



English Composition I: Identity & Inquiry as Ongoing & Multifaceted
ENGL 1301.114/144H2
T/TH 9:30–10:50am

Delivery Method: Hybrid (In Person **AND** Online)

Class Location: League City Campus, RM 221

Office Location:

Main Campus: Building #8 (LRC), Suite B, RM 239

LC Campus: RM 126 (near stairs) & main lobby

Instructor Information:

Monique Suarez, MA (she/her)

msuarez@com.edu

Student Hours/Office Hours:

If none of these times work for you, please let me know.

Monday	9:20–12:20pm	Main Campus Office
Tuesday	8:30–9:30am	LC Campus, RM 126
	2–3:30pm	LC Campus, Main Lobby
Wednesday	11–12pm	Online Only
Thursday	8:30–9:30am	LC Campus, RM 126

Professor Suarez’s Personal Course Description:

This course is designed to help you (1) discover and cultivate your voice, (2) introduce you to the ongoing process of understanding, contextualizing and entering academic discourse, and (3) give you the opportunity to explore and engage with your learning through various methods, including reading, writing, in-class discussions/fishbowls/seminar, presentations, lesson planning, and genre exploration.

ENGL 1301 Course Catalog Description:

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 essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating and critical analysis.

Course Modality (Hybrid): This is a hybrid course, meaning that learning takes place in person and online. You are expected to show up, learn, and participate in the classroom and on Brightspace each week. While meeting only 2 days a week offers more flexibility with schedules, this course is quick and has required due dates throughout the week. Much of what you are asked to complete for online homework is directly related to the next class meeting. Thus, your lack of preparation and completion of the work will make it difficult for you to engage with your learning.

Communication Policy: You can either email me at my campus email, message me on Teams via your COM Microsoft Office account, or send me a message through D2L Brightspace. Whichever option you choose, ALL electronic communication with me (your instructor) must be through your COM email/account. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. If you send me an email and I do not reply, double-check that you sent it from the right place or that it was sent successfully. I have had some instances where I never received an email because a student forgot to press “send” or because a student sent an email through their personal email account.

Textbook/Materials – OER Course: Anything that we read/watch in this course will be accessible through D2L Brightspace or printed out for you (free). If you would like to print something or if you misplace anything and do not have a printer, COM’s Tutoring Center offers free printing (found in ICB, Building #23, 1st floor).

Required/Recommended Materials:

- **Required:** Reliable internet access + a device to complete online assignments
- A notebook to take notes as you see fit
- A folder/binder for handouts and HW
- A planner to keep track of due dates
- If you have a personal laptop, I encourage you to bring it to class if you are able. This will allow you to learn how to complete tasks on the same device you will be using at home. If you cannot bring this to class, it is okay. Our classroom is a computer lab.

Student Learner Outcome Chart:

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes	Teamwork (TW)	In-class Discussions/Peer Review/Assignments
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution	Unmapped	Assignments
3. Write in a style appropriate to the audience and purpose	Communication Skills	Assignments/Discussions/Presentations
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts	Critical Thinking Skills	Class Readings/Activities In-class Discussions
5. Use edited American English in academic essays	Unmapped	All writing assignments

Course Requirements/Unit Overview:

Attendance/Timeliness/Participation: Attendance and arriving on time is crucial to your success – not just in this class but in life. You will have two attendance grades (one for in-person attendance & one for online presence/completion of online HW). Each attendance grade will be graded out of 10 points and worth 15% of your total average. You may miss up to one in-person class with no penalty.* After this, every absence will result in a full letter grade deduction toward your in-person attendance grade. One missed online HW submission will not affect your online attendance, but it will affect that online HW submission grade. I will document your in-person and online attendance/timeliness every week on Brightspace.

In-person Attendance Grade: 10 points total

- 1st absence = no penalty, 10/10
- Every absence after your 1st one = -1pt/10
- Every tardy (5+min late) = -.5pt (2 tardies = 1 absence)

Online Attendance Grade: 10 points total

- 1st missed online submission = no penalty toward the online attendance grade, but there will be a penalty toward that HW assignment
- Every missed online submission after = -1pt/10pt
- Every late online submission = -.5pt/10pt (2 late submission = 1 missed submission)

Penalty-Free Absence Caveat: Though you may miss up to one class with no penalty, choose those days wisely as you cannot make up work if you miss the following kinds of days: scheduled individual/group presentations, peer review weeks, and/or any other day I explicitly state that your attendance is mandatory or will be worth a grade. Note that you will still need to make up any missed work or catch up on lecture notes you might have missed.

