



**English 1301 053IN  
Composition I  
Summer 2024  
Online**

**Instructor Information:**

Name Gwendolynn Barbee-Yow  
Email gbarbee@com.edu  
Office Phone (409) 933-8776

**Student hours and location:**

Office hours By appointment  
Location Microsoft Teams, 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 unit will be a multimodal narrative project completed in small teams. The third and fourth units will be connected, starting in the third unit with an open letter to develop an argument, and then moving that argument into the genre of academic writing in the fourth unit.

**Course requirements:**

This is an online course. Readings and lectures will be accessed and completed online. Discussions of the material will also be conducted online, primarily through use of the Discussion Board. Additionally, there will be prompt posts, assignment submissions, and other activities. Students will need access to a computer and internet connection to complete this course.

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, but 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.

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

**Grading:**

Participation:	15%
Prompt Responses:	10%
Rhetorical Analysis:	15%
Multimodal Narrative:	20%
Open Letter:	15%
Academic Essay:	25%

The Rhetorical Analysis, Multimodal Narrative, Open Letter, and Academic Essay 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 discussion boards, peer reviews, and other activities.

**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 every day that it is late. No late work will be accepted after the last day of the course.

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 log in every week and participate in the discussions and activities. Failure to do so for two weeks (non-consecutive) may result in a failing grade. Failure to participate in peer reviews will result in a lower grade for that assignment, in addition to impacting your participation grade.

**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.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.	Teamwork	Multimodal 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	Open Letter
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

**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, the Atakapa-Ishak tribe who still reside in this part of the country and are working to unite their nation, 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](mailto:banderson@com.edu)

**Course outline:**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
<b>Unit One</b>		
Week One	Syllabus	
	Basics of Rhetoric	Activity due
	Chapter Nine: Style	
	“A Letter to My Nephew”	Prompt response due
	Summary vs Analysis	
	Chapter Five: Writing a Thesis	
	Body Paragraph Basics	
	Revision Strategies	<b>Rhetorical Analysis draft one due</b>
	“Sixty-Nine Cents”	
<b>Unit Two</b>		
Week Two		
	“I’ve Taught Monsters”	

	Chapter Nine: Metaphor and Simile; Parallelism, Rhythm, and Repetition; Person	
	Descriptive Writing	
	“A Bird Made of Birds”	<b>Multimodal Narrative written draft due</b>
	“Deceiving My Parents” Sentence Fragments “Strike Against War”	<b>Rhetorical Analysis draft two due</b> Prompt response due
<b>Unit Three</b>		
Week Three		
	“Open Letter to Louis XIV” “Open Letter to the Sociology Professor”	Prompt response due
	Using Strong Verbs	<b>Multimodal Narrative Project due</b>
	Sentence Variety The “Hope” Speech	<b>Open Letter draft one due</b>
<b>Unit Four</b>		
Week Four		
	Keeping a Research Journal Research Tutorial	Activity due
	“One World to Rule Them All” Chapter Six: Writing Introductions, conclusions, and titles “Feminist Figures or Damsels in Distress?”	Prompt response due
	Quotes, Paraphrases, and Summaries Avoiding Plagiarism Known-New Contract	<b>Open Letter draft two due</b>
Week Five		<b>Academic Essay draft one due</b>
	“White Protests, Black Riots”	Activity due
	MLA Style Works Cited Introduction to MLA	<b>Academic Essay draft two due</b>

## 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](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, 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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 5-week session is July 1. The last date to withdraw from the 10-week session is July 30. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5-week session is August 2.

**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).

**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.