



English 1302.102CL
Composition II
Spring 2024
TTH 8-9:20 a.m., LRC 257

Instructor Information: Dr. Brian Anderson
Email: banderson@com.edu
Telephone: 409-933-8186 (office)

Student hours and location: Mondays & Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
TH 9:30-10 a.m., LRC Suite B
TH 10-11 a.m., Virtual
Other times (including virtual meetings) by appointment.

Required Textbook/Materials: Students are not required to purchase a textbook for this class. Readings will be announced and distributed in class or via Brightspace.

Course Description: This course involves intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphases are 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

Course requirements:

Requirements/Major Assignments

Please note that some assignments may require you to submit work or participate on D2L (Brightspace). Please make sure you are familiar with D2L and plan to have access to D2L outside of class.

Essays

You will write three formal essays this semester that focus on academic writing or use an academic approach. Some will require research; all will require you to read from and interact with the textbook and other research. You will receive handouts with detailed instructions for each of these papers. The final essay will also incorporate a multimodal or visual component.

Reflections/Journals/Informal Writing

You will write at roughly 10 of these during the course of the semester. These pieces will require you to think about your learning and progress in rhetoric and writing. The final reflection will require you to think about your writing process and what you have learned all semester. Instructions will be provided for each. Other journals or reflections may connect to readings or other research-related topics.

Professionalism

Our class will reproduce in many ways a “real-world” work environment, and students will be expected to participate professionally in the class. You should arrive on time, meet deadlines, and contribute meaningfully to class discussions. Professionalism also includes collaboration, participation in all class activities, and sincere effort to improve your own writing and that of your peers through peer review, revision, and conferencing. Professional behavior is a cooperative endeavor that affects the entire class, but it will be tied to an individual grade. Certain minor assignments will also be tied to your professionalism grade.

More on professionalism: A student’s professionalism grade is based on attendance and participation, including contribution to class discussions, group work, completion of minor assignments, and related activities. Participation points will be given for substantive classroom contributions and completion of in-class assignments (which may also count as separate quiz grades). Participation points may be deducted for missing class, engaging in disruptive behavior, or not completing reading or in-class assignments. Besides obvious disruptions like talking to others while I’m speaking, disruptive behavior can include (but is not limited to) egregious use of cell phone or texting, arriving late or leaving early repeatedly, sleeping, working on other classes, and regularly leaving the class during class time to attend to personal business. A student will be awarded a final professionalism grade reflecting his or her overall attendance and participation as evaluated by the instructor. (A separate rubric will be distributed).

Generally speaking, the professionalism grade is designed to help you succeed in class but also learn certain habits of mind and improve your opportunities for success in the real world.

A caveat regarding professionalism: I do not penalize students for being shy or introverted. Quality of participation is valued more highly than quantity.

Oral Presentation

The oral presentation will be approximately 3-5 minutes in length and will be connected to the multimodal assignment. Specific instructions will be distributed later in the semester.

There may be other assignments that I have not listed, but generally, these are the kinds of work we will do this term. Students are expected to read and review all material assigned.

Notes: There may be some adjustment of point distributions, values, or assignments as needed to correct for errors or changes in assignments/schedules. Any extra-credit points will be added as raw points.

D2L “My Grades”: Running point totals and current grades will be posted on D2L. Remember that the D2L grade display may be incomplete at any given time and is simply for your convenience (not a substitute for the instructor’s official records). Certain assignment points, like extra credit, may not be posted until the end of the semester. Assignments not completed may also not show up as part of the point total until they are graded as zeros. You are responsible for keeping track of your progress in the class. Your final grades will be made available through WebAdvisor at the end of the semester. The D2L total at the end of the semester is considered official.

Extra Credit

See below.

Grading Formula

The following table indicates assignments in this course and how they will be calculated into the final course grade:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Grading Formula (in points) | |
| Formal Essay Assignments | 150 points each (450) |
| Multimodal component of final essay | 100 points |
| Professionalism | 100 points |
| Journals and Online Discussions | 100 points (average) |
| Minor assignments, quizzes, short online work | 50 points (average) |
| Final Quiz on Concepts | 50 points |
| Oral presentation | 50 points |

Total points: 900

Letter grades are based on the following scale:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| A | 810-900 points |
| B | 720-809 points |
| C | 630-719 points |
| D | 540-629 points |
| F | Below 540 points |

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policies:

Late Work/Make-up Policy: Students are expected to turn work in on time. If a student cannot attend class for some reason, he or she should make other arrangements to turn in assignments on time. Late work (such as journals) will only be accepted for a valid reason and will be penalized 20% per business day. Normally, in-class assignments cannot be made up since they are partly

designed to encourage your attendance and active learning. However, the lowest quiz/minor assignment grade will be dropped. Make-up exams and quizzes will only be given with prior permission of the instructor, and documentation may be required for emergencies or school-related absence if a student requests a make-up. Please plan accordingly and contact me ahead of time if you know you have a situation.

