



**English Composition II: Rhetoric Across Modalities**  
**Winter Mini 2024 | December 9-27, 2024**  
**ENGL 1302.001I7 | Online**  
**3-Week Course**

**Instructor Information:**

Monique Suarez, MA (she/her)  
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**College of the Mainland Office:**

Learning Resource Center (LRC)  
Building #8, Suite B, RM 239  
Humanities Department

**\*Note: COM will be closed during this class. Any office hours will be held remotely through Teams and/or email.**

**Student Hours/Office Hours:**

Day	Time
M/W	11-12pm

**ENGL 1302 Course Catalog**

**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.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301 with a grade of "C" or better

**Required Text/Materials:**

- **VoiceThread | Week 1-3 (FREE)**
  - I will send you emailed instructions on how to set up your account for this.
- **Netflix | Week 2-3**
  - Be sure to have access to or know someone who has access to a Netflix account in order to watch selected shows/films
  - Please reach out to me if you feel this will be impossible
- **Everything else that we read/watch in this course will be accessible for free through D2L Brightspace.**

**Recommended Materials:**

- A reliable place to store your work in the event that your computer crashes (E.g., flash drive, Google Drive, etc.)
- Working internet access
- A notebook to take notes on info discussed throughout the week
- A planner of some sort to keep track of due dates

**Communication Policy:** You can either email me at my campus email (msuarez@com.edu), 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 receive an email because a student forgot to press "send."

**Attendance Policy:** Because this is an online class, your attendance will be recorded based on logging into our Brightspace course shell and viewing/completing weekly requirements. Please be mindful of the importance of every assignment/discussion post in this class. Failure to complete required work for 1 full week may result in being dropped from the course. If not dropped, it more than likely will result in you failing the course.

**A Note on the 3-Week Course Format:** The shift from the 8-week format to the 3-week means that you will learn more material in less time and be expected to complete work in less time. This also means that my expectations of you are heightened. My biggest hope is that you do not give up or doubt your capabilities, even if it feels to be too much at first. I am your resource, and I want you to succeed but it first starts with you believing in yourself and taking yourself seriously. Never hesitate to ask questions as they arise. Remember that sometimes learning means not knowing at first.

**Student Learner Outcome Chart:**

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.	Teamwork (TW)	VoiceThreads/Peer Responses Major Assignments
2. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays	Unmapped	Major Assignments VoiceThreads
3. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.	Communication Skills	Major Assignments VoiceThreads HW Readings
4. Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.	Critical Thinking Skills	Major Assignments
5. Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)	Unmapped	Major Assignments

## **Course Requirements/Unit Overview:**

**Weekly HW (other than major assignments):** Your completion of 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. Outside of the major assignments, HW includes keeping up with weekly VoiceThreads, watching weekly videos, listening to podcasts, reading assigned materials, watching TV shows/films, and posting multiple VoiceThread comments per week and/or responding to peers.

### **Week/Unit 1: Understanding + Contributing to Social Discourse**

Our first lesson in this class will be centered on the idea that active reading involves social discourse. Before that though, you must learn how to understand what you are reading. We will actively go through this process together with particular scholarly articles and readings.

#### **Summary/Response Essay | Monday 12/16 5am**

You will be completing this essay as proof that you have successfully understood how to find scholarly articles, decipher them, and contribute to the conversation.

### **Week/Unit 2: Rhetoric in Media**

Shifting gears from the written word, we will explore other contexts of meaning-making through digital means, such as social media, music, TV shows, and films.

#### **Rhetorical Analysis | Monday 12/23 5am**

After learning how to recognize rhetoric and discuss it, you will venture into your own individual rhetorical analysis of any genre that interests you.

### **Week/Unit 3: Writing and Speaking to the Public Sphere**

Once you have learned how to recognize and discuss rhetoric, you will be tasked with communicating an argument about an issue that matters to you through various HW activities that will culminate into your public sphere project.

