



**ENGL 1301 001IN, 002IN**  
**Composition I**  
**Spring 2022**  
**Online**

**Instructor Information:**

Micheal Crouch  
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409-276-7703

**Student hours and location:** By appointment only

**Required Textbook/Materials:** None—the instructor will provide all readings and instructional materials.

**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 ELAR 945+ AND Essay 5+ OR TSIA2 ELAR <945 AND CRC 5+ AND Essay 5+, OR IRW 0320 with a grade of “C” or better.

**Course requirements:**

- Essays: major essay assignments will range from 3-10 pages in length, and each essay will build on your ideas as you focus on certain interested or ideas over the course of the semester. For certain essay assignments, students should be aware that the final draft may not be submitted for credit if the early steps are not completed. We are emphasizing the writing process in this class.
- Journals: students will be asked to generate 1-2 page journal entries, consisting of reflections and thoughts generated by the readings, class discussions, and other assigned topics. Although students have a lot of liberty in completing the journal assignments, they should not use journal assignments as a way to vent about the class or other students; this may result in a failing grade on the journal. Please remain professional and use common sense. Inform the instructor directly if you have a concern.
- Short Essay: the first essay should be approximately 2 pages. Students will write a short essay with minimal instruction and guidance from the instructor. This assignment will be

used to assess each student's current skills as a writer and to identify areas for improvement.

- Oral Presentation: as part of the College's oral communication across the curriculum initiative, this class includes an oral presentation assignment. Because this is an online class, you will be asked to video-record your presentation and submit it through Blackboard.
- Final Exam: The objective portion of the final exam will potentially cover assigned readings, important class concepts (like plagiarism), the writing process, MLA citation, and grammar concepts that have been reviewed in course materials. Exam questions may be drawn from class handouts, lessons, presentations, and readings.
- Discussions: discussions are an important way to gauge student participation and keep the class engaged and interactive, particularly in an online class. Discussions give you a way to share ideas and interpretations with other classmates and the instructor. Because we do not meet in a face-to-face environment, discussions are graded as a way to encourage and objectively measure student participation. You should avoid using outside sources (such as websites) to complete discussions, since I am interested in your thoughts and analysis, but if you do use such a source, you should, of course, give credit with proper citations.
- Other assignments: minor assignments may include turning in a preliminary Works Cited list or working thesis for major paper assignments. Other assignments may include prewriting exercises, research checks, the Research Tutorial, grammar and style exercises, and shorter writing exercises.

#### **Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Point Value</b>	
First Short Essay	50 points	A 900-1000 points
Essay 1	100 points	B 800-899 points
Essay 2	150 points	C 700-799 points
Essay 3	200 points	D 600-699 points
Essay 4	150 points	F 500-599 points
Journals (4 @ 25 points each)	100 points	
Participation, Discussions, Minor Assignments	150 points	
Oral Presentation	50 points	
Final Exam	50 points	
<b>Total Points for Course</b>	<b>1000 points</b>	

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:** If the last two years has taught me anything as a teacher, it is that life happens. Sometimes, deadlines are missed because of one reason or another. I do not believe that students should be penalized for that. Therefore, while I have deadlines and

students should try to adhere to those deadlines as closely as possible, I will not take any points off for late essays or journal assignments. However, discussion boards are meant to simulate the discussion and classroom interaction that we would have if we were in a face-to-face class. Therefore, discussions cannot be submitted late and counted for credit. There may be extra credit assignments given throughout the semester, but they are at the instructor's discretion.

**Attendance Policy:** Regular class participation is expected; a student cannot expect to pass this online class without participating to discussions and other assignments on a regular basis. Students are expected to check email at least every other day and to sign on to the class at least 4-5 times per week to check assignments, take quizzes, and participate in Blackboard discussions and learning activities. As state in the COM student handbook, students are required to login to the course for the first time within 48 hours of the beginning of the semester. Students should expect to devote a minimum of three hours to class each week in terms of Blackboard participation, just as they would be attending a normal class for three hours each week. This time commitment does not include the time required for reading, researching, completing writing assignments, and otherwise studying for the course. Please be aware that I am able to check a student's progress (including last sign-on date, items accessed, etc.) through Blackboard. For the purposes of this online class, "attendance" means accessing the class on a regular basis (as indicated above); in addition, activities must be completed or attempted for attendance to be considered meaningful. 4 This online class involves no mandatory face-to-face meetings, field trips, or synchronous online meetings, however, you are always free to join in weekly online office hours. I am glad to meet with you outside of this time by appointment.

**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. You are free to text or call me at the number listed above, but I will not discuss grades or performance via text. This method of communication is meant to answer quick, general questions about assignments.

