



ENGL 130.002IN
Composition II
Spring 2024

Instructor Information

Name: Nichole Kyle
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Office Location: Learning Resource Center (LRC), Building #8, Suite B Rm #240

Office Hours

Office hours are a resource for students interested in individualized attention for mentoring, academic help, or advisement. Students are welcome to attend office hours as listed below or outside of these hours by appointment. Office hours and appointments are held in my office, via phone, or virtually through Teams.

Mondays	Tuesdays	Wednesdays	Thursdays
11:00 am -12:30 pm 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	9:30 am – 10:30 am (remote)	11:00 am -12:30 pm 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	9:30 am – 10:30 am (remote)

Communicating with Instructor

ALL electronic communication with the instructor **MUST** be through your COM email/account or via D2L. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. Please allow 24-48 hours for email responses, and note that the instructor does not monitor emails over the weekend or on holidays. The instructor will use D2L announcements and messaging to communicate important class information.

Required Textbook/Materials

- FREE: [The OWL Website](#) (Purdue University’s Online Writing Lab)
- Assigned articles as made available on Brightspace (free printing at the Tutoring Center)
- Device with internet access (labs and free Wi-Fi on campus)
 - Flash drive
- Office 365 (free to COM students)
 - Flash drive

Movies: If you do not have these movies or do not have access to the streaming services that provide them, please see me, and we will get you access.

- *The Dark Knight*
- *The Avengers Infinity War*
- *Into the Spider-Verse*

Prerequisite

ENGL 1301 or its equivalent with a "C" or better.

Course Description

English 1302 (Composition II) is an 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.

Elaboration

We live in a world connected and informed by technology. In fact, our culture now seems inseparable from technology use; we all walk around with a device more powerful than the computer that sent Apollo 11 to the moon. Through exceptionally powerful search engines, we essentially have the digital equivalent of the Library of Alexandria at our fingertips.

It's a lot to take in.

Of course, lots of communication takes place in digital spaces these days. Policy decisions are made through Twitter, Tik Tok has made child stars mega-famous, and, for some reason, people post pictures of their food to Instagram. Since we work in these digital spaces on the daily, I think it's time we interrogated what uses they have, what limits they have, and what stories are being told through them.

In this class, we will survey digital communication, specifically tied to pop culture. We'll be looking at the argument strategies -- intentional or not -- that meme culture, social media, and superhero comics and movies use. We'll also take a step back and review how we know what we know in an era where Google can tell us virtually anything we want.

All of it is trying to convince us of something. Let's see if it makes a convincing argument.

Course Requirements

This is a composition course, meaning there will be a significant amount of reading and writing, emphasizing the writing process. Students will utilize informal and academic writing in short reflective responses and detailed essays.

Additionally, this course is collaborative in nature. You will participate in discussions, class activities, peer reviews/workshops, and complete at least two presentations. Major assignments for the course include a documentary analysis, a short essay, an annotated bibliography, a final

paper, and a research presentation. Additionally, students can expect to be graded on auxiliary assignments, attendance, and participation. No formal examinations will be given.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.	Teamwork	Presentations
2. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.	Personal Responsibility	Final Essay
3. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.	Communication Skills	Documentary Review Annotated Bib
4. Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.	Critical Thinking	Final Research Project
5. Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.	Communication Skills	Short Essay Annotated Bib Reflection

Determination of Course Grade

Documentary Analysis	10%
Short Essay	10%
Annotated Bib	15%
Final Essay	20%
Attendance	10%
Presentations	10%
Auxiliary Assignments	10%
Participation	15%

Grading Scale

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

F 0 – 59%

Late Work/Make-Up

Work should be submitted by the due date and in the form requested. Generally, I do not accept late work. Missed in-class assignments, e.g., journal writings, activities, and participation points, cannot be made up. If you miss a class where an assignment is turned in during class, you have until the next class to turn in the assignment. Any exceptions to this policy are made on a case-by-case basis.

Revisions/Rewriting

Requests to make revisions or rewrite assignments will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Extra-Credit

- **Tutoring:** If you take a major writing assignment to the tutoring center and provide documentation, you may receive up to 5 points extra credit on the assignment.
- **Live Event:** Extra credit may be earned once during the semester by attending (in person or online) an event of educational or professional value at the college and submitting a half-page report on your experience to the Extra Credit Prompt on Brightspace.
- **Other:** I may provide other extra credit opportunities throughout the semester as I see fit.
- **Requests for extra credit:** Requests for extra credit will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Honors Contracts/COM Scholars

Any student wishing to enter an honors contract for this course must meet with the instructor within the first three weeks of the course. Contract approval is based on the student's ability and the instructor's availability. For more information on honors designations and COM scholars, visit COM's [Honors Program](#) website.

Participation/Professionalism

Our class will reproduce a "real-world" work environment in many ways, and students will be expected to participate professionally in the class. You should meet deadlines, and contribute meaningfully to class discussions, group work, and workshops.

Professional behavior is a cooperative endeavor that affects the entire class. All class participants must always behave civilly and respectfully. Disrespectful or threatening behavior toward classmates or the instructor is unacceptable and will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Your level of professionalism in this class will directly affect your participation grade. Unproductive behavior from students may negatively impact your participation grade and may result in being considered absent.

