



**English 1302-30311  
Composition II  
Spring 2025  
Internet Course  
(First 8-week session)**

**Instructor Information:** Dr. Brian Anderson,  
Email: [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu)  
Phone: 409-933-8186

**Student hours and location (office hours):** MW 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., LRC Suite B  
Virtual office hour, Tues., 11 a.m.-12:30 pm.

Other times and virtual meetings by appointment.

**Required Textbook/Materials:** All reading materials, including supplemental readings, will be provided without additional cost to students. Text and readings made available through Brightspace.

OER Textbook: *Writing Guide with Handbook*, OpenStax (Rice University; print version available):  
<https://openstax.org/details/books/writing-guide>

Supplemental Handbook: Purdue Online Writing Lab (<https://owl.purdue.edu/>). Links for both of these resources can be found in the online course.

**Course Description:** Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphases are on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions.

Prerequisite: ENGL 1301 with a grade of “C” or better

**Course Requirements/Major Assignments**

Besides the major assignments listed below, class activities and teaching tools may include discussions, group work, presentations, videos, and supplemental readings. Students are expected to read and review all material assigned.

This class requires you to participate and submit work on D2L (Brightspace). Please make sure you are familiar with D2L and have regular and reliable Internet access. Distance-education resources for COM students are provided in the course.

## **Essays**

You will write two formal essays this semester that focus on academic writing or use an academic approach. Some will require research; all will require you to read from and interact with the readings and other research. You will receive handouts with detailed instructions for each of these papers. The final essay (see below) will incorporate a multimodal or visual component.

## **Multimodal Composition/Presentation**

For the multimodal composition assignment, you will construct an argument using a mix of text and images, as well as, possibly, elements of sound, video, and graphics. The multimodal composition will include a presentation element, which will be submitted online.

Your argument will focus on explaining a topic or arguing for the importance of a problem. You may also argue, directly or indirectly, for a change or additional attention in a certain area of society.

This major research-based assignment includes four components. You will also submit an informal journal on your topic. The assignment components include the following: (1) Multimodal artifact (presentation media), incorporating an oral presentation of some kind and submitted online. Total viewing length should be about ~5-7 minutes. (2) Annotated bibliography with at least 10 sources that you used or could have used for your project or presentation. (3) Reflection (2-3 pages).

Complete instructions for the multimodal composition will be distributed.

## **Reflections/Journals/Informal Writing**

Reflective pieces or journals 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. Instructions will be provided for each. Other journals or reflections may connect to readings or other research-related topics.

## **Final Exam**

The objective portion of the final exam will potentially cover assigned readings, important class concepts (like plagiarism), the writing process, MLA citation, and rhetorical concepts that have been reviewed in course materials. Exam questions may also be drawn from class handouts, class notes, lessons, presentations, and readings.

## **Discussions**

Discussions are an important way to gauge student participation and keep the class engaged and interactive, particularly in an online class. Discussions give you a way to share ideas and

interpretations with other classmates and the instructor. Because we do not meet in a face-to-face environment, discussions are used as a way to encourage and objectively measure student participation. A discussion rubric will be distributed to help you understand how discussions are graded. Unless otherwise instructed for a specific discussion, you should avoid using outside sources (such as websites) to complete discussions, since I'm interested in your thoughts and analysis; however, if you do use such a source, you should of course give credit with proper citations.

*Note on discussions and other class materials:* Certain questions and notes may be used or adapted from textbook and publisher resources.

### **Other Assignments**

Minor assignment grades may include turning in a preliminary Works Cited list or working thesis for major paper assignments. Other assignments may include prewriting exercises, research checks, style exercises, and shorter writing assignments.