Note on tardiness: An occasional 5 minutes late is one thing, but making a habit of it will not be tolerated. For example, if you are tardy two times (with no absence yet accrued), this will count as your one penalty-free absence and you will have no penalty-free absences left.

Note on participation: There will be many opportunities to participate in class. In fact, there will always be something that you will be required to do/discuss/contribute every class day. Thus, this is a participation-heavy course. Because of this, assessment of your participation will come through the HW/in-class activities average. However, if participation becomes an issue (which I do not envision happening) where you are not willing to participate in group activities,

speak in class, or complete course assignments and HW, I reserve the right to deduct up to a full letter grade from your final grade at the end of the semester.

Online HW & Weekly Discussion Board: This hybrid course requires you to complete online work outside of our regularly scheduled class meeting. Your completion of this weekly HW is crucial not only to your success, but it is also a way for me to assess whether or not you are engaging with the learning material + working toward your major assignments.

This online HW will often take the form of discussion board posts. These posts will almost always be related to material we are discussing in class and/or a writing process component related to a major assignment. Other work may entail completing peer reviews or drafts, finding + reading sources, and/or anything else that I might assign throughout the semester.

Unit 1: Entering The Conversation As Your Authentic Self

Key Questions: How do we begin to identify who we are and what we care about? How might we connect with ourselves as a way to connect with others and with the work we do? What does bringing your authentic self into your education entail?

In this unit, we will:

- Read various articles & watch a movie related to writing, identity, and the education system
- Learn how to read, comprehend, and respond to a variety of texts with our voices in every capacity
- Practice reflecting on our lived experiences as a vehicle to understanding our perspectives & juxtaposing those perspectives against/alongside others'

Major Assignment (MA) #1: Identity & Perspectives Reflective Piece

Unit 2: Bridging Identity & Research

Key Questions: What does research and academic discourse truly entail? How do I recognize and contextualize an ongoing conversation? How can I see myself as a part of that conversation?

In this unit we will:

- Learn what it means to enter a discourse community & understand specialized language across various fields of interest
- Learn how to conduct secondary research
- Learn how to incorporate sources into writing ethically

- Learn MLA format
- Learn how to translate our ideas across genres (with specific attention to moving from in-class discussion → academic writing → public writing → presenting material within a given time frame)

MA#2 – Written Component: Summary/Response: A Public-Facing Essay

MA#2 – Presentation Component: One-Slide, In-Class Presentation

Unit 3: Genres of Writing & Ongoing Inquiry

Key Questions: What does it mean to explore, learn about/contextualize and reflect on a particular topic of interest and interrogate it through various genres? What does it mean to approach your own inquiry/research through various genres of writing?

In this unit we will:

- Explore various genres of writing through the lens of a chosen topic

MA#3: Research & Writing Exploratory Portfolio

MA#4: Share What You Know/Learned

- In your chosen modality, though it must be shared with the class on the final day of class

Condensed Grading Formula:

Attendance/Professionalism/Participation (In Person & Online)	15%
Online/Weekly HW/In-Class Activities & Writing Process	20%
MA#1: Identity & Perspectives Reflective Piece	15%
MA#2: Written Component & Presentation	20%
MA#3: Research & Writing Exploratory Portfolio	20%
MA#4: Share What You Know/Learned	10%

Total:	100%

Course Grade Determination: Your grade will be a reflection of your time management, effort, and willingness to listen to lectures, ask questions, and complete work thoroughly. In other words, your grade is ultimately a product of the effort that you put forth. I want you to be successful in this course, but it is ultimately up to you if you are.

A Note on Balancing Life + Academics: I am aware that, for some, school is one of *many* daily responsibilities. Because of this, I have designed this course with built-in “work days” to not only work on upcoming major assignments, but to receive feedback from myself and your peers. Please take advantage of these days and show

up ready to work. You will find that workdays are really beneficial because you can ask me any questions you have and I can give you feedback on the spot.

