

South Plains College
Course Syllabus: ENGL 1301 (Online)
Fall 2025

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Office Hours:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00 AM. – Noon	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	10:00 AM. – Noon	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM.

Communication: The best way to reach me is an email sent to me from your SPC student email address. I do my best to return emails within 24 hours Monday-Thursday and Friday morning. **Do not use your personal email address.**

Department: English and Philosophy
Discipline: English
Course Number: ENGL 1301
Course Title: Composition 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.

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. Write a minimum of six 500-word essays.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: A writing assignment graded by a rubric will be used to determine the extent of improvement that the students have gained during the semester.

Required Textbook:

Your textbook material and required course readings are provided at no cost to you via Blackboard and OER resources. All software required for the course is provided at no cost and/or free to sign up. You do not need to make any additional purchases for the course.

Supplies:

- Access to a computer with internet and a printer; three-ring binder to keep class notes, PowerPoint printouts, and essay materials.

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.
 - **When contacting your instructor, you must use your SPC email address. In the subject line, include your name, course number, section and the subject of your message.** Do not use your personal email address or Blackboard course messenger. A message from your personal email address may be sent to my "junk email" folder, and I do not check Blackboard course messenger.
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, McDonald's, etc.
 - Our Blackboard team recommends the Mozilla Firefox internet browser.
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:** 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.

Writing and Grammar Help:

Tutoring services are FREE to all SPC students!

SPC Tutors: Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online. Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, and view tutoring locations.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

Brainfuse

You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with Brainfuse each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard and click on the tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Brainfuse link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access Brainfuse tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8 pm-8 am
6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-224

The South Plains College Writing Center (SPC WC) offers FREE writing support to all SPC students, faculty, and staff. Peer tutors offer a welcoming environment in which visitors can gain feedback and assistance with a variety of writing projects, including, but not limited to, essays, short writing assignments, personal statements, scholarship materials, and personal creative works. The staff at SPC WC are trained to help with any stage of the writing process, whether you are drafting, revising, editing, or even just brainstorming. Writing tutoring is valuable beyond remediation; collaboration is a vital part of the writing process, and students of all skill levels are encouraged to visit.

One-on-one sessions ranging from 30 minutes to 1 hour are available both in-person and online Monday through Friday. Appointments are encouraged and can be made through Penji, but drop-ins are also available.

For information regarding SPC Writing Center locations, hours, appointments, and more, visit the following link:

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

Course Syllabus and Organization:

- This syllabus is available at the **Assignment Deadlines, Course Calendar, and Syllabus** link in our Blackboard course.
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- The course is organized into sixteen weeks. Each week has its own folder on the **Course Content** page in our Blackboard course.
- A weekly overview is provided for each week.

Assignment Deadlines:

- The weekly assignment deadline is Sunday at 11:59 PM unless otherwise noted.

- Unless prior approval is received, **you will not receive credit for a late assignment**. Do not wait until the night before to complete assignments.
- All files must be submitted via the assignment link in the Blackboard modules. It is your responsibility to make sure the assignment submitted properly *before* the due date. No documents will be accepted after the submission deadline has passed unless prior approval is received.
- Please notify me before you are going to be out of town for a school sponsored event. I will let you work ahead so that you don't miss any deadlines. However, please know that no exceptions will be made to the late assignment policy.
- **Do not use AI apps to create your essays or assignments, and do not use Grammarly, Quillbot, and other AI paraphrasers to change your words, diction level, or sentence structure. If you do, you may earn a zero and be dropped from the course for plagiarism/cheating.** If you struggle with wording and grammar, meet weekly with a free tutor and work to strengthen your own writing skills.

Attendance Policy:

- Online students are required to log in to Blackboard frequently. Even if there is nothing due, I frequently post announcements and send emails with important information. Students who fail to meet this requirement may be dropped from the course with an X.
- There is no on-campus attendance requirement for this course.
- Be advised—I do not accept late work unless you have contacted me prior to the due date to receive approval.
- You cannot make up tests after the due date has passed. You cannot make up assignments after the due date has passed.
- **I strongly recommend that you access ("attend") our course daily Monday through Thursday to work on the week's assignments. That way all you have to do on Fridays is turn in assignments. If you were attending a face-to-face class, you would spend an hour and fifteen minutes in class with me twice a week, and then you would have about six hours of homework to complete outside of class.**
- If you have not submitted any assignments by the 12th class day, your access to the course will be blocked and the Registrar's Office will remove you from my class roll.
- To experience more success, do not procrastinate and attempt to complete a whole week's assignments the day (or night!) before they are due.

Assignment Submission:

- I cannot accept any assignment via email. **It is your responsibility to make sure the assignment submitted properly before the due date.**
- Write your essays and assignment in Google Docs and then download them to submit as Microsoft Word documents in Blackboard. You can find a tutorial on how to convert a Google Doc to a Word document [here](#).
- All files must be submitted as .docx documents (Microsoft Word).
- **Be aware—any assignment that doesn't meet the minimum length requirement by ½ will be given a zero, and you will not be allowed to make it up. Assignments that are at least ½ the required length but still do not meet the length requirement will receive significant grade deductions.**
- Please understand that file management is a skill that college students should be very familiar with. I cannot accept late work from students who don't understand how to upload files. When

you submit a file in Blackboard, you should receive a receipt at your SPC email address. Look for this email after you submit each assignment to ensure the file is in the proper place. This is extremely important.

