



## English Composition II: Rhetoric across Modalities

**Spring 2024 | January 16-May 10, 2024**  
**ENGL 1302.118CL | T/TH 11-12:20pm**  
**ICB 306 (Building #23)**



**Instructor Information:**

Monique Suarez, MA (she/her/hers)  
[msuarez@com.edu](mailto:msuarez@com.edu)

**College of the Mainland Office:**

Learning Resource Center (LRC)  
Building #8, Suite B, RM 240  
Humanities Department

**Office Phone:** 409-933-8937

**Student Hours/Office Hours:**

Main Campus, Location Above\*  
Online\*\*

Day	Time
M	9:30-12:30pm*
W	9:30-12:30pm*
F	12-1:30pm**

**ENGL 1302 Course Description:**

Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 1301 with a grade of "C" or better

**Required Text/Materials:**

- *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*, by Wes Moore
  - \$10 on Amazon
  - You will need this book NO LATER THAN the end of week 3 (2/4)
- Everything else that we read in this course will be either printed or accessible through D2L Brightspace.

**Recommended Materials:**

- A folder or binder to keep all materials from this class together (it can pile up throughout the semester)
- A pencil/pen for quizzes or in-class activities
- A notebook to take notes
- A planner of some sort to keep track of due dates

**Communication Policy:** You can either email me at my campus email (msuarez@com.edu), message me on Teams via your COM Microsoft Office account, or send me a message through D2L Brightspace. Whichever option you choose, ALL electronic communication with me (your instructor) must be through your COM email/account. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

If you send me an email and I do not reply, double-check that you sent it from the right place or that it was sent successfully. I have had some instances where I never receive an email because a student forgot to press “send”.

**Student Learner Outcome Chart:**

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.	Teamwork (TW)	Assignments In-class Discussions/activities Group Project
2. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays	Unmapped	Assignments/Quizzes/Exam
3. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.	Communication Skills	Assignments In-class Discussions
4. Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.	Critical Thinking Skills	Assignments In-class activities/HW
5. Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)	Unmapped	Assignments

## **Course Requirements:**

**Attendance/Timeliness/Professionalism:** Attendance and arriving on time to class is crucial to your success not just in this class but in life. As a result, these categories will be factored into your grade. Professionalism pertains to paying attention in class, actively engaging/listening, refraining from technology unrelated to class, and more.

### **HW preparedness/in-class activities/worksheets/quizzes | All semester**

Throughout the semester, you can expect most of your learning to come from activities and conversations had *in class*. This includes but is not limited to worksheets, note sheets, readings, quizzes, and discussions. This means that you cannot simply miss a day and then hope to find all the knowledge online. Just like in K-12, if you miss a day of class, you more than likely will have incomplete work that needs to be made up. In the event that you do not finish an in-class activity by the end of the class, this will be homework that will need to be completed by the start of the next class day. All this to say, show up to class, learn alongside your classmates, and you will have less work to do outside of class 😊

HW preparedness is self-explanatory. You will be graded on if you are prepared. This will also be reflected in your quiz grades.

### **Summary + Response Essay | Sunday Feb 11 - 11:59pm**

Our first lesson in this class will be centered on the idea that active reading involves social discourse (we will discuss this term in class). Before that though, you must learn how to understand what you are reading. We will actively go through this process together with particular scholarly articles I have chosen. You will be completing this essay as proof that you have successfully understood how to find scholarly articles, decipher them, and contribute to the conversation.

### **Book Exam | Tuesday March 5 - in class**

In relation to reading scholarly work, reading literature can lead to important discussions about the human experience. Certainly we can find rhetoric in literature as well. We will discuss the assigned book for this class – *The Other Wes Moore* – at length. You will be required to complete assigned readings, participate in class discussions (regular and socratic format), prepare and attend the book review day, and then complete the book exam (multiple-choice + short essay prompt). All of this will be factored into this section of your grade.

### **Rhetorical Analysis | Sunday April 14 - 11:59pm**

Rhetoric is the main topic of our course. We will be analyzing scholarly work, literature, TV shows, movies, and music. This will all lead to venturing into your own individual rhetorical analysis of anything that interests you. If you feel more compelled to analyze music, do this. If you feel more drawn to analyzing movies, do that. I want you to enjoy the process of this while also practicing the conventions of analysis that I have taught you.

**Podcast | Wednesday May 1 - 11:59pm**

Multimodality is crucial in this age of short attention spans. What better way to practice the transfer of knowledge than altering the traditional presentation to audio/podcast format? You will be tasked with creating your own 15-25 min podcast segment over anything that you wish (this will be easier if you choose a topic related to your position paper). You may create more of an interview-style podcast (this can help a lot with meeting time requirements). You may work with someone in the class as well, but you may not submit the same podcast as your partner. All podcasts will be "presented" in class for your classmates to listen to on the final days of class.

