



ENGL-1301-201CL & 251CL
Composition I
Spring 2024
Monday, Wednesday 6:00-7:20pm, LRC 247

Instructor Information: Giselle Hewitt, ghewitt@com.edu, 409-933-8234 (office)

Student hours and location: Mon & Wed 5:30pm – 6:00pm in assigned classroom LRC 247.
COM Office Location: Administration Building, Business Office Conference Room

Course Communication: *The best way to contact me is via COM e-mail. Response time typically within an hour during the week.*

Required Textbook/Materials:

Online Resources: Rough Writer's Guidebook <https://pressbooks.pub/roughwritersguide/>
OWL Purdue Writing Lab <https://owl.purdue.edu/writinglab/index.html>

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

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 the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating and critical analysis. Course Prereq: TSI Reading 351 and TSI Writing 340 and Essay of 4 or TSI Writing less than 340, and ABE at least 4, and Essay).

Course requirements: In this course, we will discuss concepts about research and writing. You will be required to write different types of work ranging from short responses to detailed research essays. No formal examinations will be given. Daily writing and reading are requirements for this course. Students will be required to engage in discussions about the writing process with their peers.

Determination of Course Grade

Participation Credit (200 Points):

Discussion Posts: Participation credit will consist of four discussion posts given throughout the semester that will allow us to discuss the current writing assignment with our peers. Each discussion post will be worth 10 Points or 40 Points total for the course.

Each discussion post will require us to respond to the discussion prompt with an original response of at least 100-200 words or 5-6 sentences in length. In addition to receive full participation credit, you will also need to respond to at least two of your peer's discussion posts.

Writing Journals: Participation credit will also consist of eight short writing or critical thinking exercises given to each student throughout the semester. These will focus on exploring different elements of the writing process.

Length and requirements for each journal will vary and will be explained as assigned. Each journal will be worth 20 Points each or a total of 160 Points towards your final grade. Journals will be calculated as a part of your participation credit grade.

Short Essays (500 Points): Students will be required to write four short essays that have a page length of 2-3 pages. The four short essays will be composed of the following: a reflective essay, an expository essay, a persuasive essay, and a comparative essay. All essays must follow MLA guidelines for documentation which will be discussed throughout the semester. Detailed instructions and examples will be given prior to the assignment due date. (Reflective and expository essays are worth 100 points each. The persuasive and comparative essay will be worth 150 points each.)

****All papers turned in should be double spaced, 1' margins all around using Times New Roman font size of 12. Page lengths will be enforced on all papers turned in for credit. Papers not meeting the formatting and length requirements will be penalized 1 letter grade.*

Research Essay (250 Points): All students are required to complete a research essay. The research essay has a page requirement of 5 pages. A minimum of 5 secondary sources are required for the research paper. Students will be required to submit an informal proposal for the research essay. We will work on the research essay throughout the course. Detailed instructions and examples will be given prior to the assignment due date (250 points).

Presentation (50 Points): Students will give a brief presentation at the end of the semester highlighting the main points of their researched essay. Detailed instructions will be given prior to the presentation deadline (50 points).

EXTRA Credit: There will be a quiz on MLA documentation that can be completed for extra credit worth 20 points. Detailed instructions will be given prior to the deadline.

Detailed Grading Formula: A cumulative point system for grading is used in this course. The points listed are the maximum value a student can earn in the different assignments.

Participation (Peer Discussion Posts 40, Writing Journal 160)	200 Points
Short Essays (2; 100 points each & 2; 150 points each)	500 Points
Research Essay	250 Points
Presentation	50 Points
	Total: 1000 Points

Extra Credit Points available: 20 Points

Grades are based on the following:

A (900+ Points)

B (800-899 Points)

C (700-799 Points)

D (600-699 Points)

F (0-599 Points)

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Each student is responsible for weekly assigned work. Late work is typically not accepted without an extension from the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to contact me regarding any missed assignments. Please reach out if you need any assistance with assignments including additional time.

Attendance Policy: Each student is expected to attend class. The student is responsible for notifying the Registrar's Office if he/she wishes to drop the class.

Student Rights: Students have the right to expect this course be taught within the parameters specified within this syllabus. While the instructor reserves the right to alter the course, no material or assignment will be added without proper notification or advanced warning.