- All major papers should meet the guidelines of the assignment and be properly formatted in MLA 9th edition. You are responsible for understanding and following MLA format and asking questions when needed. Here's a quick overview: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/formatting/>
- Points will be deducted for final drafts that do not meet the basic formatting standards for a college essay.

Perusall

You will complete activities through Perusall periodically as part of your learning media for the course. Perusall is a social annotation platform where you will complete a multi-step assignment that may include videos, reading, and other media and provide annotations in small groups with your peers as part of our ongoing writing discussion. These graded assignments are scored on the quality of the annotations and overall engagement, including some or all of the criteria below:

- Contributing thoughtful questions and comments to the class discussion, spread throughout the entire reading
- Starting the reading early
- Breaking the reading into chunks (instead of trying to do it all at once)
- Reading all the way through to the end of the assignment
- Posing thoughtful questions and comments that elicit responses from classmates
- Answering questions from others
- Upvoting thoughtful questions and helpful answers

Read and thinking critically about literature and writing is the foundation of this course, and these assignments are the most important part of your coursework to start with each week. You are strongly encouraged to start these early and complete them over several days in order to be successful and get the best outcomes in your learning.

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).

Persuasive Essay - 20%

Multimodal Remix with Statement of Goals & Choices - 20%

Final Showcase - 10%

Process Work - 35%

- Includes Perusall + Prewriting + Outlines + Rough Draft & Peer Review

Quizzes - 15%

Each week, click on the **My Grades** link in the Blackboard menu to view your grades and current average. If at any time you wish to discuss your course progress, contact me.

Student Responsibilities: Students are expected to

1. Regularly log in to “attend” the Blackboard class
2. Be responsible for the learning process, including preparation for class, such as reading and homework; participation in 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 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.
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 and use of AI
9. Ask questions when something is unclear.

Essay Assessment Guidelines:

Essays may earn grades ranging from A to F based on the following grading scale.

“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."

Plagiarism and Cheating: **There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course.** Do not under any circumstances use words you didn't write in an essay or assignment without proper documentation, including words generated by AI. If you're not sure about proper documentation, you must reach out via email or office hours before the due date to ensure academic integrity. Plagiarism will automatically result in an F for the assignment and can result in getting dropped from the course with an F.

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

1. Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate or revise 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; or
5. Missing in-text citations.

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 Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

- **DO NOT RECYCLE OLD PAPERS FOR THIS CLASS:** You may not submit the same or a revised version of a paper you wrote previously for this or another class. In other words, you will be expected to write new, original papers for each written assignment you complete this semester.
- TURNITIN will generate a similarity report for each of your papers and can reveal if parts have been plagiarized or generated/revised by AI
- I have an ethical responsibility to ensure that all students receive credit for only work that they have originally and ethically produced. It is your responsibility as a student to demonstrate that your work is original in order to avoid penalties or plagiarism violations. I encourage all students to keep a comprehensive draft history and track changes in Microsoft Word as a precaution.
- ***If you are involved in cheating or plagiarism on exams, quizzes, papers, or assignments, you will receive a zero for the assignment or be dropped from the course with the grade of "F" or "X" at my discretion.***

Academic Integrity: Artificial Intelligence

I have an ethical responsibility to ensure that all students receive credit only for work that they have originally and ethically produced, and the learning outcomes of English 1301 rely on your own original reading, writing, and thinking. Do not use AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, Quillbot, Microsoft Editor, Draft Coach, translators, etc.) for any of these prohibited tasks:

- Allowing AI to generate any words, sentences, or written language for an assignment
- Allowing AI to “brainstorm” ideas, thesis statements, research topics, or claims
- Allowing AI to outline, organize, or otherwise direct the composition of your work
- Allowing AI to elevate, spin, enhance, or improve your own words, sentences, or ideas

Using AI to write or heavily revise your writing can lead to severe consequences, including grade penalties, zeroes, Academic Dishonesty reports, and failure or dismissal from class. AI revision tools can be useful, but in this composition course, the goal is to help YOU learn to write effectively and correctly. The lessons in this course will teach you how to write thoughtful, clearly-organized paragraphs and essays composed of well-constructed, grammatically correct sentences. If you need help along the way, don't turn to AI. Instead, make frequent (daily/weekly) use of the free tutoring resources available to SPC students. The Course Resources folder in Blackboard tells how to schedule free sessions with tutors through the SPC Writing Centers (in-person or online) or Brainfuse (online only).

Intellectual Exchange Statement, Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, Artificial Intelligence: For information regarding official South Plains College policies on these topics, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

Health and Wellness: Any student needing individual counseling for issues such as depression, anxiety, adjustment to college, stress management, and substance abuse may visit the Health and Wellness Center to chat, confidentially, with licensed mental health professionals who provide services free of

charge to current SPC students. Call or visit on Levelland Campus 806-716-2529 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Students wanting to set up a counseling session will have an option to be seen face-to-face or virtually.

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.