



ENGL-1301-115H2/695H2-FA2025
Composition I
Fall 2025, Oct. 13, 2025 – Dec. 4, 2025
Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 pm – 1:50 pm
LRC 248

Instructor Information: William Faour, wfaour@com.edu, 409-933-8301

Office Hours: I have drop-in hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 3 pm, no appointment needed. I offer them on a first come, first served basis. I also have appointment hours Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. You may email me to schedule an appointment. I am also willing to schedule virtual appointments for office hours at my discretion. Again, you can reach out via email for this option. My office is located at LRC Ste. B #231.

Required Textbook/Materials: No purchases are necessary for this course. We will primarily use *The RoughWriter's Guide* (<https://pressbooks.pub/roughwritersguide/>). Any other necessary material will be available via D2L.

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.

Prerequisites: TSIA2 945-990 ELAR/CRC test AND 5 or higher on Essay OR 910-944 on CRC with 5-6 on Diagnostic Test + 5 or higher on Essay, or [IRW 0320](#) with a grade of "C" or better.

Course requirements:

As this is an eight-week course covering the same material as a typical sixteen-week course, we will move at a fast pace with strict deadlines. There will still be strict due dates to follow, so make sure to log into D2L and check your email regularly.

This course will primarily focus on academic writing, but there are plenty of other kinds of writing too, and I'll make sure we cover as much as we can.

There will be two lectures a week, in-person on Tuesdays and Thursdays, as well as both in-class and discussion board participation. You will use Brightspace for discussion board posts, quizzes,

exams, and assignment submissions. Discussion board posts will be due on Wednesdays and Sundays at 11:59 pm, unless otherwise noted in the calendar below.

Quizzes and assignments will be due on Wednesdays and Sundays at 11:59 pm, respectively. The midterm will be split into an essay and an exam, both due on November 9th at 11:59 pm, but the final will be different. The final will also be split into an essay and an exam, but they'll have different due dates. The essay is due on December 1st at 11:59 pm while the exam is due on the last day of the semester, December 4th, at 11:59 pm.

Participation

Participation is a major component of this course. You will be expected to show up in class and participate every day. Participating means contributing in some manner. Speak during discussions, ask and answer questions, and pitch in with your own words in this class.

Additionally, your participation grade will also rely on discussion board posts. Discussion board posts will accompany each lecture. Students are expected to respond to the post I make, make one post of their own, and respond to at least one more, twice a week. Discussion board posts will be graded based on quality of the response, rather than quantity of words. This means your posts must be substantial and in-depth; you are unlikely to find that with only two sentences, for example, but each sentence should always have a purpose, even if you write two paragraphs.

Quizzes

There will be weekly quizzes, with the exceptions of the weeks of the midterm and final. Each quiz will be based on information from the lectures to ensure understanding of the material. The quizzes will be multiple choice or free response, depending on the material.

Assignments

As befitting a writing class, there will be four major writing assignments, with the exceptions of the weeks of the midterm and final. The four assignments are a five-paragraph essay outline, an annotated bibliography, a research paper proposal, and a revision of your midterm essay. These assignments are meant to make you more comfortable with writing as we move toward the final essay (more on that below).

Midterm

The midterm will be a two-parter. Half of it will be a full academic essay, which will make up half of your grade on the midterm. The other half will be a multiple-choice test based on everything we've gone over so far, across lectures and any supplemental readings. The essay may be typed or handwritten.

Final

Like the midterm, the final will be a two-parter. The first part will be a final essay. Using everything you've learned, you'll write a full academic essay, which will make up half of your grade on the final. The other half will come from the multiple-choice exam, which will be identical in structure to the midterm. While the current plan is to allow for the final essay to be typed or handwritten, if anyone uses AI on the midterm (which is not allowed; more on that below), I will require all final essays to be handwritten.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Assignment	Percent of Course Grade
Discussion Board	20%
Assignments	15%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm	20%
Final	30%

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

As this is a fast-paced class, late work is unacceptable. For each day an assignment is overdue, twenty points will be deducted from its grade. Missed quizzes, exams, and discussion board posts will be automatic zeroes.