Extra Credit: Extra credit may be offered for attending certain presentations, lectures, or other activities (including virtual activities) outside of class. These will be announced as the opportunities arise. Extra credit may also be given for completing bonus discussions and other class activities as announced. Some extra-credit opportunities (for help with a particular task, for instance) may be offered on a first-come basis. For writing classes, students may receive extra credit for current accomplishments in writing (e.g., having a letter to the editor published). Additionally, I will usually award extra-credit points (usually 2 points) to any student who brings an error in classroom instructions or documents (including typos) to my attention. Individual extra credit will *not* be offered as a way of remediating grade deficiencies at the end of the semester.

Attendance policy: Regular attendance is expected and counts toward the student's professionalism grade. If you cannot attend class because of some emergency, you should call or email me as soon as possible before class (this does not excuse the absence; it just lets me know you will be missing). You should also arrange to obtain any missed notes or assignment instructions from another student or from me during office hours, and you should seek out available online materials. Professionalism points will be deducted for habitual absences or tardiness. Additionally, a student who misses more than four classes may be considered ineligible for a grade higher than a "C" for the course, regardless of reason for absences or quality of work completed.

Please note that I do not normally drop students based on lack of attendance, although this is done automatically for those who do not attend class or participate before Census Day. After that time, students are responsible for withdrawing themselves and for managing their own schedule and how they might be affected by the six-drop rule. See withdrawal policy below.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means. (For this class, you may communicate with the instructor through D2L as well. This is connected to the COM email system.)

Additional clarification on communication policy: I will answer emails as soon as possible, usually that same day when possible. Please keep in mind that emails sent late at night or on the weekend may not be answered until the next day.

| Student Learner Outcome | Maps to Core Objective | Assessed via this Assignment |
|--|--|---|
| Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes. | Teamwork | Peer reviews, collaborative assignments |
| Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays. | Critical Thinking Skills | Essay |
| Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for ethical and logical uses of evidence. | Personal Responsibility | Short Writing Assignments |
| Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action. | Communication Skills (CS1) In addition, the Communication Skills Core Objective for oral communication is also met in this course (CS2) | Essay Oral presentation |
| Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e. g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.). | N/A | Essays |

Academic Dishonesty: For this class, since we're dealing with how to write and use sources effectively, I will give you additional information on how to identify, define, and avoid different forms of plagiarism. Please note that the plagiarism policy in this course also prohibits reusing work from this class or other classes, unless explicitly allowed. Please discuss with me if you are not clear on this. Please note the plagiarism policy applies to all written work (including discussions) and 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.

More on Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams -- is an extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam, and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, 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 and remediation.

The plagiarism and academic-dishonesty policy applies to all written work submitted for this class, including tests, journals, quizzes, online forums, and essays. If you use anything from another source, you must document properly using MLA standards. Making up quotes or falsifying information will also be construed as academic dishonesty. Reusing your own assignments from an earlier class or this class (except as explicitly allowed) is also not permitted; please ask me if you need guidance on this.

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. We will also use TurnItIn for at least some assignments.

The use of any form of Artificial Intelligence (including but not limited to ChatGPT) to complete discussions, journals, or papers may be considered a form of academic dishonesty. Please note that our current plagiarism-checking tool provides information on possible use of AI, though the instructor is responsible for making a final determination. Use of “smart” grammar checkers and “writing advice” aids may be permissible, but you should also be aware that using some of these tools in certain ways may also lead to flagging of your paper as “A.I.” by detection tools. We will discuss A.I. and these other tools, and we may have a select assignment where use of the tool will be allowed. However, you should not use A.I. to write your papers or discussion posts, unless otherwise noted, and this will be construed as plagiarism. If there is a suspected problem, you may be asked to have a discussion with the instructor.

Avoiding Plagiarism Links and Resources: See links and resources in the Brightspace D2L course on the course home page and in the “Writing Assistance” folder.

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 Dean of Academic Programs Rocky Barney at rbarney@com.edu or 409-933-8727.

Additional Course Policies and Procedures:

1. **Professionalism.** A student’s professionalism or participation grade is based on attendance and contribution to class discussions, group work, completion of minor assignments, and related activities. Participation points will be given for substantive classroom contributions and completion of in-class assignments (which may also count as separate quiz grades). Participation points may be deducted for missing class, disruptive behavior (including texting, working on other classes, etc.), or not completing reading or in-class assignments. A student will be awarded a final professionalism grade reflecting his or her overall attendance and participation as evaluated by the instructor (see separate

rubric). Students engaged in disruptive or unprofessional behavior may also be asked to leave the class or referred to the appropriate student supervisors, as stated in college policy.

A caveat regarding participation: I do not penalize students for being shy or introverted. Quality of participation is valued more highly than quantity. If you are a naturally quiet person, I will most likely recognize this, and I will expect you to contribute as much as you can to discussions and to also maintain a positive and attentive attitude.

