

English 1301.317IN Composition I Fall 2021 Online

Overview: Yes, there is a lot of information here, but this is our contract for this semester. Read everything carefully and reach out to me with any questions – or if you notice any typos/errors.

Instructor Information: Ryan Smith, rsmith37@com.edu, 832-766-8391

• Office Hours: Friday 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. and by appointment

Communicating With the Instructor: I will do my best to respond to all communication within a 24-hour time frame during the work week. Emails sent during the weekend may not be returned until the following Monday. *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.

Student hours and location: Online via Blackboard

Required Textbook/Materials: *Writing for College*: <u>http://www.richard.jewell.net/WforC/home.htm</u>

Conspiracy Theory Textbook: Available in Blackboard

Course Description: English 1301 is designed as an introduction to college-level, academic writing. This course teaches the principles and techniques of written composition, textual analysis of non-fiction prose, and critical thinking. Activities and assignments include paragraphs, essays, research, and analysis and discussion of assigned readings. This particular course is themed around conspiracy theories.

Course Requirements

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula

1.	Activities/Homework/Attendance	25%
2.	Quizzes	10%
3.	Essay Projects (4 at 10% each)	40%
4.	Final Exam: Final Essay Research Packet & Blogspot	25%

Students will be graded on "points-earned" criteria. Total = 2000 points

COM Tutoring Center: The COM Tutoring Center provides free tutoring services to students, staff and faculty seeking assistance for writing, reading and oral presentations for academic and non-academic assignments/projects. Located in the Technical Vocational Building, Room 1306, the center provides face-to-face and online tutoring sessions in a welcoming environment. Appointments can be made in person, or on the center scheduler at com.mywconline.com, or by clicking the WC icon on the COM website.

Activities/Homework: Participation points are accumulated through involvement and completion of activities and homework, such as blogs, discussions, interactive activities, matching/multiple choice questions, peer activities, polls/surveys, quizzes, readings, and videos. Class activities are accessed by logging into Blackboard a *minimum of three times per week*. The approximate time of completion will vary per learner, but you should allow plenty of time for mastery of online materials, which are counted as participation points for the course. Allow time to review new information, participate in discussions, take quizzes, finish writing assignments, and complete other activities listed in the syllabus course outline and calendar. Full participation in all course activities is required to earn credit for graded assignments.

Submitting Assignments: Submit assignments, essays, and work through Blackboard only. Failure to follow correct submission rules could result in a no/lower grade. *Do not* email your completed assignments, essays, or work to your professor. Preview the submission through Blackboard ahead of time – not at the last minute! As always, contact the instructor if you have questions.

Teamwork Projects

Essays use the writing process and peer workshopping teamwork approach. Two formal checkpoints are required and graded by your instructor. Project Two requires COM Writing Center tutor check off and Project Three uses either COM Writing Center tutor or three peer reviews with three peer signatures before it is graded by your professor. If you do not show up or participate in your peer review workshopping with your teammates, you must visit the COM Speaking, Reading, and Writing Center for revision and get emailed/signed documentation of your visit. You may use ½ of one class period during peer workshopping time only to visit the Writing Center. You are required to visit the COM Writing Center (online or in-person) for Project 2; be sure to turn in documentation of your visit to your instructor. All assignments must have proper MLA formatted works cited page attached, as well as workshopping proof from peers or writing tutor, to receive a grade higher than 50.

COVID-19 Exceptions for Workshopping: During this pandemic, flexibility is needed, so there are other options for workshopping.

- 1. Peers/qualified family & friends/former teachers, etc. Be sure to use the Peer Workshopping Handout. You must upload peer/tutor workshopping documentation to Blackboard before your essay will be scored.
- 2. Professional Tutor, such as COM tutor, NetTutor, etc. Be sure to keep either an email,

comment sheet, etc. as documentation to upload to Blackboard so your essay can be scored. In addition, some assignments may be adjusted due to COVID-19.

Grading Details: Essays are graded holistically based on clarity, coherence, quality, length, mechanics, originality, and writing style. Please revise, edit, and proofread your essays carefully before submitting the final copy to Blackboard. If essays do not meet requirements, points will be deducted.

Grading Scale 90 - 100% = A 80 - 89% = B 70 - 79% = C 60 - 69% = D Below 60% = F

Grade I: Given unforeseen circumstances that result in the inability to successfully complete the course objectives, an I-Contract can be requested from the instructor. Students must be current with coursework and must have an emergency situation to qualify.

