



ENGL 1301.00212 : Second Term

English Composition I

Fall 2025, October 13, 2025 – December 4, 2025

This is a 100% online asynchronous course in the D2L/Brightspace platform (no virtual or face-to-face meetings).

Instructor Information

- **Name:** Mr. Caleb J. Mullins (“Mr. CJ”, if you prefer)
- **Email:** cmullins@com.edu
- **Phone:** 409-933-8549 (for voicemail only)

Office hours and location: Mondays/Wednesdays, 4:00pm-5:00pm, by *Virtual Classroom* in D2L/Brightspace

Required Textbook/Materials: *The Roughwriter’s Guide* (digital copy in D2L/Brightspace), the *OWL Perdue Writing Lab* which will be your writer’s handbook (digital copy in D2L/Brightspace), website computer access, stable internet access, Google Chrome, Microsoft Word access, a working microphone and camera for digital office hours

Course Description: ENGL 1301. COMPOSITION I (LECTURE 3, LAB 0). CREDIT 3. AGCM. Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essays as a vehicle for learning, communicating and critical analysis. Prerequisites: One of the following TSI scores combinations or equivalent developmental courses (1) TSI Reading 351 and TSI Writing 350 and TSI Essay 5 (2) TSI Reading 351 with TSI Writing 363 and Essay 4 (3) TSI Reading 351 and TSI Writing less than 350 with ABE 4 and TSI Essay 5.

Course requirements: Online students are 100% responsible for reading and viewing course content, and assignment instructions, and for submitting assignments by the designated due date and time. It is imperative that you start early each week, log into D2L/Brightspace daily, and watch for daily announcements and/or emails. *You must have access to a working computer and a reliable Internet connection to successfully complete this course. If you have technical issues, then I recommend using the library/tutoring center computers at COM or your local library. Personal computer and Internet issues are not an acceptable excuse for late/incomplete work in this course. This course is collaborative, and you are expected to participate in online and class discussions, activities, and peer-review. You will be expected use resources within D2L/Brightspace to support your writing projects, take quizzes, participate in discussions and peer-review, conduct research using COM’s library (if available), utilize COM Tutoring Center

(writing tutors), write and submit three major papers, and properly document your sources in the MLA documentation style.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

A grade: 90 - 100

B grade: 80 - 89

C grade: 70 - 79

D grade: 60 - 69

F grade: Below 60

FN grade: assigned to students who stop attending and participating in class (F2F/online/hybrid).

The following table explains the specific grade breakdown for this class:

Assignment Type	Weight	Notes
Paper#1: Rhetorical Analysis	20%	An 800-word essay based on analysis of one of three articles as determined by the instructor
Paper #2: Rogerian Argument	20%	An 800-word argumentative paper based on academic level primary and/or secondary research
Paper #3: Research Paper	25%	A 1500 word argument paper based on academic level primary and/or secondary research
Class Participation & Weekly Work	20%	Including but not limited to weekly quizzes, discussions, peer-review, teamwork, and the final exam
Final Examination	15%	Comprehensive final examination
Originality Requirement: All writing for this course must be original to this class for this semester. All major written assignments to Turnitin through assigned D2L/Brightspace dropboxes.		

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Late work and make-ups will only be allowed without penalty with properly documented excuses, but the instructor must be notified by email right away. There will be hidden extra credit bonuses which you may earn throughout the semester provided you read your assigned course materials and listen to the recorded lectures carefully. All papers are due at 5:00pm on the date assigned in our course calendar. For every day a paper assignment is late, the instructor will deduct 10 points; after five days, all late papers will receive a zero. Papers not submitted to their corresponding dropboxes in D2L/Brightspace before the due date are considered a day late. Technology problems are not valid excuses for missing weekly work nor major written assignments.

Attendance Policy: Students are considered present for the week by completing the weekly quizzes assigned to each module. These quizzes test your knowledge of the lecture, readings, supplemental videos, and/or assigned films for the week. They are not extremely difficult, but neglecting to complete all activities assigned to each week will result in poor quiz grades which will greatly affect your class participation & weekly work grade. Other absences I excuse, with proper documentation, in addition to what College of Mainland allows are the following:

- **Serious illness**
- **Serious illness, or death, of an immediate family member**
- **EMS, fire department, police, or other public service duties or training**
- **Legal matters**

Peer-Review: I have setup peer-review discussion boards for each major written assignment which you will be required to participate in in D2L/Brightspace. These will open progressively when we approach the respective due dates for each assignment. Peer-review is mandatory, and failure to participate in the allotted time will result in a 10-point deduction from the final grade of each major written assignment.

Redemption Policy: If a student fails a paper for not meeting minimal requirements for the paper, the student may opt to redeem the failed assignment with corrections. However, the student must qualify to redeem zero by meeting the minimal requirements for the two remaining papers. If the student satisfactorily meets this criterion, the instructor will allow the student to resubmit the failed assignment with corrections for a grade (this means you may start with your originally submitted draft). Failing two major assignments disqualifies the student from redeeming a failed grade.

