPC I.D. on all SPC campuses (Levelland, Reese, Lubbock, Plainview).

- Computer or internet connection problems may occur for you at some point this semester. **Understand that it is your responsibility to find alternate computers you may use to submit your work on time.** Find your alternate resources **now**; do not wait until you suddenly need them! Line up three friends TODAY who would be willing to loan you a laptop if yours suddenly crashes.
 - Free WiFi is available in all SPC campus buildings, some SPC parking lots, most coffee shops, etc.
4. **Blackboard:** grades, assignments, quizzes, videos, and many other resources for this class are accessed through the Blackboard learning management system. Use your SPC credentials to log in here: <https://southplainscollege.blackboard.com>
 5. **Office 365: Word and PowerPoint:** You are required to use Microsoft Word to create papers for this course. As a member of the SPC community, you have free access to Office 365. Office 365 provides free online access to Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, and 1TB of free online storage with Microsoft OneDrive. You can use Office 365 online or download for free and install to your PC, Mac, or mobile device.
 - To access Office 365 for free as an SPC student, go to <https://www.office.com> and sign in with the following credentials: SPCusername@southplainscollege.edu and your SPC password.
 - You can then click the link for the individual application you want to use online, or click the install office link towards the top right to install the application to your computer.
 6. **Adobe Reader:** Available to download free from this website: <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>

Computer Help: need help with your computer, laptop, email address, username/password?

- helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu
- 806-716-2600

Blackboard Help:

1. **Get Help by Email:** blackboard@southplainscollege.edu
 - Be sure to include your full name, your instructor's name, the course and section you are enrolled in, and a detailed description of the problem.
 - The blackboard@southplainscollege.edu account is monitored from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Monday – Sunday.
 - You can expect a response within 24 hours by email; however, the average response time is less than one hour.
2. **Get Help by Phone:** 806-716-2180 (available between 8 AM and 4 PM Monday through Friday, except on holidays)
3. **Get Help Online:** click on the Help link listed in the Blackboard course menu.

Course Syllabus and Organization:

- This syllabus is available on the **Syllabus and Schedule** page in our Blackboard course.
- The course calendar is available on the Syllabus and Schedule tab.

- The course is organized into sixteen weeks. Each week has its own folder on the **Course Content** page in our Blackboard course.

Assignment Deadlines:

- The weekly assignment deadline is Sunday at 11:59 PM unless otherwise stated. Readings are due by class time the day of the class scheduled to discuss the reading. Please see the “Weekly Assignments” tab in Blackboard for the most up to date assignment deadlines and resources.

Course Evaluation: A final letter grade will be assigned based on this grading scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (59 and below). Essay portfolio grades are usually made up of an outline, peer review workshop, and final draft.

Grading of Course work:

Project 1: Language Story Essay:	15%
Process Work: Project 1 (Readings, Synthesis Matrix, Drafts, Peer Feedback, Discussion):	20%
Project 2: Standard Persuasive Essay	20%
Process Work: Project 3 (Drafts, Readings, Peer Feedback, and Participation):	10%
Project 3: Multimodal Remix Project with Statement of Goals and Choices:	20%
Process Work: Project 4 (Drafts, Readings, Peer Feedback, and Participation):	10%
Project 4: Final Multimodal Remix Showcase:	5%

Total Projects + Process Work = 100%

**Up to 3 extra credit points may be earned by completing extra credit assignment(s).*

***Any assignment that does not meet at least 50% of the minimum length requirement will receive an automatic zero.*

Process work includes reading assignments, in-class brainstorming, drafting, workshops, written feedback to peers, etc. This work, while informal, will be some of the most important work we do for the course. Your collective process work counts as a percentage for each project (see above), and failure to complete process work will have a significant impact on your grade. The goal of this regular writing and practice is to generate ideas, thinking on the page, not about having a finished product. Your process

work grade should be a reflection of your continued engagement and preparation, not of perfection or mastery.