Blackboard My Grades, Overall Score, and Weighted Column

The Overall Score if your final grade for the course. The Weighted Column is for the top assignments in the highest weighted category only and is not an overall score for the class. *Do not use the Weighted Column to determine your grade within the class*. In addition, Blackboard does not factor in any assignment column with a null or – score. Once a null or – score changes to a numerical score, your grade may increase or decrease drastically. To avoid this and to see your actual grade, you must turn all work in on time.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: No late work is accepted outside of emergency circumstances. Contact me directly if you need extra time for an assignment. Various extra credit assignments are included throughout the semester.

Revisions: Students who score "C" or below on essay projects are allowed to revise each project one time only for a grade no higher than 80. Peer Workshopping may be completed by two peers within the class and/or by COM WC tutors or other professional tutors. These are required, along with proper MLA Works Cited pages, before major projects are scored. No major project will receive a score above 50 unless a proper MLA Works Cited page is included. Be sure to turn in emailed documentation of your tutor session to Blackboard.

Attendance Policy: Students at COM are expected to attend and participate in every session of all classes for which they are registered. Regular attendance is a critical component to being successful in courses. Students should consult with their instructors when it becomes necessary to miss a class.

College of the Mainland recognizes no excused absences other than those prescribed by law (military service and religious holiday). When, in the judgment of the faculty, students have been

absent so many times that they are unlikely to complete the objectives of the course, the faculty member can initiate steps to drop them by notifying the Admissions and Records Office. The student will receive a "W" for the course. Five or more absences will result in a grade no higher than a C for face-to-face courses (CL) while with hybrid courses (HY) three or more absences will result in a grade no higher than a C.

Online Attendance Policy: Attendance is taken weekly on Monday at 8:00 a.m. You must log into this course for your class each week. *You must log in no less than three times per week.* Failure to do so will result in loss of activities and participation points.

The estimated amount of time to complete weekly online activities is approximately equal to inclass minutes. The approximate time of completion will vary per learner, but you should allow plenty of time for mastery of online materials, which are counted as participation points for the course. The time frame could be anywhere from 1-10 hours. Allow time to review new information, participate in discussions, take quizzes, finish writing assignments, and complete other activities listed in the syllabus course outline and calendar as scheduled by the instructor. Full participation in all course activities is required to earn credit for graded assignments. When, in the judgment of the faculty students have missed so many assignments (three or more in this course) that they are unlikely to complete the objectives of the course, the faculty member can initiate steps to drop them by notifying the Admissions and Records Office. The student will receive a "W" for the course.

Disaster Preparedness: In case of a disaster, check the COM webpage for college updates and your Blackboard course for class updates. Continue your work for the class since every attempt will be made to follow the weekly course outline.

Technology and This Course: Computers and Wi-fi are available on the COM campus. Academic writing assignments and essays in all college courses should be typed in a word processor, preferably Microsoft Word. As a COM student, you have access to Office 365 (which includes Word) for free. Ask me if you need help setting this up at home. If Internet usage is unavailable off-campus, please use time management skills to download materials while on campus. If a high grade in this course is your goal, then practice reading and writing, apply new skills learned in class, and peer workshop all essays. Make good use of campus resources, such as free tutors in COM's Writing Center.

Technology Outage Policy: Students are responsible for completing all course work by the due dates stated in the syllabus/weekly calendar. Occasionally, the College may experience emergency campus-wide technology outages. Should this occur during a Quiz or submission of an Assignment, you will need to notify the instructor to reset the Quiz or extend the assignment due date. This will occur once the campus-wide outage is confirmed by Informational Technology. An Announcement will be sent to all students relaying the information about the new due date for the assignment or quiz.

Problems with Blackboard and other Technical Problems: Technology problems are not a valid excuse for missing deadlines. If you are experiencing difficulties with Blackboard, you are

advised to contact the Technical Support Team for troubleshooting and solutions. Every semester, students experience total or near-total computer/USB failures. If this happens to you, you have two (2) options: Use a backup process/computer or drop the class. Always make a backup of each assignment as you create or edit it—cloud service/email address/USB jump drive. Do not depend on the "original" file, whether it's on your hard drive or elsewhere.

Classroom Conduct Policies: College of the Mainland requires that students enrolled at COM be familiar with the Standards of Student Conduct, which can be found in the on-line Student Handbook: http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook. Students should act in a professional manner at all times. Disruptive students will be held accountable according to college policy. Any violations of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Office for student Conduct and may result in dismissal from this class.