I understand extenuating circumstances may always occur, and there are occasionally situations beyond our control in life. If such an extreme circumstance happens, please let me know in advance so that we may come up with a make-up plan at my discretion. **If you do not follow these instructions, you will receive a zero, and there will be no make-up options.**

Likewise, I may offer extra credit at my discretion in certain situations, such as when you go to the COM writing center or when you complete course evaluations. I'll discuss these opportunities in class, but don't be afraid to ask!

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. Discussion board posts will not be considered attendance, so making a post and then failing to attend a lecture will still be considered an absence. If you have too many absences, I may drop you from the class at my discretion.

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. While you can try to contact me by calling me or heading to my office and banging on the door (please do not do this), your best bet to reach me is by emailing me. I check my emails regularly and tend to reply within 24 hours.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing process.	Critical Thinking Teamwork	Quizzes Annotated bibliography Revisions
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.	Critical Thinking Communication Skills	Five-paragraph essay outline Midterm essay Final essay
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.	Critical Thinking	Five-paragraph essay outline Research paper proposal Midterm essay Final essay
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking	Quizzes Exams Discussion board
5. Use edited American English in academic essays.	Communication Skills	Discussion board Essays

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. Similarly, if you use any of your peers' research, secondary sources, and/or ideas to write your own work, it will not be tolerated and will be viewed as academically dishonest. These types of choices 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 do not understand what constitutes plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, please contact me. If you are unsure whether something included in one of your writing assignments may be considered plagiarism, or academically dishonest please contact me during my office hours or at least two days before the assignment is due. Please note that failure to credit a source in a discussion post is also plagiarism. If you use a source, credit the author no matter what type of assignment it is.

Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment in question with no exceptions.

In this course, you **may not use AI** for any assignment in any way, shape, or form. Use of AI will be treated as plagiarism.

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.

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:

Note: This schedule is subject to change at my discretion.

Week	Subject	Due Dates
1 10/13-10/17	• Introduction • Syllabus • What is academic writing? • The MLA format	• Discussion board 1 post due 10/15 at 11:59 pm. • Syllabus quiz due 10/15 at 11:59 pm. • Discussion board 2 post due 10/19 at 11:59 pm.
2 10/20-10/24	• Plagiarism • Five-paragraph essays • The writing process	• Discussion board 3 post due 10/22 at 11:59 pm. • Plagiarism quiz due 10/22 at 11:59 pm. • Discussion board 4 post due 10/26 at 11:59 pm. • Five-paragraph essay outline due 10/26 at 11:59 pm.
3 10/27-10/31	• The annotated bibliography • Writing with sources	• Discussion board 5 post due 10/29 at 11:59 pm.

	• General and obscure grammar rules	• Bibliography quiz due 10/29 at 11:59 pm. • Discussion board 6 post due 11/2 at 11:59 pm. • Annotated bibliography due 11/2 at 11:59 pm.
4 11/3-11/7	• How to analyze writing + midterm review + writing an essay • Reading and writing research papers	• Discussion board 7 post due 11/5 at 11:59 pm. • Discussion board 8 post due 11/9 at 11:59 pm. • Midterm due 11/9 at 11:59 pm.
5 11/10-11/14	• Editing and Revising • Peer Review	• Discussion board 9 post due 11/12 at 11:59 pm. • Research paper quiz due 11/12 at 11:59 pm. • Discussion board 10 post due 11/16 at 11:59 pm. • Research paper proposal due 11/16 at 11:59 pm.
6 11/17-11/24	• Non-academic writing • Journalism and other styles	• Discussion board 11 post due 11/19 at 11:59 pm. • Revisions quiz due 11/19 at 11:59 pm. • Discussion board 12 post due 11/26 at 11:59 pm. • Revised midterm essay due 11/26 at 11:59 pm. • Final writing assignment due 12/1 at 11:59 pm.
7 11/27-11/30	• NO CLASS, COM CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING BREAK	• ENJOY YOUR WEEK
8 12/1-12/4	• Final review • “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” in-class reading and discussion	• Discussion board post 15 due 10/9 at 11:59 pm. • Final due 10/9 at 11:59 pm.

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 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 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.