Attendance Policy: You should aim to be in class every day. Missing class due to conflicting appointments, jobs, and/or sleeping in too late are not excuses. You signed up for this specific time, so I do expect you to be present as much as you possibly can. Per COM policy, no absences are considered excused unless for religious or military service reasons. If you are going to be absent for any of those reasons, I need to be notified ahead of time. This does not excuse you from completing the work for that day, but it does (sometimes) grant you an extension to make it up. Remember that attendance and timeliness factor into your grade. Point deductions can also be received for leaving class early before class is dismissed.

Please note that I do have the right to drop you from the course for lack of attendance. Missing more than 2 class days and more than 2 online assignments may result in the inability to receive higher than a "C" in the course.

Late Work/Make-Up Policy: Timely completion of all assignments is crucial. Please know that not completing an assignment sets you back because each assignment builds on a major assignment. It is really in your best interest to complete every assignment on time with full effort. **Late or incomplete assignments will not receive extensive feedback.**

- **Late Assignments:** Assignments submitted within 1 day of the original due date will receive a half-letter grade deduction every 12 hr (up to 1 letter grade = 24hr late).
- **Missed Assignments:** Assignments that are not submitted within 1 day of the original due date are assignments that will receive a zero.
 - **You will fail the course if you do not complete all major assignments.**

24-Hr Late Submission Opportunity (The "Life Happens" Clause):

- You will have **one 24-hr late submission opportunity** that you can utilize on any major assignment or discussion post except for time-sensitive items like the ones listed below:
 - Presentations (solo or group), work due the day of a class meeting, and/or anything else that I explicitly state cannot be submitted late.

Grading/Instructor Feedback Turnaround Time: My turnaround time for grading is pretty quick, depending on the complexity of the assignment. My general goal for this 8-week course is to have grades inputted within 1 week of the submission deadline, excluding weekends and holidays. This turnaround time does not apply to those who submit an assignment late. If I ever give you feedback that you do not

understand, please reach out and we can set up a time to go over it. I understand that you cannot improve if you do not understand my feedback. Help me help you.

The Tutoring Center (On COM's Main Campus): Located in the ICB, Room 104 (Building #23), the Tutoring Center provides free face-to-face and online tutoring sessions to students, staff, and faculty seeking assistance for writing, reading, and oral presentations for academic and nonacademic assignments/projects. If you ever have any questions about the tutoring center, please let me know. I was a writing tutor at COM before becoming an instructor, so I can help answer any questions you might have. 😊

The GCIC Academic Symposium: COM's GCIC Academic Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their best academic and creative projects. 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, April 10, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Embodied Knowledge: Decoding and Recoding the Self." The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, 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 that the student and I 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/>.

Badelynge Review: Here at College of the Mainland we have *The Badelynge Review*, a literary journal of student work that is curated, edited, and designed entirely by COM students! Joining the journal is a great opportunity for you to gain experience in editing and publishing. If you are interested in submitting your work or joining the journal staff as a Reader (read submissions to help with the selection process), an Editor (work with a few of the selected authors to edit their work for publication), or a Reviewer (evaluate the credibility and accuracy of research used in accepted papers), please reach out to Professor Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow at gbarbee@com.edu.

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with per college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams or having someone else complete your work – is an extremely serious

offense. Making up quotes or falsifying information will also be construed as academic dishonesty. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero on that exam, assignment, or project, and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism includes using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. 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..

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. Students may also be required to submit papers through a plagiarism-checking tool such as Turnitin.

A good rule of thumb to live by: Your work should be generated only by you and only for this ENGL 1301 course. If you are not sure if you are violating these rules, please talk to me about it before turning in your work.

The plagiarism and academic-dishonesty policy applies to all written work submitted for this class, including tests, journals, quizzes, discussion posts, and essays. 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.

AI Statement: Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) is **prohibited** in this class. While there are opportunities to use AI for certain creative low-stakes activities in my ENGL 1302 course, this is not the case for this ENGL 1301 course. Likewise, using AI without proper attribution or authorization is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me to discuss it as soon as possible. *Violations could result in failure of the assignment or failure of the course and a notation on your transcript.*

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information on the first page of this syllabus. If after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact the Humanities Department Chair, Dr. Brian Anderson:

Phone: 409-933-8186

Email: banderson@com.edu

College of the Mainland Technology Outage Policy: If College of the Mainland's technology experiences problems that impede you from submitting work on deadline, contact me as soon as possible. You will have twelve hours from the time you emailed or called me to submit your work provided the technology is restored. You will receive no penalty if I have evidence that you attempted to submit work but faced difficulties outside your control.

