



English 1302.103 & 693H2

English Composition II

Spring 2025

MW 9:30-10:50

LRC 275

Instructor: Dr. Bernie Smiley, bsmiley@com.edu, 409-933-8356

Student hours and location: Library Mezzanine M-03- 2nd Floor Library M 003-
Mon-Wed 2:00-3:50 & 9:00-9:30. Also available online by request or by appointment.

Required Textbook: All reading materials are online for free.

Course Description: Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis 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.

Course requirements (including description of any special projects or assignments): You will have a midterm and a final essay exam as well as 3-5 essays as written assignments. In addition, you will be required to do a research project that will include evaluation of both database and web material.

You will also be required to participate in class discussions (Discussion Board). It is mandatory and necessary that you do so.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula (methods of evaluation to be employed to include a variety of means to evaluate student performance):

Essays/Tests	70%
Research project	20%
Participation	10%

Grading Scale:

A = 100-90

B = 89-80

C = 79-70

D = 69-60

F = 59 or less

Make-Up Policy: I do not take late work. *This includes if you are ill.***Attendance Policy:** Attendance is expected for every class meeting. All students are required to attend every class promptly. If a student misses more than 4 classes, he/she places the successful completion of this course in serious jeopardy. I reserve the right to drop you after 4 missed classes.**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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via Blackboard or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.	Teamwork (TW)	Oral presentation over research topic
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.	Personal Responsibility (PR)	Essay style midterm
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.	Communication Skills (COM)	Essay style midterm
4. Read, reflect and respond critically to a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking Skills (CT)	Oral Presentation over research topic
5. Use edited American English in academic essays.	Unmapped	Essay style midterm

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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 discipline 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, 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 discipline action.

Concerns/Questions Statement: 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 Brian Anderson-Department Chair of Humanities at (409) 933-8186 or BAnderson@com.edu.

Course Outline

Tentative and Highly Flexible Syllabus- Please read

- 3/10 Introduction of class, syllabus, expectations.
- 3/12 The Lottery & The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas. The concept of sacrifice in literature.
- 3/24 A Rose for Emily & The Tell-Tale Heart The role of Gothic in American storytelling. Essay 1
- 3/26 Hamlet Act I-background, plot, and tone.
- 3/31 Hamlet Act I-The concept of rising and falling action.
- 4/2 Hamlet Act II-Character development and plot. Essay 2
- 4/7 Hamlet Act II- Character development and plot.
- 4/9 Hamlet Act III The concept of climax in drama.
- 4/14 Midterm

4/16 Hamlet Act III-Discussion of the Ghost and its role.
4/21 Hamlet Act IV-Ophelia's insanity and the aftermath. Also a discussion of the concept of revenge. Paper Due
4/23 Hamlet Act V-Discussion on the concept of the hero in literature.
4/28 Hamlet Act V- Discussion of morality in Hamlet.
4/30 Who dies and where they go
5/5 Final

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. *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 February 26. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 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 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.