<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 (TW)	Peer review activities Essay assignments
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.		Research-based essay
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.	Communication Skills (CS)	Essay assignments
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking (CT)	Essay and journal assignments
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.		Essay assignments
6. Evaluate choices and actions of others or one's own, and relate consequences to decision making.	Personal responsibility (PR)	Essay assignments Course interaction and participation

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any incident of academic dishonesty 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 or other assignment, and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own. Plagiarism is a very serious offense. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) paraphrasing someone else's words without giving proper credit, copying directly from a website and pasting it into your paper, or using someone else's words without quotation marks (even if cited). Inadequate paraphrasing may also be construed as plagiarism. Any assignment containing plagiarized material will receive a grade of zero and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

The plagiarism and academic dishonesty policy applies to all written work submitted for this class, including tests, journals, quizzes, online forums, and essays. If you use anything from another source, you must document properly using MLA citation standards. Making up quotes or falsifying information will also be construed as academic dishonesty. "Recycling" or reusing your own assignments is not allowed; please ask me if you need guidance on this.

Please note that not all papers will necessarily be checked for plagiarism; the decision to check a particular paper for possible plagiarism is made based on my professional judgement and expertise.

**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 Chair of the Humanities Department, D. Brian Anderson at 409-933-8486 or [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu).

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**Course outline:**

<b>Week &amp; Date</b>	<b>Unit Topic</b>	<b>Activities &amp; Graded Assignments</b>
Week 1: 18-Jan to 23-Jan	Narration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Course Introduction Video</li> <li>• Introduce Yourself discussion board</li> <li>• Fish Cheeks discussion</li> <li>• Download MLA Format template (use this all semester)</li> </ul>
Week 2: 24-Jan to 30-Jan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plagiarism Quiz</li> <li>• The Lottery discussion</li> <li>• Writing Process Quiz</li> <li>• First Short Essay due Sunday</li> </ul>
Week 3: 31-Jan to 6-Feb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foul Shots discussion</li> </ul>
Week 4: 7-Feb to 13-Feb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Champion of the World Discussion</li> <li>• Essay 1 Peer Review (post by Wednesday)</li> <li>• Essay 1 due Sunday</li> </ul>
Week 5: 14-Feb to 20-Feb	Critical Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document format and Standard English discussion</li> <li>• Journal 1 due Sunday</li> <li>• Vampires Never Die discussion</li> </ul>
Week 6: 21-Feb to 27-Feb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plagiarism discussion</li> <li>• Research tutorial</li> <li>• Jock Culture discussion</li> </ul>
Week 7: 28-Feb to 6-Mar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Zombies, Ourselves discussion</li> </ul>
Week 8: 7-Mar to 13-Mar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay 2 Peer Review (post by Wednesday)</li> <li>• Essay 2 due Sunday</li> <li>• What Words Can Tell discussion</li> </ul>
Week 9: 14-Mar to 20-Mar	Spring Break	
Week 10: 21-Mar to 27-Mar	Compare & Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal 2 due Sunday</li> <li>• Neat People Vs. Sloppy People discussion</li> </ul>
Week 11: 28-Mar to 3-Apr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant &amp; Lee: A Study in Contrasts discussion</li> </ul>
Week 12: 4-Apr to 10-Apr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remembering My Childhood on the Continent of Africa discussion</li> </ul>
Week 13: 11-Apr to 17-Apr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay 3 Peer Review (post by Wednesday)</li> <li>• Essay 3 due Sunday</li> <li>• Size 6: The Western Women's Harem discussion</li> </ul>
Week 14: 18-Apr to 24-Apr	Argumentation & Persuasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Journal 3 due Sunday</li> <li>• What's Wrong with Gay Marriage discussion</li> </ul>
Week 15: 25-Apr to 1-May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Not, Want Not discussion</li> </ul>
Week 16: 2-May to 8-May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay 4 Peer Review (post by Wednesday)</li> <li>• Essay 4 due by Sunday</li> <li>• Oral Presentation due Sunday</li> <li>• Facebook is Using You discussion</li> </ul>
Week 17: 9-May to 13-May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Exam due Thursday</li> <li>• Journal 4 due Thursday</li> </ul>

## 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://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.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.* [https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student\\_Handbook\\_2019-2020v5.pdf](https://build.com.edu/uploads/sitecontent/files/student-services/Student_Handbook_2019-2020v5.pdf)

**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 Holly Bankston at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Counseling Statement:** Any student needing counseling services is requested to please contact Holly Bankston in the student success center at 409-933-8520 or [hbankston@com.edu](mailto:hbankston@com.edu). Counseling services are available on campus in the student center for free and students can also email [counseling@com.edu](mailto:counseling@com.edu) to set up their appointment. Appointments are strongly encouraged; however, some concerns may be addressed on a walk-in basis.

**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> 8-week session is March 2. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 25. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is May 4.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> 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 F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> 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.

**COVID-19 Statement:** All students, faculty, and staff are expected to familiarize themselves with materials and information contained on the College of the Mainland's Coronavirus Information site at [www.com.edu/coronavirus](http://www.com.edu/coronavirus). In compliance with Governor Abbott's May 18 Executive Order, face coverings/masks will no longer be required on COM campus. Protocols and college signage are being updated. We will no longer enforce any COM protocol that requires face coverings. We continue to encourage all members of the COM community to distance when possible, use hygiene measures, and get vaccinated to protect against COVID-19. Please visit [com.edu/coronavirus](http://com.edu/coronavirus) for future updates.