2. **Caveat on Grading.** The instructor reserves the right to make subjective decisions on student grades and assessment based on his own expertise and judgment in the subject matter. The instructor also reserves the right to assign a final grade based on a student's overall mastery of the material and improvement over the course of the semester.
3. **Syllabus Changes.** The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and/or schedule as needed. Readings may also be added, but no major assignments will be added unless needed due to a weather emergency or other outside circumstances. You will be duly notified of any such changes.
4. **D2L.** Even though this is not an online course, students are expected to be familiar (or become familiar) with the technology and software they must use for this course, including the D2L Learning System. Major assignments will be submitted via D2L, and additional learning materials and activities will also be distributed in through the online course shell.
5. **Classroom Conduct:** 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>. Any breaches of the Code of Conduct will result in a referral to the Office for Student Conduct and may result in dismissal from this class. Conduct issues may also affect your professionalism grade.
6. **Cell phones.** Although we may occasionally use phones for work in class, they should normally be put away. See "Professionalism" above. I also do not allow recording of the class (video or audio), and I would discourage you from taking cell-phone photos of the board as a substitute for taking notes. We will discuss why.

All policies and procedures are designed to encourage fairness, facilitate professional interaction, and improve student success. I have put these policies and procedures into place over the years because I have seen what works and what does not work.

Please also note that this document does not cover every eventuality or possible circumstance in a class. Just because something is not covered here doesn't mean it is or is not "allowed." In addition to college policies and procedures, we also follow the common rules of society and

many other unwritten rules specific to our educational situation. Please talk to me if you have any questions or doubts about anything.

Course outline (calendar):

Tentative Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Note: Schedule subject to change as needed.

Journal assignments, additional readings, and other minor assignments (including reflections and online discussions) will usually be announced in class; not all deadlines are listed here. Journals may also include shorter practice arguments and responses.

1/17 MLK Day (college holiday)

Week 1:

1/16 Course Introduction and Syllabus
Class Overview
Review of D2L
Online introduction (discussion) due by Sunday, Jan. 21

1/18 MLA formatting review
Journal #1 assigned
Student introductions; further discussion of syllabus

Week 2:

1/23 Review of Rhetorical Appeals and Rhetorical Analysis
Essay 1 assigned
Begin Vocabulary Bank

1/24 Review of Fallacies
Journal 1 due

Week 3:

1/29 Rhetorical Analysis; work to identify target audience, author's ethos, evidence (logos), and stance (pathos); thesis statement (claim); sample student essay.

1/31 Structuring Arguments; types and definitions of arguments
Census Day (students who have not attended will be dropped)

Week 4

2/6 Draft of Rhetorical Analysis due; bring printed copy

2/8 **Final draft of Rhetorical Analysis (Essay 1) due on D2L by end of day Sunday, 2/11.**

Definition Argument Essay assigned

Week 5

2/13 Arguments of Definition
Unit theme: Cultural stereotypes

2/15 Readings and Analysis TBA

Week 6

2/20 Readings and assignments TBA
“Featuring Disabled Women in Advertisements: The Commodification of Diversity?” distributed

2/22 Read: “The Secret of *Scooby-Doo*’s Enduring Appeal,” distributed
“Effects of Avatar Race in Violent Video Games on Racial Attitudes and Aggression,” distributed

Week 7

2/27 “10 Theses about Cancel Culture,” and other readings, distributed
Finding Evidence and Evaluating Sources
Plagiarism reviewed

2/29 Structuring Arguments

Week 8:

3/5 Style in Arguments

3/7 Definition Essay draft due; bring printed copy to class
Final draft due on D2L by Sunday, March 10

3/11-17 *Spring Break (College Closed)*

Week 9:

- 3/19 Introduction to Multimodal Argument and Essays
Review of visual rhetoric
Unit theme: Language and Censorship
- 3/21 Presenting Arguments
Language Choices and Levels of Formality
Read: "Why 'They' is Here to Stay," distributed
Review of Standard English

Week 10:

- 3/26 Copyright law, sample arguments
- 3/28 Academic Arguments
Review of Standard English and other dialects
Journal: Your Own Dialect

Spring Holiday (Easter), college closed, May 29-31

Week 11:

- 4/2 Review of technological approaches for multimodal component.
Reading TBA
- 4/4 Review of types of arguments; Arguments of Fact and Causal Arguments
Reading TBA

Week 12:

- 4/9 Review of finding and documenting sources
- 4/11 Readings and assignments TBA

Week 13:

- 4/16 Readings and assignments TBA
- 4/18 Draft of Essay 3 due; bring printed copy to class
- 4/22 *College "W" Day*

Week 14

4/23 **Multimodal component due; oral presentations begin**

4/25 Oral presentations continued

Week 15

4/30 Oral Presentations (multimodal presentations)

5/2 **Final draft of Essay 3 due; final reflective journal assigned**

Week 16

5/7 **Final quiz** over class concepts.

5/9 Student conferences or make-up day as needed.

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.