#### **Public Sphere Project | Thursday 12/26 5am (no extensions)**

For this assignment, you will be creating your own 5-15 min podcast segment (or a different, approved modality) related to an issue that matters to you. Your audience will be the general public. Alongside the process of crafting your project, you will write a paper contextualizing and situating it in the scope of the material you have learned in this class, outside sources that surround the conversation, and your take on its applicability to the public sphere. By the time this assignment comes around, I hope that you will feel empowered through understanding that an argument can be anything, and most certainly, can be something you are passionate about.

#### **Condensed Grading Formula:**

VoiceThread Posts	30%
Summary/Response Essay	20%
Rhetorical Analysis	20%
Public Sphere Project: Paper + Multimodal Piece	25%
EOC Reflection/Comment on VT3	05%
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Total:	100%

#### **Grading Scale:**

**A:** 900-1000 | **B:** 800-899 | **C:** 700-799 | **D:** 600-699 | **F:** 599 or less | **FN:** failure due to attendance

**Late Work Policy:** Timely completion of all assignments is crucial. Please know that not completing an assignment sets you back, especially with the time crunch of a 3-wk model. It is 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 48hr of the original due date will receive a deduction of up to 2 full letter grades.
- **Missed Assignments:** Assignments that are not submitted within 48hr of the original due date are missed assignments that will receive a zero.
  - **Please note that you must complete all major assignments in order to pass the course. Thus, 1 missed assignment = F**
- **Incomplete Assignment:** Assignments submitted on time or within the 2-day submission period that do not meet one or multiple requirements are considered incomplete and will receive a zero until the student completes the assignment fully. An incomplete assignment suggests that you are either (1) not reading the assignment sheet and watching the VoiceThread where I go over instructions, or (2) you are not being proactive and asking for help.
  - Two incomplete assignments = subject to a full letter grade deduction on the end-of-semester average
  - All incomplete assignments (as in all 3 of the major assignments) = F
    - **NOTE:** You may not submit an incomplete public sphere project since the deadline is so close to the grade due date. If you turn in this assignment incomplete, it will either be an automatic failure of the course or you will lose at least a full letter grade worth of points. This will be decided according to my discretion and will depend on how close to reaching the level of "complete" the assignment is and the willingness of the student to reach out and ask for help prior to submitting.

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

- You will have **one 24-hr late submission opportunity that you can use either** on major assignment #1 or #2. If you choose to use it, just email me and let me know.

**Make-Up Policy (The "Revision" Clause):** You have the opportunity to revise assignments #1 and #2 if you receive a grade that you are not happy with. The caveat here is that you must meet with me to go over my feedback and steps for revision. Along with your revised draft, you will be required to submit a mini reflection about what you have done to revise the assignment and what you have learned in the process. It is always best to notify me early if you want to revise; this allows ample time to complete your revision and submit it with enough time for me to grade it before grades are due.

**A Note on Written Feedback:** You will receive feedback from me on major assignments. If I ever give you feedback that you do not understand, please 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 the advice I am giving. Help me help you 😊 **If you submit an assignment late, please do not expect extensive feedback.**

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** There are no extra credit opportunities in this class because I give each of you the opportunity to revise major assignments 1 and 2 after you meet with me. In other words, you earn points back by recognizing where you can improve your writing and working to do so.

**The 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](http://com.edu/symposium). 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, March 28, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the ICB building.** The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, 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 the student and I to 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 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](mailto:gbarbee@com.edu).

**The Tutoring Center (closed)/Tutor.com (available) :** 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. **Tutor.com** will be available during the winter mini and is accessible through Brightspace.

**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 – is an extremely serious offense and 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/AI Statement:** Plagiarism means many things, such as using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own, paraphrasing someone else's words without proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, and/or using someone else's words without quotation marks. Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site without proper attribution or authorization is another form of plagiarism. Do not use an AI paraphrasing or rephrasing tool like Quillbot or ProWritingAid. Do not use ChatGPT, Grammarly, or any platform with similar functions.

Violations could result in failure of the assignment, failure of the course, and referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

**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](mailto:banderson@com.edu)

**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.*

**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](mailto: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 2nd. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15th. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 26th. **The last date to withdraw for the winter mini session is December 24th.**

**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).

### **Important Course Info**

**VoiceThread:** For this course, we will be using a platform called VoiceThread, which I often refer to as VT. VT is an instructional platform that is free to you and will contain all the weekly instructional material + post prompts/deadlines. See more about it [here](#). I will use your COM email to set up your account to ensure you have full basic account abilities. You should receive an email about this prior to Week 1. It is important to tune in to the VT of the week on Monday to ensure you are aware of your due dates for the week.