Essay Assessment Guidelines:

Essays may earn grades ranging from A to F based on the instructor's grading scale. Depending on the assignment, certain criteria may be weighted more than others, and the instructor's assignment may establish additional, more specific criteria. The quality of each of the criteria determines the letter grade. Not every essay will fit a single grade's description completely. Instructors may also include process assignments and drafts in their assessment of the final grade.

“A” Essay (Superior)

To earn an “A,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences strongly support the thesis, and body paragraphs are unified around their topic sentences. The essay conveys a clear purpose and is tailored to a distinctive audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain abundant, fresh details and examples that provide specific, concrete, logical evidence. If sources are required, the paper accurately integrates and correctly documents credible source material to add insight, sophistication, and complexity to the paper’s ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is excellent and logical (emphatic order, chronological order, etc.), transitions are sophisticated, and the paper exhibits mastery of basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and is virtually free of other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety (simple, compound, complex) are effective and powerful.

“B” Essay (Strong)

To earn a “B,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences directly support the thesis, and body paragraphs display unity. The essay conveys good awareness of purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs are well-developed with specific details, examples, and sound logic. If sources are required, the paper accurately uses and correctly documents credible source material to supplement its ideas.
4. **Coherence:** The organization of the paper is clear and helpful, transitions are helpful, and the paper exhibits strong basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than two major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement,

verb form) and very few other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“C” Paper (Acceptable)

To earn a “C,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** A thesis is stated but may lack a strong claim or be obvious or predictable; topic sentences adequately support the thesis. One error in paragraph unity may occur. The essay’s purpose and audience are adequately conveyed.
3. **Support:** Body paragraphs contain relevant details or logical reasons but need more specific examples/evidence. If sources are required, credible outside sources are usually integrated and cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization of ideas is satisfactory, transitions are logical, and the paper indicates competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than four major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Some other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors are present but not distracting. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“D” Paper (Developing)

To earn a “D,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper only partially fulfills one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. **Unity:** The thesis may announce the topic but no claim, contain more than one idea, or be too vague, too broad, or too narrow. Topic sentences are not tied to the thesis. Two errors in paragraph unity may occur. Essay conveys little awareness of audience or purpose.
3. **Support:** Details are sparse or vague and consist of generalizations, clichés, or repetition. If applicable, sources are insufficient and/or not always integrated or cited correctly.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is attempted but disjointed or confusing; transitions are sparse. The paper indicates awareness of but not competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. **Sentence Skills:** The paper contains no more than six major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Several other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors distract from the content. Informal word choices occur with little or no variety in sentence type and length.

“F” Paper (Unacceptable)

To earn an “F,” a paper will exhibit *one or more* of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper fails to fulfill one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).

2. **Unity:** The thesis is illogical, incomplete, or missing, so the essay lacks focus on one central idea. Topic sentences are missing, so body paragraphs lack unity. The essay ignores the purpose and audience.
3. **Support:** Details are illogical, irrelevant, or missing from body paragraphs. If sources are required, the paper fails to use sources, does not meet the minimum source requirements, uses source material inaccurately, uses sources that are not credible, fails to document fully or correctly, and/or includes plagiarism.
4. **Coherence:** Organization is incoherent, transitions are missing or illogical, or the paper indicates lack of competence in basic paper components (for example, lack of introduction and/or conclusion, lack of paragraphing).
5. **Sentence Skills:** Seven or more major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) occur with numerous other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice is often inaccurate, immature, or inappropriate. Multiple sentence structure/syntax errors make the paper difficult or almost impossible to read. If one type or a combination of types of errors, regardless of whether they are major or minor, seriously affects the readability of a paper, it will receive an "F."

Class Discussions:

Each reading and subsequent questions or assignments will be assigned before class through Perusall. If students do not come to class having completed the reading assignment, they will not be permitted to participate in that day's seminar. They will be allowed to stay and watch but may not receive a grade.