#### *Symposium/Honors Contracts*

**The GCIC Academic Symposium:** COM's GCIC Academic Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their best academic and creative projects. To learn more, visit: [com.edu/symposium](https://www.com.edu/symposium). Participation in the symposium helps develop your professional skills and widen your professional networks; it should be noted on your resume/CV. This academic year, the Symposium is on Friday, March 28, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the ICB building. The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. Please speak with me if you are interested or have questions and visit this site for more information: <https://www.com.edu/symposium/>

**Honors Contracts** are special projects that extend the work we do in class. They are for ambitious students who wish to deepen their knowledge and experiences of the practices and ideas related to this class. They require students to earn at least a B in class and approval from me since the Honors Contract will require the student and I to work closely together. Please speak with me if you are interested or have questions and visit this site for more information: <https://www.com.edu/honorsprogram/>.

### **Determination of Grade/Grading Formula**

The following table indicates assignments in this course and how they will be calculated into the final course grade:

#### *Grading Formula (in points):*

Formal Essay Assignments (2)	150 points each (300)
Multimodal composition/project	150 points

Annotated bibliography	100 points
Final reflection	50 points
Journals and Online Discussions	100 points
Final Quiz on Concepts	50 points

**Total points: 750**

Letter grades are based on the following scale:

A	675-750 points
B	600-674 points
C	525-599 points
D	450-524 points
F	Below 450 points

**D2L “My Grades”:** Running point totals and current grades will be posted on D2L. Remember that the D2L grade display may be incomplete at any given time and is simply for your information. Certain assignment points, like extra credit, may not be posted until the end of the semester. Assignments not completed may also not show up as part of the point total until they are entered as zeros. You are responsible for keeping track of your progress in the class. You may of course always ask me for clarification if something looks confusing or if you would like to conference about your grade. Your final grades will be made available through WebAdvisor at the end of the semester. The D2L total at the end of the semester is considered official.

You should also not use the gradebook area as a way to locate assignments, as this can lead to confusion and missing deadlines. You will need to read all learning module instructions and all instructions for individual assignments. Please email me if you have questions.

**Note:** There may be some adjustment of point distributions, values, or assignments as needed to correct for errors or changes in assignments/schedules. Any extra-credit points will be added as raw points.

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policies:**

1. *Late work/deadlines:* Please keep in mind that this class is not self-paced, although there is built-in flexibility each week. Students are expected to know deadlines and to turn work in on time. This is in the interest of fairness as well as keeping the class manageable. Students should check deadlines carefully and understand that assignments may be locked down after the deadline, preventing further access. Points may be deducted for late or incomplete discussion postings (posting after the initial deadline); once an assignment has been taken down or a discussion has been “locked,” it will not be reopened. Late papers (essays) will only be accepted late with permission from instructor, and then a late penalty will apply as appropriate (20 percent of grade, per business day). Please contact me if you’re having difficulty with deadlines. Because of the

asynchronous nature of the class (meaning we do not meet at the same time), quizzes and exams cannot normally be made up or taken late, so plan accordingly.

2. Make-up work: Students may only turn in a major essay late or complete a make-up exam with the instructor's express permission. Documentation may be required for students who request a makeup or deadline extension due to an emergency.
3. *Extra Credit*: Extra credit may be offered for attending certain presentations, lectures, or other activities (including virtual activities) outside of class. These will be announced as the opportunities arise. Extra credit may also be given for completing bonus discussions and other class activities as announced. Some extra-credit opportunities (for help with a particular task, for instance) may be offered on a first-come basis. For writing classes, students may receive extra credit for current accomplishments in writing (e.g., having a letter to the editor published). Additionally, I will usually award extra-credit points (usually 1-3 points) to any student who brings an error in classroom instructions or documents (including typos) to my attention. (Just send me a polite email.) Individual extra credit will not be offered as a way of remediating grade deficiencies at the end of the semester.

