



SOUTH  
PLAINS  
COLLEGE

## *Policy Statement*

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**Office Hours: M/W 2:30pm–4:30pm**

**Department: English**  
**Campus: Online**  
**Course Number: Engl 1301-181**  
**Course Title: Composition I**  
**Semester/Year: Fall 8-Week 2020**

### **I. 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.

### **II. Prerequisites**

Students must be TSI-compliant or waived in both writing and reading.

### **III. Course Purpose**

English 1301 is mainly an introduction to academic writing. The intention of this course is to help students begin to think of themselves as college students and as writers. This course will supply students with the necessary tools to succeed in other courses and provide a strong foundation for success throughout college and beyond. Furthermore, students will learn to understand writing as a process, a skill that takes practice.

### **IV. Required Resources for the Course**

Langan, John. *College Writing Skills with Readings*. 10th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2019.  
(Textbook is included with your tuition; do not buy it before class begins)

Recommended Texts (optional; not necessary for course)

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Nonfiction*.  
30th ed., HarperCollins, 2006.

Lester, Mark, and Larry Beason. *The McGraw-Hill Handbook of English  
Grammar and Usage*. 3rd ed., McGraw-Hill, 2019.

## V. Core Curriculum Objectives Addressed

- **Communications skills**—to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- **Critical thinking skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, 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.

## VI. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the 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. Write a minimum of six 500-word essays.

## VII. Grading of Course Work

Descriptive Essay	100	Grade Total:	
Narration Essay	100	A (Excellent):	900–1000
Compare and Contrast Essay	150	B (Good):	800–890
Persuasion Essay I	200	C (Average):	700–790
Blackboard Grammar Quizzes	150	D (Below Average):	600–690
Blackboard Discussions/Journals	150	F (Failure):	0–590
Final Exam	150		

## VIII. 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 all 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 first 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.

## IX. Essay Assessment Guidelines

**“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.”

## **X. Late Work**

Unless prior approval is received, late submission of assignments will result in a grade deduction of one letter grade (10%) for each calendar day (not including Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays) that the assignment is late.

## **XI. Attendance**

In this online class, attendance will be assessed through assignment submissions and Blackboard logins. A login on our class’s Blackboard website or a submission of an academic assignment (reading quiz, discussion board, etc.) will count as attending class for the week.

Any student who fails to login to the class’s Blackboard website or submit an assignment for **two consecutive weeks will be dropped** from the course 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.”

## **XII. 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.

If a student is exhibiting disruptive behavior (for example, making demeaning statements in a discussion board forum), that student will receive a zero for the assignment. The second time this happens, I will contact the dean. The dean will usually contact the student to schedule a time to discuss the cause of the disruptions. After this, if there is a third disruption, I will drop the student from the course with a grade of "F."

## **XIII. 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;
4. Giving an in-text citation only at the end of a paragraph; or
5. Submitting an essay the student wrote previously for a different course.

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.

#### **XIV. 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. Processing time could take up to 30 days once paperwork has been submitted. 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) & Lubbock Center 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

#### **XV. Nondiscrimination Policy**

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, marital status, sexual orientation, military status, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. All SPC courses meet federal regulations under Title II of the ADA, Sections 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College -1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336, 806- 716-2360.

#### **XVI. Title IX Pregnancy Statement**

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](mailto:cgilster@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

#### **XVII. 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.

## **XVIII. Inclusive Access**

**Textbook:** The textbook and resources for this course are available in digital form through the Inclusive Access textbook program at South Plains College. That means the e-book edition of the textbook and/or all required resources are provided in the Blackboard portion of the course from the first day of class. The fee for the e-book/resources is included in the student tuition/fee payment, so there is no textbook or access card to purchase for this course.

**E-book features:** Access to a cloud-based e-reader is provided by RedShelf via Blackboard. RedShelf e-book features include the ability to hear the text read aloud, highlight, take notes, create flash cards, see word definitions, build study guides, print select pages, and download up to 20% of the book for offline access. Visit <https://solve.redshelf.com/hc/en-us/requests/new> for e-book issues and support.