**Position Paper | Sunday May 5 - 11:59pm**

To close out this semester, you will be required to complete a position paper. You must take a position on a topic of your choice or on what you believe rhetoric to mean and why. Use what you learned in this class to create your argument + outside sources to support your perspective. This paper is not meant to be difficult, but it will be challenging if you do not take in as much knowledge as you can throughout the semester. You will have the option to condense the workload by working with a partner.

**Condensed Grading Formula:**

Attendance/Timeliness/Professionalism	05%
HW Preparedness/Quizzes/In-class Activities + Engagement	15%
Book - Discussions + Exam	20%
Rhetorical Analysis	20%
Podcast	20%
Position Paper	20%
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Total:	100%

**Grading Scale:**

**A:** 90-100 | **B:** 80-89 | **C:** 70-79 | **D:** 60-69 | **F:** 59 or less  
**FN:** failure due to attendance

**Course Grade Determination:** Your grade will be a reflection of your time management, effort, and willingness to listen to lectures, ask questions and read assignment sheets thoroughly. In other words, your grade is ultimately a product of the effort that you put forth. I want you to be successful in this course, but it is ultimately up to you if you are.

**A Note on Balancing Life + Academics:** I am aware that, for some, school is one of *many* daily responsibilities. Because of this, I have designed this course with built-in "work days" to not only work on upcoming major assignments, but to receive feedback from myself and your peers. Please take advantage of these days and show up ready to work.

**Attendance Policy:**

You should aim to be in class every day. Missing class due to conflicting appointments, jobs, and/or sleeping in too late are not excuses. You signed up for this specific time, so I do expect you to be present as much as you possibly can. Per COM policy, no absences are considered excused unless for religious or military service reasons. If you are going to be absent for any of those reasons, I need to be notified ahead of time. This does not excuse you from completing the work for that day, but it does grant you an extension to make it up.

Remember that attendance and timeliness factor into your grade. Point deductions can also be received for leaving class early before class is dismissed.

Being absent more than likely will result in the need to make up in-class assignments/activities. It is your responsibility to contact me if you are absent and request further info on missed work. Otherwise, I will assume that you are okay with receiving a zero for those assignments.

Please note that I do have the right to drop you from the course for lack of attendance. Failure to attend class consistently can affect your financial aid (read the student handbook for more details on this). Additionally, missing more than 4 class days can result in the inability to receive higher than a "C" for the course.

**Late Work/Make-Up Policy:** Timely completion of all assignments is crucial and only timely submissions will receive feedback from me on how to improve.

Listed below are important things to keep in mind regarding late work

- You will have **one 24-hr late submission opportunity** that you can utilize with no grade penalty. Use it carefully! You may *only* use this for the summary + response essay, rhetorical analysis final draft, or the position paper. You may not use extensions on HW.
- Other than the late-submission opportunity, **I will not accept or grade late work.** Once the submission portal closes for an assignment, your opportunity to make up that assignment will not be accepted

As you can see from the grading scheme, you do not want to have a zero for any of your assignments as this will impact your grade significantly.

**A Note on Written Feedback:**

You will receive feedback from me on major assignments. If I ever give you feedback that you do not understand, please please reach out and we can set up a time to go over it. I understand that you cannot improve if you do not understand the advice I am giving. Help me help you 😊 **If you submit an assignment late, please do not expect extensive feedback.**

### **Extra Credit Opportunities:**

\*More opportunities might come up randomly throughout the semester

- Complete and submit ALL assignments on time the entire semester - receive +2 on your overall average at the end of the semester
- Attend the GCIC academic symposium – Friday March 22, 2024 from 9am-2:30pm (as active audience member or presenter) – ask me more questions about this if you are interested

**The Tutoring Center:** Located in the ICB, Room 104 (Building #23), the Tutoring Center provides free face-to-face and online tutoring sessions to students, staff, and faculty seeking assistance for writing, reading, and oral presentations for academic and nonacademic assignments/projects. If you ever have any questions about the tutoring center, please let me know. I was a writing tutor at COM before becoming an instructor, so I can help answer any questions you might have. 😊

**The GCIC Academic Symposium:** COM's GCIC Academic Symposium is an opportunity for students to showcase their best academic and creative projects. To learn more, visit: <https://com.edu/symposium/>. Participation in the symposium helps develop your professional skills, widens your professional networks, and should be noted on your resume/CV. **This academic year, the symposium is on Friday, March 22, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the STEAM building.** The abstract submission deadline is Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Please speak with me if you are interested or have questions.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with per 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, assignment, or project, and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing someone else's words without proper citation, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, and/or using someone else's words without quotation marks. Any assignment containing any plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero, and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate disciplinary action. If you are not sure if you are violating these rules, please talk to me about it before turning in your work.