**Attendance Policy:** For the purposes of this online class, “attendance” means logging on to the class and completing tasks and/or communicating with the instructor. Regular class participation is expected; a student cannot expect to pass this online class without contributing to discussions and other assignments on a regular basis. Students are expected to check course email at least every other day and to sign on to the class at least 4-5 times a week to check assignments and participate in D2L discussions and other learning activities. Students should expect to devote a minimum of six hours to class each week in terms of Brightspace participation only (for an 8-week class), just as they would be attending a normal class for three hours each week. This time commitment does not include the time required for reading, completing writing assignments, and other preparation, but it does include reading discussions, viewing learning materials, taking notes from learning materials, and crafting discussion posts. Please be aware that I am able to check a student's progress (including last sign-on date, items accessed, etc.) through Brightspace. Reading all instructions is essential for your success.

Please note that I do not normally drop students based on lack of attendance, although this is done automatically for those who do not attend class or participate in some way before Census Day. (As explained in the Student Handbook, simply logging in is not enough to count for online attendance.) After that time, students are responsible for withdrawing themselves and for managing their own schedule and how they might be affected by the six-drop rule. See withdrawal policy below.

**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. (For this class, you may communicate with the instructor through D2L as well. This is connected to the COM email system.)

*Additional clarification on communication policy:* I will answer emails as soon as possible, usually that same day when possible. Please keep in mind that emails sent late at night or on the weekend may not be answered until the next day.

### Student Learner Outcomes and Core Objectives

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.	Teamwork	Peer reviews, collaborative assignments
Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.	Critical Thinking Skills	Essay
Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for ethical and logical uses of evidence.	Personal Responsibility	Short Writing Assignments
Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.	Communication Skills (CS1)  In addition, the Communication Skills Core Objective for oral communication is also met in this course (CS2)	Essay  Oral presentation
Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e. g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.).	N/A	Essays

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams -- is an extremely serious offense and will result in a **grade of zero** on that exam, and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

*Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is using someone else’s words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else’s words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, or using someone else’s words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a **grade of zero** and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action and remediation.

The plagiarism and academic-dishonesty policy applies to all written work submitted for this class, including tests, journals, quizzes, online forums, and essays. If you use anything from another source, you must document properly using MLA standards. Making up quotes or falsifying information will also be construed as academic dishonesty. Reusing your own assignments from an earlier class or this class (except for your own discussion posts or prewriting as instructed) is also not allowed; please ask me if you need guidance on this.

Please note that not all papers will necessarily be checked for plagiarism; the decision to check a particular paper for possible plagiarism is made based on my professional judgment and expertise, in part garnered from years of grading student papers. We will also use TurnItIn for at least some essay assignments.

The use of any form of Artificial Intelligence (including but not limited to ChatGPT) to complete discussions, journals, or papers may be considered a form of academic dishonesty. Please note that our current plagiarism-checking tool provides information on possible use of AI, though the instructor is responsible for making a final determination. Use of “smart” grammar checkers and “writing advice” aids may be permissible, but you should also be aware that using some of these tools in certain ways may also lead to flagging of your paper as “A.I.” by detection tools. We will discuss A.I. and these other tools, and we may have a select assignment where we use the tool and discuss its limitations and benefits. However, you should not use A.I. to write your papers or discussion posts, unless otherwise noted, and this will be construed as plagiarism. If there is a suspected problem, you may be asked to have a discussion with the instructor.

*Additional note:* If I am concerned that a student has used A.I. tools inappropriately or has completed a written assignment (whether minor or major) in a dishonest way, I may ask that student to have a conversation with me about his or her work. If you cannot explain your own work or language, that may be additional cause for concern. Failure to comply with this request for a meeting and discussion will result in a failing grade on the assignment. The instructor also reserves the right to make judgments of generative-A.I. work based on his own expertise in writing and *prima facie* evidence.

In English 1302, we will also be receiving additional instruction, resources, and guidance on avoiding plagiarism.

**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 Dean Rocky Barney at 409-933-8727 or [rbarney@com.edu](mailto:rbarney@com.edu).

