



English 1301.113CL: Composition 1
Course Syllabus: Fall 2021
MW: 11 am-12.20 pm

When asked, "How do you write?" I invariably answer, "one word at a time."

Stephen King, Preface to *The Stand*

Instructor Information

Name Dr. Gilchrist White (Blackboard lists me as "Terry White")
Email gwhite@com.edu
Office Phone 409.933.8316
(If I don't answer, leave a voice mail. Speak clearly and slowly. Your message will be emailed to me, and I will call you as soon as I can during a normal business day.)

Office Hours and Location

Office Hours Mon-Wed, 9-11; Mon 1-2; TTH, 9.30-11.30 or, by Appointment
Office Location M-003, Mezzanine of the Library

My Teaching Philosophy

Learning is best achieved when students become engaged with the material and discover information on their own. Students also need interaction with other learners through discussions, debates, collaboration, and evaluation. Individual learners also need to reflect on their learning—to evaluate his/her past experiences and how they relate to his/her present situation, and to plan for future learning and growth. A teacher's job is to help learners with this on-going process.

This philosophy places students at the center of their own learning and in charge of it.

Required Textbooks

Bullock, Richard, Michal Brody, and Francine Weinberg. *The Little Seagull Handbook*. Norton, 2017.

King, Stephen. *Night Shift*. Penguin, 1976. New edition, Anchor Books, 2011.

---. *On Writing*. Pocket Books, 2000. 10th Anniversary edition, Scribner, 2010.

---. *Skeleton Crew*. Penguin, 1986. New edition, Pocket Books, 2017.

In addition, you will need to read **one** of Stephen King's novels from the following list: *Cell*, *The Green Mile*, *The Shining*, *The Gunslinger*, or *Misery*

A note about the books: they are readily available used and as e-books and in many editions. Any of these formats are OK with me, but you need to be sure you are reading the correct stories and sections of novels.

Other Requirements

You must use Microsoft Office Word for your essays. On the My Dashboard page of BlackBoard (where your courses are listed), is a section called "Technology Support." Click on the "Get Free MS Office Suite" link (the first one) and follow the directions on the page that opens.

BlackBoard

This class has a Blackboard component. You are expected to turn in most major written assignments such as essays through a link in Blackboard. You will also participate in the discussions in BB as well as in class. I will also post the syllabus, assignments, and other course documents in the class so that you will have 24/7 access, and I will keep the grade book up-to-date so you can check your grades.

In the event of school closure due to weather or my unexpected absence, it is your responsibility to log into Blackboard to check for announcements regarding such assignments.

Course Description

This course involves intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphases are on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. The focus is on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

Prerequisite: The following TSI scores or equivalent developmental courses – TSI Reading 351 and TSI Writing 340 and Essay of 4 OR TSI Reading 351, TSI Writing less than 340, and ABE at least 4, and Essay of 5. Credit by examination available.

Composition 1 is an academic transfer course satisfying COM's Communication Core Curriculum requirement.

Course Requirements

1. Essays

You will write 3 essays, which include research. All three (3) essays will be focused on social issues drawn from the fiction of Stephen King. Points vary (essay 1 is worth 100 points; essay 2, 150 points; essay 3, 200 points). Guidelines will be given for each essay.

In addition, you will be required to email your specific essay topics to your instructor. The due dates will be in the Essay Assignment Handouts as well as in the Weekly Overviews. Emailing your topic is worth 5 points for each essay. (15 points total)

2. Prewriting Activities

Each essay will have prewriting activities associated with the essay assignment. Essay 1 will have discussions as the prewriting, but essays 2 and 3 will have additional written assignments that you will hand in. (25 points each; 50 points total)

3. Peer Review (drafts posted online, but reviewed in class)

For each essay as part of the writing process, you will participate in peer review. This activity will require you to post a draft of your essay in a discussion topic, and then, to review in writing two essays by your classmates. For each peer review, you will be provided with a list of questions to review specific areas for each paper. Each peer review is worth 20 points: 10 points for posting your essay and 5 points for each of the 2 reviews you write (10

points). You may not earn extra points for reviewing for more than 2 essays. (3 @ 20 points each; 60 points total)

4. Reflection Activities

Self-evaluations and applications for writing. You will write 3 of these during the course: one for Essay 1, one for Essay 2, and a final. These pieces will require you to think about your learning and progress in rhetoric and writing. The final Reflection will require you to think about your writing process and what you have learned all semester. Detailed instructions will be provided for each. (25 points for Essays 1 and 2, and 100 points for the final; 150 points total)

5. Rhetorical Précis

A *précis* is a short, precise summary of any document such as an article, a web site, or a book. You will write 5 of these during the course, and you will be given specific instructions on how each will be written. (20 points each; 100 points total)

6. Discussions

A large part of the learning process is done in collaboration with others—discussing the readings, brainstorming ideas about them, and listening to others. In this class, these activities are imperative for richer understanding. (*Online, listening is reading carefully.*)

In this face-2-face class, discussions will be during class AND online in Blackboard. They will be worth 10 points each. Please see the rubric in the Assessments Folder on the Course Menu for the online discussions. (12 @ 10 points each: 120 points total)

After I close the discussion for postings, you will still be able to read the postings throughout the course.