Recording

I do not allow recordings of any kind (video, audio, photography, etc.) in my virtual classroom without my express written permission. Violators will be asked to leave the class and will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Academic Dishonesty

All assignments are turned in on D2L with software that detects plagiarized and AI-generated content. Academic dishonesty and plagiarism are defined in the student handbook. Plagiarism of any kind (including AI-generated work) will not be tolerated in this class. It can result in a failing grade for the assignment or course and will be reported to the Dean of Students. **Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense:** All students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the documentation rules.

Please contact me if you are unsure whether something may be considered plagiarism.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the provided contact information. If you continue to have questions after discussing your concern with me, please contact the Humanities Department Chair, Dr. Brian Anderson, at 409.933.8186 or banderson@com.edu.

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. Participation in the symposium helps develop your professional skills and widens your professional networks, and it should be noted on your resume/CV. This academic year, the symposium is on Friday, March 22, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the STEAM building. **The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.** Please speak with me if you are interested or have questions.

Syllabus/Schedule Changes

I reserve the right to change the syllabus/schedule to accommodate the class dynamics. Changes will be announced in class, on Brightspace, and/or by email.

Course Outline

**All assignments are due Sunday at midnight on the week indicated. Students are expected to prepare for class by reading and annotating the materials as outlined in the schedule, including RW chapters and theme articles.*

WEEK	SCHEDULE
Week 1 Welcome & Orientation 1/15 COM Closed for MLK Jr. Day	Welcome and Syllabus Orientation Process theory
Week 2	Presentations Watch

<p>TOPIC Everything you need to know about performing academic research and author credibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Research: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB4gKoS4MNw ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArynsHGwJ5A • Author Credibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLTOVoHbH5c&feature=emb_logo ○ https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=103&v=EyMT08mD7Ds&feature=emb_logo <p>Debate Author credibility -- is Bill Nye a credible source? Google it.</p>
UNIT 1 – WHY MEMES ARE SMARTER THAN THEY SEEM (SOMETIMES)	
<p>Week 3</p> <p>TOPIC The pulse of culture, memetics, and what the hell even is a meme anyway?</p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Soul-Crushing Student Essay • "The Life Cycle of a Meme" <p>Assignment: Post a meme on Brightspace.</p> <p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What defines a meme?" <p>Watch: <i>Here be Dragons: An Introduction to Critical Thinking</i></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of a meme? <p>Activity: Share memes. Which is the funniest? And why?</p>
UNIT 2 – THE PROBLEM WITH SEARCH ALGORITHMS	
<p>Week 4</p> <p>TOPIC Rhetorically Speaking: What is Rhetoric and how and why to use it</p>	<p>Crash Course Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethos, Logos, Pathos • How to Identify Ethos, Logos, Pathos by Shmoop • Ethos, Pathos, and Logos Rhetoric The Nature of Writing <p>Activity: What does Rhetoric meme?</p> <p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Looking for Trouble: Finding Your Way into a Writing Assignment" <p>Activity: Watch Documentary</p> <p>Assignment: Assign Documentary Rhetorical Analysis</p>
<p>Week 5</p> <p>TOPIC The myriad ways in which people think Google works and the ways it really</p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Reading Games" • "Frustrated 'Game of Thrones' fans are attempting to 'Google Bomb' the show's 'bad writers'" <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Google Search Works (in 5 minutes) • Google Bombing

works (Google Bombing)	<p>Activity: Google anything you can think of that would be appropriate to discuss in a college course. Go through a few of the pages on Google. Find, in your opinion, the strangest search returned. Write it down alongside why Google returned it as a search. Share.</p> <p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Reading Like a Writer” • "The Algorithms of Oppression" <p>Discussion: Why do we care that Google does what it does? Do we care?</p>
UNIT 3 – TROLLING MOVIES: THE POWER OF GROUPS OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS	
<p>Week 6</p> <p>TOPIC We “the people” have decided...</p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What is Academic Writing” • "A Change for Rotten Tomatoes Ahead of Captain Marvel" (Links to an external site.) <p>Discussion: The rhetorical situation of a movie review; what are the functions of argument that reviewers employ? Who's the audience for a review?</p> <p>Activity: Brainstorm your research topic</p> <p>Of Interest: Googles Ngram Viewer</p>
	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Captain Marvel' Shows How the Culture War Is Making User Reviews Useless • "Weaponizing the Haters" (Links to an external site.) READ ONLY: Background, Account Analysis, Political Agenda, The Infectious Nature of Trolling, and Conclusion <p>Debate: Do you buy the argument? Is Captain Marvel a good movie? Why? Why not? Why do we care about "review bombing"?</p>
UNIT 4 – SUPERHEROES AND THE SORDID AFFAIR OF THE SUPERHEROINE	
<p>Week 7</p> <p>TOPIC The historical context behind sexualization, the booty, and comic books, from the 90s until now.</p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Diversity, Ideology, and Teaching Writing” • "Equally Super? Gender Role Stereotyping of Superheroes in Children's Animated Programs" READ ONLY: pages 25 -29 and 35 – 39 <p>Activity: The word "superhero" in media</p> <p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Avengers Booty Ass-emble" (Links to an external site.); art credit user Kevin Bolk, <i>DeviantArt</i>. And the phenomenon he's making fun of: Spider-Woman cover <p>Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to Develop a Good Research Topic • Writing a Short Essay <p>Assignment: Documentary Rhetorical Analysis Due. Assign Short Essay.</p>