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### **Additional Course Policies and Procedures:**

- 1. Role of Online Environment:** This is an Internet class. There are no face-to-face or synchronous online class meetings. All work for this class, except for readings in the

textbook and your own research, is to be completed in the online environment. All assignments will be completed in the LMS (Learning Management System, also referred to as “D2L” and “Brightspace”).

2. Each week, I will release a “Learning Module” (“unit” or week’s folder) that contains the assignments and course materials for that week. Normally, I will release the module and instructions for each week on **Monday**, and major assignments will normally be due on **Sunday** evening. (Some minor deadlines vary, as do deadlines for the last week. Pay attention to the weekly instructions in each learning module.) Please read all the instructions for each learning module. You should log on to the course on Monday to check the assignments and due dates for the week, and you should check your course email at least every other day to make sure you don’t miss any important announcements or changes. You should be able to see this week’s learning module on the course home page; you can also access older modules, though older assignments will not stay open.
3. **Assignment submission requirements and standards:** All work submitted for evaluation in this class should have a minimum of mechanical and grammatical errors, result from the student’s own work, and show mature and serious attention to the assignment. Assignments should be formatted according to MLA guidelines unless otherwise specified; all essays must be submitted as MS Word document attachments. In addition, all messages posted online or sent to the instructor via email should be written in Standard English (i.e., complete sentences with normal punctuation) as much as possible.
4. All writing assignments (essays and informal writing assignments) must be uploaded as Word documents and submitted **via the online assignment tools**. If you need help with accessing or using Word software or Brightspace (D2L), please contact me or support staff early in the semester.
5. **Caveat on Grading.** The instructor reserves the right to make subjective decisions on student grades and assessment based on his own expertise and judgment in the subject matter. The instructor also reserves the right to assign a final grade based on a student’s overall mastery of the material and improvement over the course of the semester.
6. **Syllabus Changes.** The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and/or schedule as needed. Readings and minor assignments may be added or changed, but no major assignments will be added unless needed due to a weather emergency or other outside circumstances. You will be duly notified of any such changes.
7. **Technology Outage Policy:** You should allow yourself time to deal with technical issues that might arise; I will not normally reopen an assignment or extend a deadline because of a temporary computer failure, problem with local network, power outage, or technical issue (unless the problem is on COM’s end, in which case it will be documented by the distance-education facilitator). If you are afraid such issues might arise, complete your



assignments early. If you are worried about having the assignment close while you are working on it, be sure to plan ahead and give yourself plenty of time to complete assignments. See link on COM website for resources and assistance in helping with LMS issues. If you experience a problem with Brightspace, please contact the instructor and/or submit a DE support ticket as soon as possible. Also be aware that COM maintains several on-campus computer laboratories if you need access to equipment.

- 8. Classroom Conduct Policy:** College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line [Student Handbook](#) (and in college policy). Any breaches of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Office for Student Conduct and may result in dismissal from this class or from campus.

In addition to explicitly stated policies, the instructor expects that students will observe rules of common courtesy and will conduct themselves in a way that is befitting of college students and conducive to creating a serious and professional learning environment.

College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the Student Handbook. In an online or hybrid course, conduct and online-etiquette guidelines apply to all your interactions (including discussions and email) with other students and the instructor. This may also affect your grade on specific assignments (such as discussions). Students should strive to create an atmosphere of respectful academic discourse and professionalism.

All policies and procedures are designed to encourage fairness, facilitate professional interaction, and improve student success. I have put these policies and procedures into place over the years because I have seen what works and what does not work.

Please also note that this document does not cover every eventuality or possible circumstance in a class. Just because something is not covered here doesn't mean it is or is not "allowed." In addition to college policies and procedures, we also follow the common rules of society and many other unwritten rules specific to our educational situation. Please talk to me if you have any questions or doubts about anything. After reviewing this syllabus and continuing with this class, it is understood that you agree to follow the rules and standards by remaining in the course.