**Upgrading to a physical textbook:** Students who prefer a printed textbook rather than an e-book may purchase a loose-leaf edition from the SPC Bookstore or the textbook publisher at a reduced price.

**How to opt out of Inclusive Access:** As long as they meet the opt-out deadline, students may choose not to participate in the Inclusive Access program if they have a textbook from another source. To opt out of the Inclusive Access e-book/resources, students will need to locate the RedShelf tool in their Blackboard course and follow the instructions given there. Students who need assistance to opt out should contact their instructor or the SPC Bookstore. The Inclusive Access fee will be refunded to students who opt out after the twelfth class day.

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.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assignments
1	Oct. 19–23	Introduction to Course Intro to Writing and the Writing Process The Writing Process (1st & 2nd Steps) Descriptive Writing Subjects and Verbs	Course Syllabus Ch. 1 (pp. 2-23), Ch. 2 (pp. 24-51) Ch. 3 (pp. 52-85) Ch. 8 (pp. 204-224) Ch. 21 (pp. 473-480)	Discussion Board 1 Due (Oct. 24)
2	Oct. 26–30	The Writing Process (3rd Steps) Narration Fragments Commas	Ch. 4 (pp. 85-111) Ch. 9 (pp. 225-245) Ch. 22 (pp. 481-494) Ch. 36 (pp. 589-598)	Descriptive Draft Due (Oct. 28) Writing Workshop 01 Due (Oct. 29) Description Essay Due (Oct. 31)
3	Nov. 02–06	The Writing Process (4th Step) Revising Essays Run-Ons Subject-Verb Agreement	Ch. 5 (pp. 112-146) Ch. 6 (pp. 147-174) Ch. 23 (pp. 495-506) Chs. 25 & 26 (pp. 518-529)	Narrative Draft Due (Nov. 05) Writing Workshop 02 Due (Nov. 07) Fragments Quiz Due (Nov. 07)
4	Nov. 09–13	Introduction to Essay Development Compare/Contrast Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Pronoun Reference	Ch. 7 (pp. 176-202) Ch. 13 (pp. 305-328) Ch. 27 (pp. 530-538) Ch. 28 (pp. 538-544)	Narration Essay Due (Nov. 14) Run-Ons Quiz Due (Nov. 14) Journal Entry 1 Due (Nov. 14)
5	Nov. 16–20	Exemplification Process Cause and Effect Definition Adjectives and Adverbs	Ch. 10 (pp. 246-264) Ch. 11 (pp. 265-282) Ch. 12 (pp. 283-304) Ch. 14 (pp. 329-349) Ch. 29 (pp. 545-551)	Compare/Contrast Draft Due (Nov. 19) Writing Workshop 03 Due (Nov. 21) Pronouns Quiz Due (Nov. 21)
6	Nov. 23–27	Division - Classification Argument Regular/Irregular Verbs Dangling Modifiers	Ch. 15 (pp. 350-366) Ch. 16 (pp. 367-390) Ch. 24 (pp. 507-517) Ch. 31 (pp. 556-560)	Compare/Contrast Essay Due (Nov. 28) Adj & Adv Quiz Due (Nov. 28) Journal Entry 2 Due (Nov. 28)
7	Nov. 30 Dec. 04	Logic and Essay Structure Fallacies Misplaced Modifiers Capital Letters/Numbers&Abbreviations Apostrophes and Quotation Marks	Ch. 30 (pp. 552-555) Chs. 32 & 33 (pp. 562-573) Chs. 34 & 35 (pp. 574-588)	Persuasion Draft Due (Dec. 03) Writing Workshop 04 Due (Dec. 05) Misplaced Modifier Quiz Due (Dec. 05)
8	Dec. 07–10	Writing Principles and Style Commonly Confused Words Effective Word Choice Final Exam	Ch. 37 (pp. 600-609) Ch. 38 (pp. 610-616) Final Exam Study Guide	Persuasion Essay Due (Dec. 09) <b>Final Exam (Dec. 09)</b>