Student Responsibilities: Students are expected to:

1. Be on time and regularly attend class
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in class discussions, including asking relevant questions; getting assignments and/or notes if absent; and accepting responsibility for not understanding an assignment or failing an assignment
3. Be responsible for having an appropriate attitude and using appropriate language in academic environments; not use condescending, inflammatory, threatening, or profane rhetoric, whether verbally or in written form, in academic environments
4. Have respectful behavior toward instructor and classmates in order to contribute to the atmosphere necessary for learning
5. Be responsible for courteous actions to others, especially by putting away cell phones and other distractions while in class
6. Be responsible for writing down all grades and applying them to the grading scale used for the class, which is shown in the course's policy statement/syllabus
7. Submit all assignments in accordance with due dates, formats, and requirements
8. Avoid all forms of cheating and plagiarism on all assignments, including improper collaboration
9. Ask questions when something is unclear.

Class Attendance Policy

Students will be dropped from the course for missing more than 5 classes. Students in English 1301 are expected to be on time. *If you are more than 10 minutes late to class, then you are considered absent* but will be allowed to stay in class and submit assignments due that day for full credit. If you are late to class and choose to stay, please enter quietly.

*When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. The following absences are excused with the proper notices:

S.P.C. official activity	Signed note from Dean of Students
Illness (or child's illness)	Dr. note signed & dated on abs. date
Funeral	Email of funeral bulletin dated on abs. date

Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first-class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Cell Phone Policy

- Please turn your phone to silent/no-vibration while in class.
- Please do not answer your phone during lecture or discussion time, if you need to take a call, please step into the hallway.
- Please do not text during lecture or discussion time.
- All mobile devices are to be put away during quizzes and tests.
- *If non-adherence to this policy becomes consistent and/or constant, you will be asked to leave the class and be assigned an absence for each infraction.*

Due Dates and Late Assignments

All assignments are due on the days listed on the syllabus calendar. **Late assignments will be accepted for 3 days after the due date. 10 points will be deducted for each day past the due date. After 3 days, it will not be accepted for any reason.** If, for some reason, the calendar must be changed, then it will be noted in class. The weekly assignment deadline is Sunday at 11:59 PM unless otherwise stated. **Some reading assignments will be due before the class sessions in which we discuss the assigned reading.**

Essays/Projects

All essays are due on the dates on the course calendar.

Quizzes

Quizzes may be either **scheduled or unscheduled**. Please be prepared for them by paying attention, taking notes, participating in discussions, and successfully completing your assignments.

Dropping the class: Before you withdraw from class, please contact me or talk to your advisor. There may be a way for you to get back on track.

- Check the SPC Academic Calendar here to find out the last day to drop a course for this semester: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/academiccalendar/index.php>
- To drop this class, fill out and submit this form online: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZrGRbWrP6UWeIqAmJdCCqVjMnZs6h15Nrs0pqCo_sEIUODEXTUFXS0JODDhJOTIYM0NEV1kzRk9GMSQIQCN0PWcu
- You are not required to obtain an instructor signature to drop. There will be no charge for drops for the fall or spring semesters.
- For additional information regarding schedule changes, drops and withdrawals, [click here](#).

Withdrawing from all SPC classes: If you wish to withdraw from all courses, initiate that process with the Advising Office. Schedule an appointment with an advisor by visiting <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/advising/spcadvisors.php> or by calling 806-716-2366.

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/or an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

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

1. Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate, revise, or translate all or part of a paper or other assignment;

2. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another writer or from an online site;
3. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
4. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them;
5. Submitting an assignment for this course that you also submitted to another course without my express approval;
6. Missing in-text citations and/or missing works cited entries.

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, texting, internet, Quizlet, etc.) 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;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Reviews so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper

Please see the following syllabus statements common to South Plains College:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

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.

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.

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.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations: If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Crystal Gilster, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362, or email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

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.

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.

***Credit Statement: Some ideas in this syllabus and in the course curriculum have been inspired by the 1301 / 1302 Rhetoric and Composition Program at Texas Tech University along with ideas from Dr. James Lang.