6. The Novel. You are required to read **one** of Stephen King's novels from a list provided (see list of required readings). You are required to participate in an on-going discussion of your novel with others in the class who have selected it. Novel discussion is worth 40 points.

- 5 points for emailing the title of your choice to me (due date in the Weekly Overview).

Several assignments are related to the novel: discussions, Essay 3, the Wiki Project, and the Oral Presentation. The foundation for these assignments is the 4 novel discussions.

7. Wiki Project.

You will collaborate with others to create a wiki page within our BlackBoard course. There are 3 parts to the assignment that will be detailed in an assignment handout. The first part is the Wiki Page; the second part is a Peer and Self Evaluation of Participation in the Wiki Group; and, the third part will be a review of 5 of the Wiki pages. You will be given a handout with all instructions. (150 points)

8. Oral Presentation.

The oral presentation will be 3-5 minutes in length over the Wiki page that you and your partner(s) create. There will be a document with all instructions. Although you will present as a team or group, the grade will be an individual grade. (50 points)

9. Miscellaneous Assignments

First Email: 5 points

Syllabus Quiz: 10 points

Plagiarism Quiz: 10 points

Research Tutorial (library assignment): 13 points

Note: There may be other assignments that I have not listed, but generally, these are the kinds of work we will do this term.

Assessment

All essays and discussions, the Wiki Project, and Oral Presentation have rubrics that I will use to grade the assignments. All rubrics are in the folder, Rubrics, on the Assessments page linked on the Course Menu. Once an assignment is graded, the associated rubric will appear as a link in the Grade Book along with the graded assignment or discussion.

Grading Formula

A cumulative point system for grading is used in this course. The points listed are the maximum value a student can earn in the different assignments.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Essays (3; points vary) | 450 points |
| Essay/Novel Topics (4; 5 points each) | 20 points |
| Reflections (3; points vary) | 150 points |
| Rhetorical Précis (5; 20 points each) | 100 points |
| Wiki Project | 150 points |
| Oral Presentation | 50 points |
| Discussions (12 @ 10 points each; 1 @ 40) | 160 points |
| Peer Reviews (3 @ 20 points each) | 60 points |
| Prewriting Activities | 50 points |
| Miscellaneous | <u>38 points</u> |
| Total | 1228 points* |

** Your grade will be based on the number of points you have earned divided by the total points available. The Blackboard Grade book keeps a running total of points so that you can always see how you are doing.*

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Grading Scale: | A = 1105 - 1228 |
| | B = 982 - 1104 |
| | C = 860 - 981 |
| | D = 737 - 859 |
| | F = 736 or less |

NOTE: You must complete and submit all major essays to pass this class. Also be aware that if you do not post to the discussions and peer reviews or complete the other written assignments, you will lose a substantial number of points that will affect your grade.

Late Work: I do not like to accept late work. However, I understand that occasionally a student may have an unexpected problem getting an assignment in on time – for whatever reason. If you find yourself in that situation, you need to email me ASAP.

If I agree to accept your late assignment, I will deduct the equivalent of **one letter grade** from the score as penalty.

If you are having trouble with an assignment, let me know BEFORE it is due. I will work with you as much as I can.

Make-up Policy

Generally, any in-class group work cannot be made up. However, most of the assignments will carry over into Blackboard. For example, our class discussions. Any assignments in Blackboard can be completed, but the Late Policy will apply to any work turned in late. (see above.)

Extra Credit

I give extra credit for only 2 activities.

1. Research Tutorial (library assignment) Evaluation. When you complete the evaluation, copy and paste the Thank You for completing information into a Mail message window in BB and email it to your instructor. 5 points will be added to your Research Tutorial grade.
2. Complete the Course Evaluation, available toward the end of the semester. If you complete the evaluation, I will award 5 points to your course point total.

NOTE: As with all course evaluations, I will not see the results until after grades are in and they are not identified by name so the results are completely anonymous. I only receive a list of students who have completed the Course Evaluation.

Attendance Policy

COM recognizes no excused absences other than those prescribed by law: religious holy days and military service (see the current *Student Handbook*).

In accordance with that policy, I recommend that you miss no more than 4 classes, for whatever reason. Missing classes will affect your grade. Please do not schedule doctor's appointments or other events during class time.

Tardiness Policy

If you must be late, come in and take the nearest vacant seat. See me after class.

Communicating with your instructor

ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Email me within our Blackboard (BB) class unless you are having problems accessing BB. I am listed as Terry White (instructor). Use my COM email ONLY in the event you cannot access Blackboard. In your email, send me a phone number where I can call and leave a message if necessary. I will call you as soon as I can.