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.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Name: Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

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.

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.

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 1st. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14th. **The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25th.** The last date to withdraw from the winter mini session is December 23rd.

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

Important Dates – 2nd 8 weeks

M 10/13: 1st day of classes

M 10/20: Census Day

T 11/25: W day

TH 11/27– SN 11/30: Thanksgiving Break (no classes)

TH 12/4: Last day of classes

F 12/5: Grades due at 11am

Tentative Course Outline/Calendar

10/13/2025-12/4/2025

NOTE: Not all required HW is listed below. What you see is a tentative schedule and due dates for *some* weekly HW & major assignments . Always refer to the content tab on Brightspace to review official due dates. This calendar is subject to change.

WEEK	WEEKLY TOPICS	DUE DATES
1 10/13-10/19	TUESDAY 10/14: Course Overview Intro to Unit 1 Assign Multimodal Slide Presentation THURSDAY 10/16: Multimodal Slide Presentations Branson Fishbowl	By Thursday 10/16 8:30am - Multimodal Slide By Sunday 10/19 11:59pm - DB#1: In One Million Words or Less & Class Community Reflections
2 10/20-10/26	TUESDAY 10/21: Lester et al. – In-Class Discussion/Activity THURSDAY 10/24: Socratic Seminar – Unit 1 Readings/Viewing	Thursday 10/24 8:30am - DB#2: Unit 1 Reflections & Socratic Seminar Prep Sunday 10/26 11:59pm - DB#1: 3 Peer Responses - DB#2: 3 Peer Responses
3 10/27-11/2	TUESDAY 10/28: MA#1 Group Discussion Informal Conferences / Workday THURSDAY 10/30: Intro to Unit 2 & MA#2 Intro to Secondary Research & Tutorial MLA Format Workshop	Tuesday 10/28 8:30am - DB#3: MA#1 Drafting Activity By Sunday 11/2 11:59pm - MA#1: Final Draft – post to assignment & DB#4
4 11/3-11/9	TUESDAY 11/4: Incorporating Sources Workshop Research Day & Informal Conferences Translating Your Work Into Presentation Format THURSDAY 11/6: Draft Day Meetings & Informal Peer Review	Thursday 11/6 8:30am - DB#5 = MA#2 Writing Process Prep Sunday 11/9 11:59pm - DB#4: 3 Peer Responses

5 11/10–11/16	TUESDAY 11/11: MA#2 Presentations Day 1 THURSDAY 11/13: MA#2 Presentations Day 2 Conferences/Workday ITP	By Tuesday 11/11 8:30am - MA#2: Slide/Visual By Sunday 11/16 11:59pm - MA#2: Written Component - DB#6: MA#2 Reflective Piece
6 11/17–11/23	TUESDAY 11/18: Intro to Unit 3 Genre Preview → Genre Matrix Sign Up For Genre Group Introduce MA#3 & MA#4 THURSDAY 11/20: Discourse Communities/Contextualization Exploratory Writing/Research Proposal 5-Min Lesson Group Conferences	By Sunday 11/23 11:59pm MA#3/4 WP: Portfolio Proposal, Topic Contextualization & Rationale Piece
7 11/24–11/30	TUESDAY 11/25: Genre Preview – 5-min Lessons THURSDAY 11/26: No class/holiday	By Tuesday 11/25 8:30am - MA#3/4 WP: Finalized Group Lesson Plan By Sunday 11/30 11:59pm - MA#3/4 WP: Share Work-In-Progress via DB#7
8 12/1–12/4	TUESDAY 12/2: Portfolio Workday & Informal Conferences THURSDAY 12/4: LAST DAY OF CLASS Show What You Know Day/Presentations	By Wednesday 12/3 11:59pm - MA#3: Portfolio & Reflection Piece Thursday 12/4 8:30am - MA#4: Plan & any materials needed for today's class