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### **Course Outline (calendar):**

Tentative Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

**Note:** Schedule subject to change as needed.

Journal assignments, additional readings, and other minor assignments (including reflections and online discussions) will be announced in class or in weekly folders; not all deadlines are listed here. Journals may also include shorter practice arguments and responses.

OER textbook (*Writing Guide with Handbook* by OpenStax) is here referred to as OpenStax.

General Themes: Issues in Higher Education, Happiness and Health

## **Unit 1: Introductions and Literacy Narrative**

### **Week 1 (Jan. 13-19):**

Course Introduction and Syllabus  
Introduction discussion  
Journal 1, due Sunday, Jan. 19 online  
Identity and Diversity Wheel  
Essay 1 (Literacy Narrative) assigned  
*Reading (provided):* Read “Us and Them” by David Sedaris, others  
In OpenStax: “Social Media Trailblazer” (in Unit 1), 2.1 “Seeds of Self,” 2.4 “Souls of Black Folk,” 2.5 “Writing Process: Thinking Critically about How Identity is Constructed,” Chapter 3 (Literacy Narrative – all)

### **Week 2 (Jan. 20-26)**

#### **1/20 College closed, no class (MLK Day)**

Identity and Difference; Standard English and Politics of Language  
Readings: OpenStax, Chapter 2 (Language, Identity and Culture), more selections TBA  
“Public and Private Language,” Richard Rodriguez, provided  
Discussion on Public and Private Language

Essay 1 (Literacy Narrative) due Sunday, 1/26

## **Unit 2: Argument and Rhetorical Analysis**

### **Week 3 (Jan. 27-Feb. 2)**

Review of Rhetorical Appeals and Rhetorical Analysis  
Read “Defining the Relationship”  
In OpenStax: Chapter 10, Practicing the Art of Rhetoric, “Critical Response,” Unit 1

Journal 2  
Urban Legends discussions  
Discussion on rhetorical choices and the rhetorical situation in everyday language.

#### **Week 4 (Feb. 3-Feb. 9)**

Structuring Arguments; types and definitions of arguments  
In OpenStax: Chapter 9, Rhetorical Analysis; Chapter 11, Improving Critical Thinking  
Additional readings: “Case for Torture,” “Working at McDonald’s”  
Discussions on readings; additional information on annotations.  
Journal 3

#### **Week 5 (Feb. 10-16)**

Plagiarism review, copyright law  
Language Choices and Levels of Formality  
Rhetorical Analysis; identifying target audience and purpose, author’s ethos, evidence (logos), and stance (pathos); thesis statement (claim)  
Plagiarism readings, quiz, and discussion.  
OpenStax: Read Chapter 12, Argumentative Research, other TBA  
Film: *Hunting Ground*  
Peer Review  
Journal 4  
Essay 2 due Sunday, Feb. 16

### **Unit 3: Multimodal Composition**

#### **Week 6 (Feb. 17-23)**

Introduction to Multimodal Argument and Essays  
Review of visual rhetoric.  
Review of Multimodal Technologies  
Read in OpenStax: Chapter 1, The Digital World; Chapter 18 (Multimodal and Online Writing)  
Podcasts: “How I Got Into College” and “Back to School”  
“Back to School” discussion  
Journal 5

#### **Week 7 (Feb. 24-March 2)**

2/24      Review of Visual Argument  
Doing the Annotated Bibliography  
OpenStax: Chapter 13, Research Process

Chapter 14, Annotated Bibliography  
Multimodal Workshop; outline/draft of project due

**Week 8 (March 3-7)**

Annotated Bibliography due Wednesday, March 5.

Multimodal projects due Wednesday, March 5.

Multimodal reflective journal due Wednesday, March 4.

**Final quiz** over class concepts; due Thursday, March 6, by noon.

All grades due to registrar by noon on March 7.

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## **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/docs/Student Handbook 2024-2025 v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.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 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is February 26. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is April 30.

**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](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto: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.