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 is available Monday-Friday. I check and answer emails throughout the day, but I do not answer emails after 5:00pm, on weekends, or holiday breaks. Never wait until the last minute to contact me with questions regarding assignments. If you email me on late Friday evening, I will not read your email until the following Monday. I utilize the announcements feature in D2L/Brightspace to make important class announcements relevant to the entire class. Additionally, I have a discussion created in D2L/Brightspace wherein students may post questions about the course, and I will respond. I also hold digital office hours twice a week.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative processes.	Teamwork	Class Participation & Weekly Work, Papers

2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.	Social/Personal Responsibility (SPR)	Class Participation & Weekly Work, Papers
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose	Communication Skills (COM)	Papers
4. Use edited American English in academic essays.	Unmapped	Class Participation & Weekly Work, Papers
5. Read, reflect, and respond to a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Class Participation & Weekly Work, Papers, Final Exam
6. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own and relate consequences to decision-making	Social/Personal Responsibility (SPR)	Class Participation & Weekly Work, Papers, Final Exam

Academic Dishonesty: Scholastic dishonesty is a serious offense and is completely unacceptable for any college-level course. Such activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- submitting another person's work as one's own writing
- submitting AI-generated, or AI-edited, text as one's own writing,
- using source material without acknowledging it
- copying or sharing items on a quiz or exam
- resubmitting work from another class (without explicit permission of both instructors)
- colluding inappropriately on an assignment
- copying and pasting text from the Internet
- writing a paper with over 25% of it be source quotations
- submitting falsified documents such as doctors' notes
- having knowledge of scholastic dishonesty concerning other classmates and not reporting it

If a student is caught doing any of these activities, they will be subject to disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, point deductions, receiving a grade of zero for an assignment, and/or being referred to the COM's Judicial Coordinator.

Do not use AI for this course. This includes, but not limited to, the following:

- Grammarly (Grammarly contains a generative AI tool that is flagged as plagiarism by TurnItIn).
- ChatGPT
- Quillbot
- Bing AI
- other AI generators, paraphrasing tools, or rephrasing tools for academic essays

- Editor tool in Microsoft Word

Class Cardinal Rules:

- **No surprises:** I will follow my course policies as outlined in the syllabus.
- **Read your emails and check D2L/Brightspace daily:** If you don't, you will not succeed in this, nor any, class at College of the Mainland.
- **Follow directions:** You need not be a good writer to pass this course; follow directions carefully, and you will succeed.
- **Speak/Write freely, but respectfully:** Freedom of speech is both encouraged and upheld; however, it is expected that you be ready to defend any claims you freely make.
- **Take responsibility:** Your educational success is in your hands; act accordingly.
- **Grades are not negotiable:** I need not explain this rule.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Prof. Brian Anderson at banderson@com.edu or 409-933-8186.

Course outline:

Dates	Assignments
Week 1: Oct. 13 th —Oct. 17 nd	Video Lectures:
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro. to class and syllabus. • Rhetorical strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-introduction is due Friday, Oct. 17th by 12:00n (100 words a minimum). • You will choose one of these three articles to rhetorically analyze for Paper #1 	Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Devil's Advocate. Phillipe Moyez' Trial (video). • Last Samurai, Making Introductions (video). • Walking Dead, Carol Talks with Sam (video)
	Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roughwriter's Guide chapter 5.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the three articles I have assigned in Brightspace. • Complete Quiz #1: Self-Introduction
<p>Week 2: Oct. 20th—Oct. 24th</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper #1 due Oct. 24th at 5:00pm! 	<p>Video Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro. to Rhetorical Analysis Prompt, Paper #1 • Plagiarism and How to Avoid It <p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Time I Plagiarized” (video) • Rhetoric Analysis as commentary (video) • Rhetorical Analysis demonstrated (video) <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roughwriter’s Guide chapter 6, skim over chapters 21 and 26. • Prepare Paper #1 for submission. • Complete Quiz #2
<p>Week 3: Oct. 27th—Oct. 31st</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Response essay over film (300 words) due Oct. 31st at 12:00n!</p>	<p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch A Few Good Men <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roughwriter’s Guide chapter 4 and 7 • Complete Quiz #3: Film Response Essay
<p>Week 4: Nov. 3rd—Nov. 7th</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>Paper #2 due Nov. 7th at 5:00pm!</p>	<p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What is Rogerian Argument?” (video) • Rogerian Argument Demonstrated (video) <p>Video Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro. to Paper #2 prompt

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rogerian Argument demonstrated, “Should Superheroes Be Restricted by the Government?” <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roughwriter’s Guide chapter 21 and 26 • Prepare Paper #2 for submission. • Complete Quiz #4
<p>Week 5: Nov. 10th—Nov. 14th</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response essay over film (300 words) due Nov. 14th at 12:00n! 	<p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Interview with the Vampire. <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roughwriter’s Guide chapters 12, and 13. • Complete Quiz #5: Film Response Essay
<p>Week 6: Nov. 17th—Nov. 21st</p>	<p>Video Lectures :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vampire Research Paper Demonstration • Intro. to Paper #3 • Finding and evaluating sources. <p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch “The Empire was Right in Star Wars”. • Watch “The Empire was Right in Star Wars: Rebuttals”. <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Roughwriter’s Guide chapter 10 • Complete Quiz #6
<p>Week 7: Nov. 24th—Nov. 26th</p>	<p>Activity:</p>

<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper #3 due Nov. 26th at 5:00pm! • Nov. 25th is the last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes! • Response essay over film (300 words) due Nov. 26th at 12:00n! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch The Trial of Socrates. <p>Video Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Socrates and Argumentation. <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apology of Socrates. • Complete Quiz #7: Film Response Essay
<p>Week 8: Dec. 1st—Dec. 5th</p>	<p>Video Lectures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro. to Final Exam Review <p>Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Office Hours at regular time. <p>Homework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study for the final exam.
<p>Final Exam: Dec. 3rd—Dec. 4th</p>	<p>Activity: Take final exam.</p> <p>Exam Opens: Dec. 3rd at 5:00pm</p> <p>Exam Closes: Dec, 4th at 5:00pm</p> <p>Time allotted: 2hrs. 15min.</p>

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://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *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 careers. 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:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

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 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

FN Grading: 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 should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

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.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.