



**ENGL-1301-121
Composition I**

Fall 2024

**Days/Time: MW 2:00 PM-3:20PM
Location: STEM 117**

Instructor Information:

Professor Matthew Mayo, MA
mmayo2@com.edu
(409)-933-8214 X 8372

Student hours and location:

M-W 9:00AM-11:00AM
T-TH 1:30 PM-3:30PM

LRC Ste. B #240

Required Textbook/Materials:

Our books are OER and available free of charge:

[Rough Writers Guide](#)

<https://pressbooks.pub/roughwritersguide/front-matter/introduction/>

[English 1010: Open Essays](#)

<https://oercommons.org/courseware/lesson/81708/overview>

Course Description:

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing academic essays as a vehicle for learning, communicating and critical analysis. Prerequisites: One of the following TSI score combinations or equivalent developmental courses with a grade of "C" or better (1) TSI Reading 351

and TSI Writing 340 and TSI Essay 4; or (2) TSI Reading 351 and TSI Writing less than 340 with ABE 4 and TSI Essay 5.

Course requirements:

Major Assignments (MA): MA are the primary essay writing output of each unit. MA also includes your Final Research Paper prewriting activities (Final Project Completion Marker), the Group Project, and the Final Research Paper itself. Please review each MA prompt carefully and consider accessing tutoring early in the writing process.

Short Writings (SW): SW are assigned in each unit and are at least 350 words. Some short writings are exercises with specific instructions, while others are short essays requiring organization. All SW require MLA format.

Tests: Tests include your online unit quizzes and the Final Exam.

Discussions: Once or twice weekly individual and collaborative writing exercises that build on unit concepts.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Major Assignments (60%)

- MA 1 (Expository) (10%)
- MA 2 (Response) (10%)
- MA 3 (Argument) (15%)
- MA 4 (Final Research) (20%)
- Group Project (5 %)

Short Writings (20%)

- Weighted equally

Tests (15%)

- Quizzes – 5 X 2% = (10%)
- Final Exam – (10%)

Discussions (5%)

- Weighted equally

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

Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the posted due date.

Late Work is accepted with the following deductions:

Less than 24 hours = -15%

Less than 1 week = -25%

Over 1 week = -35%

Note: Quizzes -you will need to gain approval to complete a quiz after it has closed and have a documented medical reason for missing it.

Students who have a grade below 50% after the drop date **due to missed or late work** cannot earn a grade higher than a C in the course (unless medical or similar) documentation is provided.

If you are sick or otherwise know you will have trouble turning in your work on time, contact me before the deadline and I will try to work with you.

I will provide a rubric for each MA that details expectations for content, organization, format, and grammar. Your essay will be marked online in the Turnitin platform. I provide both written and verbal feedback.

The content of an essay depends on your effort and involvement. You should do your best and be yourself when you write. College essay organization requires learning related mechanics that will be taught in class. I will identify a starting point for all students to improve their grammar and tone regardless of current skill level.

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	Excellent. The paper exceeds the assignment in terms of content, organization, format, and grammar.
B	80-89	The paper meets the assignment and is quality work. The paper may need improvement in one or two areas of grading.
C	70-79	The paper is acceptable and meets the assignment but may need improvement in two or more categories
D	60-59	The paper is incomplete or does not meet the assignment. The paper needs significant improvement in 2-4 grading categories.

I will provide a rubric for each MA that details expectations for content, organization, format, and grammar. Your essay will be marked online in the Turnitin platform. I provide both written and verbal feedback.

The content of an essay depends on your effort and involvement. You should do your best and be yourself when you write. College essay organization requires learning related mechanics that will be taught in class. I will identify a starting point for all students to improve their grammar and tone regardless of current skill level.

Grade	Range	Notes
F	0-59	The paper is incomplete/unfinished, was not turned in on time, was plagiarized, or is clearly unacceptable/offensive.

Grading Formula

Extra Credit: Is not offered in the course.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class.

Students who have no educational activity (no attendance or Brightspace login) by the census date will be dropped

- Attendance is the best way to succeed in our class, and not attending usually leads to failure
- If you are sick or cannot attend class for some other reason (work, children, etc.), please email me and I will excuse your absence and help you not fall behind
- If you do miss class, please be sure you keep up with the course flow in Brightspace
- You may not bring children or other guests to class with you.

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.