**Setting up your Notifications on Brightspace:** In order to receive an email of the announcements that I post on Brightspace, you need to change your notification settings. In order to do this, follow these steps:

- Click on your name in the top right corner of Brightspace
- Click on Notifications
- Click "Enable email notifications"
- Make sure that the "new announcement available" section has a checkmark underneath the email column

You can set the same thing up for text messages. The only difference is that the text message will not send you the full announcement; it will only send you a notification that a new announcement has been posted on Brightspace.

I will post a Brightspace tutorial during Week 1 going over this. **In short, you can find my announcements on the Homepage. Everything else can be accessed directly from the content tab, including links to VoiceThread, readings, and submission links.**

## **Tentative Course Outline/Calendar**

12/9/2024-12/27/2024

### **Course Overview:**

- This course is split into 3 units (1 week per unit)
- Since we are operating on a 3-week schedule, the expectations of personal responsibility, time management, and effort are of great importance.
- You are learning 16/8 weeks worth of content in 3 weeks; because of this, do expect to complete a significant amount of reading/writing per day/week. Waiting until Sunday to access the material will be detrimental to your success! Please be diligent and proactive.

**Note:** Below you can find a general outline of the theme of each week + due dates for certain tasks. Specifics will be included in the weekly content tab on Brightspace + in the VoiceThread each week.

### **Week 1 out of 3: 12/9-12/15:** **Understanding + Contributing to Social Discourse**

#### **Important Due Dates/Times:**

- **M 12.9 11:59pm: First day of term / Post Intro VT Comment**
  - Skim through VoiceThread + make to-do list of tasks / due dates
- **T 12.10 11:59pm: Census Day / Post Intro VT Comment**
  - No intro comment by 11:59pm = no participation via COM policy. Anyone without participation by Census Day must be dropped from the course by the instructor. Complete your intro comment by 11:59pm on this day to avoid this from happening. Simply logging into Brightspace does not count; use Monday to get acquainted with VoiceThread + troubleshoot issues.
- **ST 12.14 5am: VT Tasks/Comments Due**
- **MN 12.16 5am: Summary/Response Paper Due**

#### **Tasks:**

- Listen to Suarez intro. lecture + skim VoiceThread 1 before you commence the HW/assignments for the week
- Read syllabus in its entirety
- Read/watch assigned material
- Read assignment sheet
- Complete VT comments/tasks
- Complete Summary/Response Paper



**Week 2 out of 3: 12/16-12/22**  
**Rhetoric in Media**

**Important Due Dates/Times:**

- **M 12.16 11:59pm:** Skim through VoiceThread / make to-do list
- **ST 12.21 5am:** VT Tasks/Comments Due
- **MN 12.23 5am:** Rhetorical Analysis Paper Due

**Tasks:**

- Skim VoiceThread 2 before you commence the HW/assignments for the week
- Read/watch assigned material
- Read assignment sheet
- Complete VT comments/tasks
- Complete Rhetorical Analysis Paper

**Week 3 out of 3: 12/23-12/27**  
**Writing and Speaking to the Public Sphere**

**Important Due Dates/Times:**

- **M 12.23 11:59pm:** Skim through VoiceThread / make to-do list
- **T 12.24:** Last day to withdraw from course
- **W 12.25:** Holiday
- **TH 12.26 5am:** Public Sphere Project Due
- **TH 12.26 5pm:** EOC Reflection + VT Tasks/Comments Due
  - Last day to submit any late work is at 11:59pm
- **TH 12.27 11:59pm:** Cut-off for late work
- **F 12.27 5pm:** Grades due

**Tasks:**

- Skim VoiceThread 3 before you commence the HW/assignments for the week
- Read/watch assigned material
- Read assignment sheet
- Complete VT comments/tasks
- Complete EOC Reflection: Submit on Brightspace AND record it on VT
- Complete Public Sphere Project