



IRW-0320-159H1-FA2025
Advanced Integrated Reading and Writing
Fall 2025, Aug. 18, 2025 – Oct. 9, 2025
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00 pm – 3:20 pm
LRC 247

Instructor Information: William Faour, wfaour@com.edu, 409-933-8301

Office Hours: I have drop-in hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm, no appointment needed. I offer them on a first come, first served basis. I also have appointment hours Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 11:30 am. You may email me to schedule an appointment. I am also willing to schedule virtual appointments for office hours at my discretion. Again, you can reach out via email for this option. My office is located at LRC Ste. B #231.

Required Textbook/Materials: No purchases are necessary for this course. Any other necessary material, including readings, will be available via D2L.

Course Description:

This course integrates more advanced preparation than IRW 0300 regarding academic reading skills and skills in writing a variety of academic assignments. Topics include critical reading and writing skills. Students will be expected to write compositions similar to those assigned in ENGL 1301.

Prerequisites: TSIA2 ELAR <945 with Diagnostic 5-6 and Essay 0-4, <945 with Diagnostic 4 and Essay 0-8, or >945 with Essay 0-4, or equivalent developmental course with a grade of "C" or better. - Must be completed prior to taking this course.

Course requirements:

As this is an eight-week course covering the same material as a typical sixteen-week course, we will move at a fast pace with strict deadlines. There will still be strict due dates to follow, so make sure to log into D2L and check your email regularly.

This course will supplement ENGL-1301 and help you improve your reading and writing skills both. Reading and writing are interconnected as improving one helps the other. Thus, while there will be more reading on contrast to ENGL-1301, you will apply your reading skills to the writing you do in both that class and this one.

In the classroom, we are all adults and will treat each other as such. This class will focus on discussions and working together, so I expect everyone to be professional and kind to each other.

Even when critiquing each other's work throughout the semester, the goal is to help everyone improve, so I will expect you to remain polite. Remember, the goal is to help everyone—yourself included. In my classroom, no one succeeds unless we all do.

You will be allowed to use the computers in our classroom, but you're more than welcome to handwrite if you'd prefer.

Participation

We will alternate between “reading days” and “writing days.” Writing days will aim to enrich writing while reading days will do that for reading. You will be expected to have written or read any assignments online before class, and we will discuss in that respective class. Remember, this is a hybrid class.

Note that despite the names, we may still write on reading days and read on writing days in some instances.

Attendance is part of your participation, so you will be expected to show up to class. Participation will revolve around general discussions, responding to readings, doing in-class writings, and workshopping your peers' writing.

Quizzes

We will have “content quizzes” every week to ensure you understand your readings. These quizzes will be available via D2L and will help keep you from falling behind.

Assignments

Writing assignments will supplement ENGL-1301's assignments and allow you to better understand and master the material. Thus, there will be one writing assignment for each respective assignment in ENGL-1301, totaling four. We will go over and workshop these in class, but you'll need to complete and submit the assignments via D2L on your own time.

Final

The final will be in two parts: an exam and a presentation. Each will make up half of your grade. The exam will be identical in structure to the “content quizzes” in that you will need to read and then answer questions correctly. The presentation can take any number of forms, such as a power point or speaking, but you will write something—academic, creative, or any other kind of writing—and present it to the class, fielding questions as needed. These presentations will be on the last day.

The final exam and presentations must both be submitted no later than 11:59 pm on October 7th, the day before our last day of class (and presentations), but both will be open more for more than a week ahead of time, so please don't wait until the last minute!

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Assignment	Percent of Course Grade
Participation	30%
Quizzes	15%
Assignments	30%
Final	25%

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

As this is a fast-paced class, late work is unacceptable. For each day an assignment is overdue, twenty points will be deducted from its grade. Missing quizzes, participation grades, and the final will result in automatic zeroes.

I understand extenuating circumstances may always occur, and there are occasionally situations beyond our control in life. If such an extreme circumstance happens, please let me know in advance so that we may come up with a make-up plan at my discretion. **If you do not follow these instructions, you will receive a zero, and there will be no make-up options.**

Likewise, I may offer extra credit at my discretion in certain situations, such as when you go to the COM writing center or when you complete course evaluations. I'll discuss these opportunities in class, but don't be afraid to ask!

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. Discussion board posts will not be considered attendance, so making a post and then failing to attend a lecture will still be considered an absence. If you have too many absences, I may drop you from the class at my discretion.

