



**English 1301
117H1/157H1
Composition I Fall
2025
MW 11:00-12:20**

Instructor Information:

Name Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow
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Office Phone (409) 933-8776

Student hours and location:

Office hours Monday 9:30-11:00, Tuesday 9:30-11:00, Wednesday 9:30-11:00, and Thursday 9:30-12:30
Location LRC 246a

Required Textbook/Materials:

All of our reading materials will be provided for free and will be accessed through Brightspace.

Course Description:

This course provides an intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis is on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus is on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

In this class we'll learn and practice the writing process and explore a variety of writing genres. Our first unit will be an exploration of rhetoric, and how it's used in writing. The second you will use rhetoric to develop an argument in the form an academic essay. The third unit will be narrative writing completed in small teams. In the fourth unit, you will explore philosophical analysis of a text of your choice.

Course requirements:

This is a composition class, which means there will be a lot of writing. The course is broken into four units, and in each unit there will be a major writing project due to complete that unit. You'll notice below that four of the six categories in the grading formula are named for these four units, and in order to earn a grade for that unit, you will need to submit a second draft of that unit's major project. In addition to the four major projects, there will be several minor writing assignments and discussions throughout the course.

Revision is an important part of this course, and as such, not only is the drafting process a requirement, peer reviews are as well. Failing to submit a first draft will not only deprive you of

valuable feedback but will cause you to lose points on the grade for that project. Failing to attend and participate in peer review will also result in a loss of points for that project.

Classroom discussion should be polite, professional and on topic. Feedback should be constructive and mindful of the person who will read it.

Come to class prepared with paper and a pencil/pen.

Grading:

Participation: 15%

In-Class Writing: 15%

Rhetorical Analysis: 15%

Academic Essay: 20%

Team Narrative: 20%

Philosophical Analysis: 15%

The Rhetorical Analysis, Academic Essay, Team Narrative, and Philosophical Analysis will be graded using rubrics that I have written. Students will have access to these rubrics during the revision process and will be able to see their rubric scores after the paper or project has been graded.

The participation grade will be based on thoughtful contributions to class discussions and peer reviews, discussion board submissions, and other online activities and quizzes.

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

Work should be submitted by the due date and in the form listed on assignment sheets. Work submitted after the due date will decrease five points for the first week of being late, 10 points for two or more weeks late. No late work will be accepted after the last day on the course calendar.

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.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to be on time and in attendance. Three or more absences may result in a failing grade. Further absences past the allotted three will result in an automatic five-point deduction each from the participation grade.

Failure to participate in peer reviews will result in both an absence for that day, as well as a lower grade for that assignment.

Excessive tardiness will impact your participation grade.

Excessive use of electronics for purposes other than class will result in a five-point deduction from your participation grade for every infraction. No warning will be given. No earbuds should be worn in ears at any time during class; every infraction will receive the same consequence as above. There will be times when electronic devices will be required to be put away.

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.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.	Teamwork	Team Narrative
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution	Personal Responsibility	Academic Essay
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.	Communication Skills	Philosophical Analysis
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking	Rhetorical Analysis
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.	Communication Skills	Academic Essay

Academic Dishonesty:

Scholastic dishonesty and plagiarism are defined in the student handbook. Plagiarism (failure to acknowledge or cite sources of ideas and/or works, representing another's work as your own, etc.) will not be tolerated in this class. It can result in a failing grade for the assignment, the course, and in the most extreme cases, it will be reported to COM. If you are unsure whether something may be considered plagiarism, please contact me.

Additionally, AI tools will not be allowed in this class. The goals of this course are aimed at you, the student, developing and communicating *your* ideas (especially including *how* you communicate your ideas), and so assignments must be completed by you, the student. Any use of AI tools will be considered a violation of academic integrity, and will result in an automatic failing grade for that assignment, and potentially reported to COM.

HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT POLICY STATEMENT: PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one's own. Two forms of plagiarism are common. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded material without properly acknowledging its sources. In the second form, the writer submits work actually done by someone else. (The student who allows his/her work to be used by others is also guilty.)

Any student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of “0” on his/her plagiarized work and may, as a result, receive a failing grade in the course. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense: all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.

Violation of the Plagiarism Policy may result in a referral to the College of the Mainland Judicial Coordinator or further disciplinary actions as stated in the current Student Handbook.

“Source” may refer to published works (including material available from electronic/computer networks or databases), electronically broadcast programs, films, recordings, interviews, speeches, or lectures.

1. You must document when you quote directly from another source.
2. You must document when you paraphrase words from another source.
3. You must document when you summarize ideas from another source.
4. You must document when you use facts (statistics in a chart or graph, for example) or visual material from another source

The GCIC Academic Symposium: COM’s GCIC Academic Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their best academic/course/program-related and creative projects. To learn more about this spring event, visit: <https://www.com.edu/symposium/> Participation in the symposium helps develop your professional skills, widens your professional networks, and should be noted on your resume. This year, the symposium is Friday, April 10, 2026. The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, at 11:59pm.

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.

Land Acknowledgement: It is important that we recognize that we are holding this class on the traditional lands of the Akokisa tribe, which did not survive the genocide of native peoples, and the Karankawas clans who have again taken up stewardship of the Gulf Coast as they revive their language and culture, all still without state or federal recognition.

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 Humanities Department Chair Brian Anderson at 409.933.8186 or banderson@com.edu

Course outline:

Day	Readings	Assignment Due
Unit One		
Week One	Basics of Rhetoric, “Faulkner and Desegregation”, pages 95-101 of <i>You, Writing!</i> , style video lecture, Summary and Analysis, Analysis Checklist video lecture	Dame Rhetorica
Week Two	Chapter Five of <i>You, Writing!</i> , Basic Components of Academic Writing written lecture, The Thesis Statement video lecture, Drafting the Paper video lecture, MLA Citations, Introduction to MLA	
Unit Two		
Week Three	Invention Process Invitational Rhetoric	Rhetorical Analysis draft one due Invitational Rhetoric quiz
Week Four	Using Google, Research Tutorial, “One World to Rule Them All”, Keeping a Research Journal, “Feminist Figures or Damsels in Distress”	Research Tutorial quiz
Week Five	Quotes, Paraphrases, and Summaries, Avoiding Plagiarism, “White Protests, Black Riots”, Academic Titles written lecture, Known-New Contract, Known-New Contract video lecture, Citing Primary Research	Rhetorical Analysis draft two due
Unit Four		
Week Six	“Eat Your Young”, pages 107-109 of <i>You, Writing!</i> , Sentence Style in Narrative Writing video lecture	Academic Essay draft one due Team Narrative Research due

Week Seven	“Towards Reconciliation” pages 91-103, Descriptive Writing video Foucault: Crime, Police, & Power	Towards Reconciliation Claim Checklist Course Reflection Academic Essay draft two due
Week Eight	Video examples, editing tutorial	Team Narrative due Philosophical Analysis

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/student-handbook.html>. *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 accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

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.

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.