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams or plagiarism – are *serious offenses and will result in a grade of zero* on that exam or assignment, and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a very serious offense and is not acceptable in this class. Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. This includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, and/or 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 disciplinary action. Access this link to learn How to Avoid Plagiarism or http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to- avoid-plagiarism/

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 Department Chair, Brian Anderson, at 409-933-8186 or banderson@com.edu.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Demonstrate knowledge of	Teamwork (TW)	Projects 1-5
individual and collaborative		Peer Workshops
writing processes.		
Develop ideas with appropriate	Social/Personal Responsibility	Project 2 & 3
support and attribution.	(SPR)	
Write in a style appropriate to	Communication Skills (COM)	Quizzes Project 2-4
audience and purpose.		
Read, reflect, and respond	Critical Thinking Skills	Project 3 & 4 Quizzes
critically to a variety of texts.	(CT)	
Use edited American English	Unmapped	Projects 1-4
in academic essays.		Final Research Packet

	Social/Personal Responsibility (SPR)	QEP Oral Presentation (Overview of Projects)
consequences to decision- making.		

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.<<u>https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf</u>. *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.* <u>https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf</u>

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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or <u>hbankston@com.edu</u>. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

Counseling Statement: Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or <u>hbankston@com.edu</u>. Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email <u>counseling@com.edu</u> to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

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 6. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 19. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is December 2.

F_N **Grading:** The F_N grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F_N 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 F_N grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F_N 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.

COVID-19 Statement: All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at www.com.edu/coronavirus. In compliance with <u>Governor Abbott's May 18</u> <u>Executive Order</u>, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit <u>com.edu/coronavirus</u> for future updates.

Course Week	Online Activities & Homework Note: If in doubt about assignments, complete <i>all</i> activities in theweekly homework folder.	Due Dates
Week 1	Week 1 Blackboard (BB) Homework:	Note:
(8/23)	□ Syllabi Overview	This course is
(0, 20)	Syllabi Quiz	themed around
	□ Set up your cloud based service: One Drive through COM Email	conspiracy
	(Preferred), Dropbox, Google	theories
	□ Set up your English Composition folder and sub-folders in Your	
	Cloud Service: Essay Projects, Research, Pictures	
	Quiz #1 Diagnostic Writing	
	Review Grammar Skills folder	
	□ Optional Reading: <u>Writing for College Part II College Writing #21-22</u>	
	Optional Reading: <u>Writing for College Part 1 Revising/Editing #14-20</u>	
	□ Extra Credit: Author Email (2 points offered) Due Week 15	
	Homework for Week 1 is due next Monday by 8:00 a.m.	
Week 2	Week 2 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(8/30)	Overview: What is a conspiracy? COM Conspiracy Theory Lib	8:00 a.m.:
	Guides, Library Overview	
	Conspiracy Beliefs Poll	Week 1
	□ Conspiracy Films 1-3 with Questions	Homewor
	Research Projects Guidelines Handout	k
	□ Overview of Research Topics	
	□ Research Topic Sign Up	
	□ Annotating Documents & Note Taking Skills (Review Only)	
	Read & Annotate: "Academic Writing" The last of the second seco	
	□ Technology Survey #1	
	□ Read & Work: <i>Chapter 1 Getting Started</i> with Chapter Questions	
	Read & Work: Chapter 2 Learning About Academic Reading and Writing & Activity Questions	
	 Writing & Activity Questions Editing and Peer Workshopping Skills Review Activity 	
	 Defining and Feel Workshopping Skins Review Activity Optional Reading: <u>Writing for College Part II Researching #36-42</u> 	
	Homework for Week 2 is due next Monday by 8:00 a.m.	

Week 3	Week 3 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(9/6)	□ SafeAssign Practice/Plagiarism Overview	8:00 a.m.:
	□ Read & Work: Chapter 3 Introducing Your Conspiracy Theory	
	Grammar, Editing, and Workshopping Activity: <i>Grammarly</i> and	Week 2
	ProWriting Aid	Homewor
	□ Finding Great Research	k
	□ Introduction to Citations, Dropped Quotes, & Plagiarism Activities	
	Building a Works Cited page	
	Plagiarism Guidelines Practice	
	Dropped Quotes Practice	
	□ Citations Practice	
	Works Cited Practice	
	Quiz #2 Library Research Tutorial	
	□ Read & Work: Chapter 4 Writing About Your Conspiracy Theory	
	□ Formatting Your Word Doc	
	Brainstorming Your Research Topic	
	□ Optional Reading: <u>Writing for College Part II Writing to Literature #43-48</u>	
	Optional Reading: Writing for College Part 1 Organizing #7-13	
Week 4	Week 4 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(9/13)	□ Project 1 Introduction , Lecture and Work Week	8:00 a.m.:
	No Peer/Tutor Workshopping needed since this project will be reviewed and	
	scored by your professor. You must receive 100 onProject 1 before moving	Week 3
	forward with Project 2	Homework
	Peer Workshopping & Editing Skills: Using Commas in Writing	
	□ Read & Work: <i>Chapter 5 Analyzing Your Conspiracy Character</i> with	
	Questions	
	Quiz #3 Workshopping & Editing Character Analysis Traits	
	Optional Reading: <u>Writing for College Part II Writing on Readings #24-30</u>	
Week 5	Week 5 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(9/20)	Lecture: Overview of Project 2 Character Analysis (Due Week 8)	8:00 a.m.:
(2) = 0)	□ Project 2 Pre-Writing Activities	
	□ Begin Rough Draft of Project 2	Project 1
	Grammar and Editing Skills as needed	Introduction
	Reminder: Projects 2 and 3 must have Workshopping proof by	Week 4
	tutor/peers/etc. uploaded to BB before essays will be scored. An MAWorks	Homework
	Cited page must be included below the essay to be scored	

