



**ENGL-1302-001I1-FA2025**  
**Composition II**  
**(Fall 2025)**

**Instructor Information:** James R. Willison, Ed.D., [jwillison@com.edu](mailto:jwillison@com.edu), 479-841-7896

**Student Hours and Location:** I am available via e-mail during regular business hours each week day.

**Required Textbook/Materials:**

Lunsford, Andrea A., John J. Ruszkiewicz, and Keith Walters. *Everything's an Argument with Readings*. 9th ed. Bedford St. Martins, 2020. NOTE: Be sure you get the edition with readings or have access to them.

Other resources may be found here: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/index.html>

**Course Description:**

This course involves 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: An earned grade of "C" or better in English 1301

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

This is an 8-week course that encompasses the same content as a 16-week course, so it will move at a faster pace, and require close adherence to deadlines.

## **Course requirements:**

### Essays

You will write 3 essays this semester that focus on academic writing. Some will require research; all will require you to read from the textbook. You will receive instructions for each of these papers.

### Reflections

Self-evaluations and applications for writing. You will write 3 of these during the course: one for each essay that you write 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.

### Professionalism

Our class will reproduce in many ways a “real-world” work environment and students will be expected to participate professionally in the class. You should complete all assignments, meet deadlines, and contribute meaningfully to class discussions. Professionalism also includes collaboration, willing participation in all course activities, and sincere effort to improve your own writing and that of your peers through peer review, revision, and conferencing. In the real world, employees are assigned various tasks outside their core job duties as needed. To reflect this sort of real-world circumstance, all minor and major assignments grades will be included in this category. Some assignments such as peer reviews or quizzes over key concepts may be weighted more heavily than other assignments. Professional behavior is a cooperative endeavor that affects the entire class.

### 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 of the issues. Because we do not meet in a traditional classroom, we cannot enjoy the benefits of classroom interaction. Our online discussions replace this important part of the classroom experience. Each week you will join discussions on our D2L Brightspace Discussion Board. Most units you will be asked to respond to a question (or questions) or topic(s) that I post. You may always post a topic/question on the reading/writing if you want to. The idea is to start or join a discussion on the unit’s topics.

### Replies to Postings:

- Your responses must be more than “I agree with you,” if you want to receive full credit for your responses. Your replies should have some substance: if you agree with a posting, why? If you disagree, why?
- When you respond to others, observe the rules of Netiquette—we don’t have the advantage of body language and tone of voice to moderate our words. Since our replies can happen at the click of a button and cannot be retracted, be polite even as you disagree with someone.
- Be aware of your audience and purpose. (Remember English 1301?)

### Peer Review

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 areas and questions to review 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 more than 2 essays. (3 @ 20 points each; 60 points total)

### Syllabus Quiz

You will complete a syllabus quiz the first week of class to ensure you understand the items on the syllabus. This quiz will go under your professionalism grade and will consist of 10 questions true/false. The quiz will not be timed. It is merely to ensure you understand everything in the syllabus. 25 points.

### Short Academic Responses

Short academic Responses are brief (300-500 word) responses to assigned readings. Although they are not formal essays, they must be typed and edited. The instructor will provide specific directions during the semester.

### Oral Presentation

The oral presentation will be 3-5 minutes in length over the Portfolio. Specific instructions are linked in the learning module. You will need to gather an audience and video record yourself making an oral presentation. The instructions for uploading the video and other requirements are in the Oral Presentation folder linked in the learning module.

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

### **Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

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

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>% of Course Grade</b>
Rhetorical Analysis	1,000 - 1,400 words	20%
Argument	1,300 - 1,700 words	20%
Proposal	1,600 - 2,000 words	25%
Short Academic Response	300 - 500 words each	20%
Reflections	250-300 words each	10%
Oral Presentation	5 minutes	5%

\*I have made every effort to calculate the total number of points correctly for every assignment and for the course. Your grade will be based on the number of points you have earned divided by the total points available. My Grades keeps a running total of points so that you can always see how you are doing. The total points in My Grades includes all assignments for the course whether they have been graded or not. Any assignments for which there is no submission will receive a score of “0 points.”

In order to pass this course, students must submit all three of the major writing assignments – Rhetorical Analysis, Argument, and Proposal.

Letter grades are based on the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F <60%

Note: There may be some adjustment of point distributions, totals, or weights as needed to correct for errors or changes in assignments or schedules.

### **Late Work Policy, Make-up, and Extra Credit Policy:**

Please read all instructions for each assignment carefully to ensure you receive full credit for your work.

Except for extreme situations at my discretion, I will not take late work in this class or extend any deadlines. This is the only way to keep an online course fair and organized. Please contact me prior to the deadline in the case of an extreme exception.

However, as important as it is to be personally responsible, the learning is more important. If you find you will be unable to submit a completed assignment by the published deadline, please submit the work you have done for partial credit and feedback.

**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.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collective writing processes.	Teamwork	Multimodal Narrative
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution	Personal Responsibility	Academic Essay
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose	Communication Skills	Open Letter
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking	Rhetorical Analysis
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.	Communication Skills	Academic Essay

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Scholastic dishonesty and plagiarism are defined in the student handbook. Plagiarism (failure to acknowledge or cite sources of ideas and/or works, representing another’s work as your own, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. It can result in a failing grade for the assignment, the course, and in the most extreme cases, it will be reported to COM. If you are unsure whether something may be considered plagiarism, please contact me.

Do not use artificial intelligence (AI) to write all or part of an academic essay or other academic assignment without permission and guidance from your professor.

Do not use an AI paraphrasing tool (Quillbot) or rephrasing tool (ProWritingAid). You may use the style, combo, and grammar tools in ProWritingAid to edit your work.

Do not use Grammarly to edit your work.

**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 4 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.

**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 the Humanities Department Chair Brian Anderson at 409.933.8186 or [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu).

**Course Outline:**

Date	Event
1/19	Discussion – Introduction
1/19	Syllabus Quiz
1/19	Short Academic Response #1 Diagnostic Essay
1/26	Discussion – Arguments Based on Ethos
1/26	Short Academic Response #2
2/2	Discussion – Your Rhetorical Argument
2/2	Short Academic Response #3
2/2	Discussion – Peer Review Revisited
2/5	Rhetorical Analysis Draft
2/7	Peer Reviews of Rhetorical Analysis
2/9	Final Draft – Rhetorical Analysis
2/9	Discussion – Causal Argument
2/9	Short Academic Response #4
2/12	Post topic for “Causal Argument” to Discussion Board

2/14	Reflection #1
2/16	Discussion – Technology
2/16	Short Academic Response#5
2/19	Causal Argument Draft
2/21	Peer Reviews of Causal Argument Drafts
2/23	Final Draft – Causal Argument
2/23	Discussion - Portfolio
2/23	Post topic for “Proposal Essay” to Discussion Board
2/26	Reflection #2
2/26	Proposal Essay Draft
2/28	Peer Reviews of Proposal Essay Drafts
3/2	Final Draft – Proposal Essay
3/5	Reflection #3

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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.