**AI Statement:** Use of AI to complete any assignments is not allowed in this course. Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper attribution or authorization is another form of plagiarism. Violations *could result in failure of the assignment or failure of the course and a notation on your transcript.*

**Student Concerns:**

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information on the first page of this syllabus. If after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact the Humanities Department Chair, Dr. Brian Anderson:

Phone: 409-933-8186

Email: [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu)

**College of the Mainland Technology Outage Policy:**

If College of the Mainland's technology experiences problems that impede you from submitting work on deadline, contact me as soon as possible. You will have twelve hours from the time you emailed or called me to submit your work provided the technology is restored. You will receive no penalty if I have evidence that you attempted to submit work but faced difficulties outside your control.

**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 at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto: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](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).

**Important Dates:**

**W 1/31:** Census Day

**M 4/22:** Last day to withdraw from course

**F 5/10:** Grades will be posted by noon (those graduating)

**ST 5/11:** Commencement

**M 5/13:** Grades will be posted by noon (everyone else)

**Holidays/No Class:**

**M 1/15:** MLK Day

**M-SN 3/11-3/17:** Spring Break



## Course Outline/Calendar

1/16/2024-5/10/2024

This calendar is tentative and subject to change upon my discretion\*

**Note:** HW is not listed below but will be listed on Brightspace each week

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>MAJOR DUE DATES</b>
<b>1</b>  <b>1/15-1/21</b>	<p><b><u>T 1/16</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Course Overview</li> <li>• Where are you currently</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 1/18</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Rhetoric</li> <li>• Intro to reading scholarly articles - diagnostic</li> </ul>	
<b>2</b>  <b>1/22-1/28</b>	<p><b><u>T 1/23</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article Discussion</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 1/25</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article Discussion</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>  <b>1/29-2/4</b>	<p><b><u>T 1/30</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article Discussion</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 2/1</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce summary + response</li> <li>• Finding your source + citing your source</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>  <b>2/5-2/11</b>	<p><b><u>T 2/6</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis activity</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 2/8</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meaning-making in literature: Intro to <i>The Other Wes Moore</i></li> <li>• Reading day</li> </ul>	<p><b>Summary + Response Essay</b> <b>Sunday 2/11 11:59pm</b></p>
<b>5</b>  <b>2/12-2/18</b>	<p><b><u>T 2/13</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Other Wes Moore</i>, Ch 1+2</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 2/15</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Other Wes Moore</i>, Ch 3 + 4</li> </ul>	

<p><b>6</b> <b>2/19-2/25</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 2/20</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Other Wes Moore</i>, Part 3: Ch 5 + 6+ epilogue</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 2/22</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Other Wes Moore</i>, Part 3: Ch 7+ 8 + epilogue</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7</b> <b>2/26-3/3</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 2/27</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Review Day</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 2/29</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socratic Discussion</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8</b> <b>3/4-3/10</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 3/5</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Other Wes Moore</i> Exam (open book)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 3/8</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitioning out of literature and into other mediums</li> <li>• Rhetoric in Music: activity + discussion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Book Exam</b> <b>T 3/5 during class</b></p>
<p><b>3/11-3/17</b></p>	<p><b><u>NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK 😊</u></b></p>	
<p><b>9</b> <b>3/18-3/24</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 3/19</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro to Rhetoric in Media: Movies + TV Shows</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 3/21</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhetoric in Media: Movies + TV Shows</li> </ul>	
<p><b>10</b> <b>3/25-3/31</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 3/26</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhetoric in Media: Movies + TV Shows</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 3/28</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rhetoric in Media: Movies + TV Shows</li> <li>• Intro to Rhetorical Analysis assignment</li> </ul>	

<p><b>11</b> <b>4/1-4/7</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 4/2</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLA + APA Formatting: Part 1 (heading/header/title page)</li> <li>• Workday</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 4/4</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MLA + APA Formatting: Part 2 (citing media + books)</li> <li>• Workday</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rhetorical Analysis: Rough Draft</b> <b>Sunday 4/7 11:59pm</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> <b>4/8-4/14</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 4/9</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-review + peer review</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 4/11</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitioning from interpreting rhetoric to creating it</li> <li>• intro to Position paper + podcast</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rhetorical Analysis: Final Draft</b> <b>Sunday 4/14 11:59pm</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> <b>4/15-4/21</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 4/16</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing process: workday 1</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 4/18</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing process: workday 2</li> </ul>	
<p><b>14</b> <b>4/22-4/28</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 4/16</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing process: workday 3</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 4/18</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing process: workday 4</li> </ul>	
<p><b>15</b> <b>4/29-5/5</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 4/30: NO CLASS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend your conferences</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 5/2</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podcast Presentations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Podcast</b> <b>Wednesday 5/1 11:59pm</b></p> <p><b>Position Paper</b> <b>Sunday 5/5 11:59pm</b></p>
<p><b>16</b> <b>5/6-5/10</b></p>	<p><b><u>T 5/7</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Podcast presentations</li> </ul> <p><b><u>TH 5/9: NO CLASS</u></b></p>	