Week 6	Week 6 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(9/27)	□ Project 2 Work Week	8:00 a.m.:
	Project 2 Formal Checkpoint	
	□ Make Your Writing Center Appointment!	Reminder:
	□ Quiz #4	Project 2 must
	□ Technology Survey #2	be checked by
	Optional: Grammar/Editing Skills: Citations & Plagiarism	tutor/peers/etc.
Week 7	Week 7 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(10/4)	□ Project 2 Work Week (Due Week 8)	8:00 a.m.:
	Editing Skills	
	□ Schedule COM Tutoring Center Workshopping for Project 2	Week 6
	\Box Quiz #5	Homework
	□ Read & Work: <i>Chapter 6: Your Conspiracy Theories</i>	
	Optional Reading: <u>Writing for College Part 1: B: Organizing #7-13</u>	
Week 8	Week 8 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(10/11)	Overview of Project 3 Conspiracy Theories (Argumentative) (DueWeek	8:00 a.m.:
	Project 3 Work Week	Project 2
	Grammar/Editing Skills if needed—these will be added to the weekly	Character
	homework folder, as needed	Analysis
	\Box Quiz #6	
		Week 7
	Reminder: Projects 2 and 3 must have Workshopping proof by	Homework
	tutor/peers/etc. along with proper MLA Works Cited page to be scored	
Week 9	Week 10 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(10/18)	Project 3 Work week Project 3 Formal Checkpoint	8:00 a.m.:
	Schedule Peer/Tutor Workshopping	W. 1.0
		Week 8
W 110	They begin in a heady	Homework
Week10	Thanksgiving break	
(10/25)	Wash 11 DD Hammerla	
Week11	Week 11 BB Homework: Project 3 Work Week (Due Week 12) 	Due Monday at
(11/1)	Grammar and Editing Skills as needed	8:00 a.m.:
	□ Quiz #7	W 1 10
		Week 10
XX71.10	Week 12 BB Homework:	Homework
Week12	□ Read Chapter 7: The Final Stages	Due Monday at
(11/8)		8:00 a.m.:
	 Overview of Project 4 Conclusion (Due Week 13) Write Your Conclusion 	Drainat 2
	No workshopping needed; your professor will be your workshopper	Project 3 Conspiracy
	1 10 workshopping needed, your professor will be your workshopper	CONSPILACY

	□ Quiz #8	Theories
		Week 11 Homework
Week13	Week 13 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(11/15)	Recording Research Sources	8:00 a.m.:
	□ Overview of Final Essay (Due Week 16)	
	□ Quiz #9	Project 4
		Conclusion
	Reminder: All folders close Week 15 on the first class period at midnight!	
		Week 12
		Homework
Week14	Week 14 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(11/22)	□ Make-Up Week—Be sure all weekly folder work is completed!	8:00 a.m.:
	□ Grammar and Editing Skills as needed	
	\Box Quiz #10	Project 4
	Bamindary All folders alose Weak 15 on the first alose period at midnight	Conclusions
Week15	Reminder: All folders close Week 15 on the first class period at midnight! Week 15 BB Homework:	Due Monday at
(11/29)	Folders Close Week 16, Monday, at Midnight	8:00 a.m.:
(11/29)	□ Final Essay	0.00 a.m.
		All Folders close
	Reminder: Author Extra Credit—last chance! Check to ensure all work is	Week 16,
	completed and turned in before Monday at Midnight!	Monday, at
		Midnight
Week16	Finals Week!	Due Monday at
(12/6)	Grades and Conferences	8:00 a.m.:
		Final Essay