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes. (Teamwork)
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose. (Communication Skills)
4. Read, reflect and respond critically to a variety of texts. (Critical Thinking Skills)
5. Use edited American English in academic essays.
6. Evaluate choices and actions of other's or one's own, and relate. (Personal Responsibility)

Assessed via this Assignment

- Essays
- Course Discussion
- Essays
- Course Discussion
- Essays
- Course Discussion
- Essays
- Presentation Assignment
- Essays

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 discipline action.

Plagiarism: It is mandatory that you complete your own work in this course. Submitting anyone else's work as your own is fraudulent and negates the purpose of this course. If you submit a work containing any plagiarized material, the assignment will receive a grade of zero and it will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Link to resource about ways to avoid plagiarism: <http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/9>

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 <http://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.php>.

Note: All work submitted in College of the Mainland English, Humanities, Philosophy or Speech classes must conform to the documentation system established by the Modern Language Association (MLA). MLA documentation guidelines are distributed by your instructor, found in your textbook or on reserve in the library (<http://library.com.edu/>).

To document using MLA, you must provide an in-text citation and a corresponding entry on a Works Cited page. "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.

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.

Course outline:

Date	Assignments Due	Focus / Assignments
Week One: Jan. 15 (M)	COM Closed	COM Closed
Jan. 17 (W)		Syllabus Course Introductions
Week Two: Jan. 22 (M)	Writing Journal #1: Reflective Writing	Discuss Reflective Writing
Jan. 24 (W)	Writing Journal #2: Audience & Purpose	
Week Three: Jan. 29 (M)	Extra Credit Quiz: On MLA Documentation	Discuss MLA Documentation

	Jan. 31 (W)	Reflective Essay Due Writing Journal #3 Expository Writing	Begin Discussion on Expository Writing
Week Four:	Feb. 05 (M)		Discuss Thesis Statements / Topic Sentences
	Feb. 07 (W)		Discuss Author Tags & Using Quotations in Our Essays
Week Five:	Feb. 12 (M)	<i>Group Discussion Post #1:</i> <i>Expository Essay</i>	
	Feb. 14 (W)		In-class writing
Week Six:	Feb. 19 (M)	Expository Essay Due	Begin Discussion on Persuasive Essay
	Feb. 21 (W)		Discuss Writing with Persuasion Body Paragraph Organization
Week Seven:	Feb. 26 (M)	Writing Journal# 4: Persuasive Writing	
	Feb. 28 (W)	<i>Group Discussion Post #2:</i> <i>Persuasive Essay</i>	
Week Eight:	Mar. 04 (M)		In-class writing
	Mar. 06 (W)	Persuasive Essay Due Writing Journal #5: Comparative Writing	Begin Discussion on Comparative Essay
SPRING BREAK Mar. 11-17		COM CLOSED	COM CLOSED
Week Nine:	Mar. 18 (M)		Discuss Comparative Themes
	Mar. 20 (W)		Discuss Close Viewing vs. Big Picture Comparison
Week Ten:	Mar. 25 (M)	<i>Group Discussion Post #3:</i> <i>Comparative Essay</i>	
	Mar. 27 (W)	Comparative Essay Due	Begin Discussion on Research Essay
Week Eleven:	Apr. 01 (M)	Writing Journal #6: Research Proposal	Discussion on writing a proposal
	Apr. 03 (W)		Discussion on Credible Sources
Week Twelve:	Apr. 08 (M)		Discussion on Outlining
	Apr. 10 (W)		Discussion on Procrastination
Week Thirteen:	Apr. 15 (M)	<i>Group Discussion Post #4:</i> <i>Research Essay</i>	
	Apr. 17 (W)		In-class research/writing
Week Fourteen:	Apr. 22 (M)		Discussion on Editing Process
	Apr. 24 (W)	Writing Journal #7: Writer's Block	Discussion on Writer's Block
Week Fifteen:	Apr. 29 (M)		Discussion on Presentations

	May 01 (W)	Writing Journal #8: Public Speaking	Discussion on Presentations
Week Sixteen:	May 06 (M)	Research Essay Final Due In-class Presentations	
	May 10 (W)	In-class Presentations	

Student Success Tips:

- Keep up with assignments
- Allow sufficient time to complete your weekly assignments
- Participate fully in course discussions. The more you put into the class, the more you will get out of it.
- If you are having difficulty with an assignment, or have a question please talk to me.
- Take advantage of all COM resources: visit the library or reach out to the Tutoring Center. We are fortunate in this course to have access to an embedded tutor who may also assist you with questions you may have regarding course assignments.
- Be academically honest.

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.