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. While you can try to contact me by calling me or heading to my office and banging on the door (please do not do this), your best bet to reach me is by emailing me. I check my emails regularly and tend to reply within 24 hours.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Locate explicit textual information, draw complex inferences, and describe, analyze, and evaluate the information within and	Critical Thinking (CT)	Readings Content quizzes Reading days

across multiple texts of varying lengths.		
2. Comprehend and use vocabulary effectively in oral communication, reading, and writing.	Communication Skills (CS)	Readings Brainstorming and outlining essays
3. Identify and analyze the audience, purpose, and message across a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking (CT)	Content quizzes Reading days Final exam
4. Describe and apply insights gained from reading and writing a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking (CT)	Writing days Workshop Final presentation
5. Compose a variety of texts that demonstrate reading comprehension, clear focus, logical development of ideas, and use of appropriate language that advance the writer's purpose.	Communication Skills (CS)	Freewrite assignment Annotations assignment Research Topics assignments Revision assignment
6. Determine and use effective approaches and rhetorical strategies for given reading and writing situations.	Critical Thinking (CT)	Content quizzes Final presentation
7. Generate ideas and gather information relevant to the topic and purpose, incorporating the ideas and words of other writers in student writing using established strategies.	Teamwork (TW)	Workshop Final presentation
8. Evaluate relevance and quality of ideas and information in recognizing, formulating, and developing a claim.	Critical Thinking (CT)	Revision assignment Reading days Brainstorming and outlining essays
9. Develop and use effective reading and revision strategies to strengthen the writer's ability to compose	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Reading discussions Workshop

college-level writing assignments.		
10. Recognize and apply the conventions of standard English in reading and writing.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Revision Non-academic writing Final presentation

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. Similarly, if you use any of your peers' research, secondary sources, and/or ideas to write your own work, it will not be tolerated and will be viewed as academically dishonest. These types of choices 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 do not understand what constitutes plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, please contact me. If you are unsure whether something included in one of your writing assignments may be considered plagiarism, or academically dishonest please contact me during my office hours or at least two days before the assignment is due. Please note that failure to credit a source in a discussion post is also plagiarism. If you use a source, credit the author no matter what type of assignment it is.

Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment in question with no exceptions.

In this course, you **may not use AI** for any assignment in any way, shape, or form. Use of AI will be treated as plagiarism.

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.

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.

Course outline:

Note: This schedule is subject to change at my discretion.

Week	Subject	Due Dates
1 8/18-8/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Syllabus • Writing: General grammar and sentences • Reading Discussion: "How to Read a Poem: Grey Goose and Gander" by Ursula K. Le Guin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read syllabus by 8/18 class. • Read "How to Read a Poem: Grey Goose and Gander" by Ursula K. Le Guin by 8/20 class. • "How to Read a Poem: Grey Goose and Gander" + grammar quiz due 8/24 at 11:59 pm.
2 8/25-8/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion: "The Structure of an Academic Paper" by Simone A. Fried • Writing: Brainstorming and outlining essays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "The Structure of an Academic Paper" by Simone A. Fried by 8/25 class. • "The Structure of an Academic Paper" quiz due 8/27 at 11:59 pm. • Five-paragraph essay ideas freewrite due 8/31 at 11:59 pm.
3 9/2-9/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COM CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY (9/1) • Writing: Bibliographies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotations (no bibliography) due 9/7 at 11:59 pm.
4 9/8-9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion: "Oh, the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss • Writing: More grammatical rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Oh, the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss by 9/8 class. • "Oh, the Places You'll Go" + grammar quiz due 9/10 at 11:59 pm.
5 9/15-9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion: "Writing A Research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read "Writing A Research Paper: A Guide" by Laxmi

	Paper: A Guide” by Laxmi Shrestha, Bishal Joshi, and Anand Kumar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing: Choosing topics and carrying out research 	Shrestha, Bishal Joshi, and Anand Kumar by 9/15 class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Writing A Research Paper: A Guide” quiz due 9/17 at 11:59 pm. • List of potential research topics and why due 9/21 at 11:59 pm.
6 9/22-9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion: “Rolling Revisions” by Patricia C. Wrede • Writing: Peer Review Group Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Rolling Revisions” by Patricia C. Wrede by 9/22 class. • “Rolling Revisions” quiz due 9/24 at 11:59 pm. • Revised assignment (your choice which) due 9/28 at 11:59 pm.
7 9/29-10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion: “The Creative Process” by James Baldwin • Writing: Your own non-academic writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “The Creative Process” by James Baldwin by 9/29 class. • “The Creative Process” quiz due 10/1 at 11:59 pm.
8 10/6-10/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Discussion: Book reviews of J.G. Ballard’s <i>Kingdom Come</i> and Margaret Atwood’s <i>Moral Disorder</i>, both by Ursula K. Le Guin • Final presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read two book reviews listed to left by 10/6 class. • Final exam due 10/7 at 11:59 pm. • Final presentation must be submitted by 10/7 at 11:59 pm.

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 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 26.

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.