If you leave a voice message on my office phone, I will return your call as soon as I can.

I try to answer emails within 24 hours.

Submission Policy

All essays and other written assignments will be submitted through an Assignments Link located in the Content Folder for the week that the assignment is due.

Table Mapping SLOs, Core Objectives, and Assignments

| Student Learner Outcome | Maps to Core Objective | Assessed via this Assignment |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes | Teamwork | Wiki Project |
| Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution | Personal Responsibility | Use and citation of research sources in essays |
| Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose | Communication Skills (CS1) | Essay |
| Read, reflect and respond critically to a variety of texts | Critical Thinking Skills | Rhetorical Précis |
| Use Edited American English in academic essays | Communication Skills (CS1) | Essay |

Academic Dishonesty

Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams, sharing written work, or copying work from web sites or other sources – is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT: PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one’s own. Two forms of plagiarism are common. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded material without properly acknowledging its sources. In the second form, the writer submits work actually done by someone else. (The student who allows his/her work to be used by others is also guilty.)

Any student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of “0” on his/her plagiarized work and may, as a result, receive a failing grade in the course. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense: all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.

Violation of the Plagiarism Policy may result in a referral to the College of the Mainland Judicial Coordinator or further disciplinary actions as stated in the current Student Handbook.

“Source” may refer to published works (including material available from electronic/computer networks or databases), electronically broadcast programs, films, recordings, interviews, speeches, or lectures.

1. You must document when you quote directly from another source.
2. You must document when you paraphrase words from another source.
3. You must document when you summarize ideas from another source.
4. You must document when you use facts (statistics in a chart or graph, for example) or visual material from another source.

Links to Resources about Avoiding Plagiarism

- [Purdue University OWL](#)
- [The Tutoring Center](#)

Student Concerns

If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using my contact information previously provided in this document. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact the Department Chair, Brian Anderson at 409.933.8186 or banderson@com.edu.

General Course Outline (See the separate Calendar Handout for more exact due dates and assignments. Subject to change when necessary.)

Week 1: Introduction to course; discuss technology

Week 2: Read King, *Night Shift* (NS), "Battleground," "The Mangler," "Trucks"; discuss stories and technology; Essay 1 assigned; Novel assignment

Week 3: Read King, *On Writing*, 7-101; discuss King's memoir; discuss technology; peer review 1; Essay 2 assigned; Research Tutorial

Week 4: Read King, selected short stories; discuss readings and technology

Week 5: Essay 2; read King, selected stories; research; novel essay (3) assigned

Week 6: Read King, selected stories; Essay 2; discuss readings; novel group discussion 1

Week 7: Read selections from King; Essay 2; discuss social issues

Week 8: Read selections from King; novel group discussion 2; wiki project assigned

Week 9: Read selections from King; peer review #2

Week 10: Peer review #2; novel group discussion 3; work on wiki project; Essay 2 due

Week 11: Essay 3; novel group discussion 4; work on wiki project

Week 12: Essay 3; work on wiki project

Week 13: Work on essay 3; work on wiki project; peer review 3

Week 14: Peer review 3; work on wiki project; Essay 3 Due

Week 15: Complete Wiki; Oral Presentations

Week 16: Wiki review; Oral Presentations; Final Reflection

Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process

Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook. <https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services

College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college career. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement

Any student that is needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or hbankston@com.edu. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email counseling@com.edu to setup their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

Textbook Purchasing Statement

A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy

Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 2.

Fn Grade

The Fn grade is issued in cases of failure due to a lack of attendance, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the Fn grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance will be submitted for an Fn grade (for an online class, the last date an assignment is submitted will be considered the last date of attendance.)

Early Alert Program

The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

COVID-19 Statement

All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit com.edu/coronavirus for future updates.

Technology Outage Policy

Campus-Wide

Students are responsible for completing all course work by the due dates stated in the assignment schedule. Occasionally the College may experience emergency campus-wide technology outages. Should this occur during a Quiz or submission of an Assignment, you will need to notify the instructor. You will need the Quiz to be reset or for the instructor to extend assignment due date. The assignment due date will be extended or the quiz will be reset after the campus-wide outage is confirmed by Informational Technology.

An Announcement will be sent to all students relaying the information about the new due date for the assignment or quiz. In case of a personal technology issue or if you have questions about an assignment or need clarification of requirements, you are expected to contact the instructor using Course Email. The College has a number of [computer labs](#) so access to requisite technology needed to complete assignments should not be an issue.

Personal Technology Outage

You should have a back-up plan in case you experience problems with your computer or internet service. If you experience technology problems, it is your responsibility to turn your work in on time. If you experience Internet problems, fill out a support ticket before you contact your instructor. The link can be found under the Resources Menu, "COM, Course and Technical Links" on the left side bar of the course; click on the link and submit a support ticket.