<p>Week 8</p> <p>TOPIC The comic book audience and the modern-day comic book: <i>Sensational She-Hulk vs. Ms. Marvel</i></p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Looking for Trouble: Finding Your Way into a Writing Assignment” • The fourth-wall breaking <i>She-Hulk</i> cover (Links to an external site.) <p>Debate: What responsibility do texts, particularly texts aimed at youth, have to provide good examples? What is the comic book/graphic novel's target audience?</p> <p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Introduction to a Culture of Civility in First Year Classrooms” • The Comics Code Authority and Seduction of the Innocent <p>Discussion: How does a comic book's storytelling differ from a book? A movie or TV show? Should all media be held to the same standards? (Revisit: what responsibility do texts have to set good standards?)</p> <p>Assignment: Short Essay due and Assign Annotated Bib.</p>
<p>March 11th -17th COM Closed for Spring Break</p>	
<p>Unit 5 – THE DARK KNIGHT: AN ACCEPTABLE ANALOGY FOR DOMESTIC TERRORISM</p>	
<p>Week 9</p> <p>TOPIC From Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close to The Dark Knight: everything you need to know about 9/11 narratives in America.</p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Googlepedia: Turning Information Behaviors into Research Skills” <p>Watch: <i>The Dark Knight</i> Discuss: What is this movie about?</p> <p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Dark Knight's War on Terrorism" READ ONLY pages 209 - 224. • "Why So Seriously Good?" • "The Dark Knight Changed Hollywood Movies Forever" <p>Discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you buy the arguments? Why or why not? • Is <i>The Dark Knight</i> an appropriate vehicle to discuss the War on Terrorism? • Are superheroes an appropriate medium to discuss cultural phenomena and tragedy? What advantages and disadvantages does this medium have?
<p>UNIT 6 - THE LAST DECADE IN SUPERHERO MOVIES</p>	
<p>Week 10</p> <p>TOPIC Every Marvel movie from 2008 until now and why that matters.</p>	<p>Crash Course Watch: <i>Into the Spider – Verse</i> Debate: What is this movie about? Discussion: What are some of the social commentaries Marvel movies seem to be making? (<i>Iron Man</i> and <i>Black Panther</i>, Ta Nehisi Coates' <i>Black Panther</i> comics). Activity: Argument Template</p> <p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse is the best superhero movie "

	<p>Watch: 8 Tips to Improve Your Writing in English</p> <p>Discussion: What does this piece do effectively? What does it do ineffectively? Do you buy the argument? Why or why not?</p> <p>Activity: Movie Genre</p>
<p>Week 11</p> <p>TOPIC Where words once were--when movies become memes</p>	<p>Crash Course Read: Activity: The pointing Spider-Man meme and Into the Spider-Verse (Links to an external site.)</p> <p>Activity: Workshop Annotated Bibs https://spark.adobe.com/post/fQdHeX6PZWsih/</p> <p>Assignment: Locate a Marvel movie meme and another meme from another movie/TV show. Post on Brightspace.</p>
	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Believing Game and How to Make Conflicting Opinions More Fruitful” <p>Activity: Share memes</p> <p>Discussion: Discussion (revisited): What contextual information is important to making an argument? What contextual information do the memes rely on in order to be funny?</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p>4/9 Summar and Fall Registration</p>	<p>Crash Course Activity: Work/what do you need day. Work on your Lit review</p> <p>Assignment: Annotated Bib. Due and assign Final Research Project and Reflection</p> <p>Conferences</p>
<p>Week 13</p> <p>TOPIC How to tell good stories about bad guys</p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Beyond Black on White” <p>Watch: <i>Avengers: Infinity War</i></p> <p>Debate: What is this movie about?</p> <p>Assignment: Assign Proposal.</p>
	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Thanos and the Hero's Journey" (Links to an external site.) <p>Discussion: What does this piece do effectively? What does it do ineffectively? Do you buy the argument? Why or why not? (Joseph Campbell and the monomyth)</p> <p>Assignment: Proposal due.</p>
<p>Week 14</p> <p>TOPIC How did this all relate to argument? and Crafting a Digital Research Project.</p>	<p>Crash Course Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Life Cycle of a Meme" <p>Activity: Work on Final Projects</p> <p>Crash Course Activity: Workshop Final Research Projects</p>

4/22 W-Day	
Week 15	In class writing TBD
	In class writing Activity: Research Presentations
Week 16	In class writing Activity: Research Presentations
	In class writing TDB
	Assignment: Final Reflection Due

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_2023-2024_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 at 409-933-8919 or klachney@com.edu. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the 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 28. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 22. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 1. The last date to withdraw for spring mini session is May 29.

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.