Please email me through Brightspace for the quickest reply.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
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1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.	Teamwork (TM)	Group Project (Popular Media Review); Final Research Paper activities; Quizzes; Final Exam
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.	Personal Responsibility	Major Assignment Essays
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.	Communication Skills (CS)	Discussions, Short Writings and Major Assignment Essays, Final Exam
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts	Critical Thinking (CT)	Quizzes, Short Writings and Major Assignment Essays
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.	Personal Responsibility	Discussions, Short Writings and Major Assignment Essays, Final Exam

Academic Dishonesty:

Please view your Turnitin report on Brightspace for each assignment. Email or speak with me immediately if you have any questions or concerns.

Matches between 25-50% are normally a significant content or MLA format deduction.

Matches over 50% are always considered plagiarism:

1st instance - a warning, a grade of zero or 50, and a chance to revise with a max grade of C.

2nd instance - zero

3rd instance - course removal

***Usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) *** You may not use AI for any assignment. The use of AI will be treated as plagiarism/academic dishonesty.

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 please contact Brian Anderson, COM Humanities Department Chair, 409-933-8186, banderson@com.edu.

Course outline:

Week	Topic / Texts	Due

<p>1</p>	<p>Course Introduction / College Writing</p> <p>Please review/view all Brightspace unit module items each week in addition to these readings</p> <p><i>Rough Writers Guide</i> Chs. 1-3;11-13</p> <p>Cory Doctorow - "Writing in the Age of Distraction" (EOE 160)</p>	<p>Discussion – Personal Introduction Start Here Quiz</p> <p>W 08/21</p> <p>Short Writing 1 – Diagnostic Writing</p> <p>M 08/26</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>Considering the Value of College (Basic Essay Form)</p> <p>College and Career</p> <p><i>Rough Writers Guide</i> Chs. 4-5;14-18; 36-44</p> <p>Eric Gertler "Is College Worth It?" (article provided online)</p> <p>Peter Barnes "How to Save the Middle Class When Jobs Don't Pay" (EOE 56)</p>	<p>Discussion – Major and Career Goals SW 2 – Universal Income / College?</p> <p>• W 08/28</p> <p>U1 Quiz</p> <p>Essay 1 – Expository – 'College' (MA1)</p> <p>• M 09/02</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Responding to What Others Say (Interpretation 1)</p> <p><i>Rough Writers Guide</i> Chs. 6; 20-23</p> <p>Robert Frost "One Acquainted with the Night" (Webpage provided online)</p> <p>Alice Walker "Beauty: When the Other Dancer is the Self" (File Provided Online)</p>	<p>Discussion: Figurative Language</p> <p>SW 3 – Walker Response</p> <p>• W 09/04</p> <p>U2 Quiz</p> <p>• M09/09</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Responding to What Others Say (Interpretation 2)</p>	<p>Discussion – What is something that is homogenous?</p>

	<p><i>Rough Writers Guide</i> Chs. 29-35</p> <p>Mohammad Hassan Khalil "48 Hours as a Muslim American: A Professor Reflects" (EOE 253)</p> <p>-</p> <p>Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie "The Danger of a Single Story" (EOE 7)</p>	<p>SW 3 - Stereotypes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W 09/11 <p>U3 Quiz Essay 2 – Response (MA2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 09/16
5	<p>Informative Essays (What is it?) <i>Rough Writers Guide</i> Chs. 7-10; 24-27</p> <p>Marc Bekoff "The Emotional Lives of Animals" (EOE 60)</p>	<p>Discussion – Academic Interest SW 4 – Bekoff Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W 09/18 <p>U6 Quiz Final Research Paper Completion Markers (MA3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 09/23
6	<p>The Power of Misinformation (Argument)</p> <p>Ciampaglia and Menczer "Misinformation and Biases Infect Social Media, Both Intentionally and Accidentally" (EOE 115)</p> <p>Arash Javanbakht "The Politics of Fear: How It Manipulates Us to Tribalism" (EOE 248)</p>	<p>Discussion – Polarized Society? SW 4 – Ireland / Texas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W 09/25 <p>U5 Quiz Essay 4 – Persuasion. Topic : Misinformation (MA4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 09/30
7	<p>Group Presentations / Final Research Paper - Peer Review Workshop</p>	<p>Group Projects – Popular Media Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T/R 10/01-03
8	<p>Course Review/ Final Exam</p>	<p>Final Research Paper (MA6)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M 10/07 <p>Final Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W 10/09
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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_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.*

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

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 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 15. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 26.

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.