



ENGL-1301-007I1
English Composition I
Fall 2025

Instructor Information: James R. Willison, Ed.D., jwillison@com.edu, 479-841-7896

Office hours and location: I am available via e-mail during regular business hours each weekday. Individual meetings may be arranged.

Required Textbook/Materials:

The Roughwriter's Guide – A Handbook for Writing Well, Palmer & Van Lieu
<https://pressbooks.pub/roughwritersguide/>

Other resources may be found here: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/index.html>

Course Description:

This course provides an intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis is on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus is on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

This is an 8-week course that encompasses the same content as a 16-week course, so it will move at a faster pace, and require close adherence to deadlines.

Course requirements:

This is a composition class, which means there will be a lot of writing. The course is broken into four major essays, several minor writing assignments, online discussions, an oral presentation video, and a final exam. Each assignment will have very detailed and specific instructions for completion. Grades will be determined by how well each submission has met those instruction requirements.

Revision is an important part of this course, and as such, not only is the drafting process a requirement, but peer reviews are also as well. Failing to submit a first draft will not only deprive you of valuable feedback but will also result in a grade of 0 for that assignment. Failing to participate in peer review will also result in a grade of 0 for that assignment.

Online discussion should be polite, professional, and on topic. Feedback should be constructive and mindful of the person who will read it.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:

Grading Plan:

First Short Essay	50 Points
Journal Assignments	100 Points Total
Essay #1	100 Points
Essay #2	150 Points
Essay #3	200 Points
Essay #4	100 Points
Discussion Posts	50 Points Total
Oral Presentation	50 Points
Final Exam	50 Points
	850 Points Total

Grading Scale:	765-850	A
	680-764	B
	595-679	C
	510-594	D
	Below 510	F

Note: There may be some adjustment of point distributions, totals, or weights as needed to correct for errors or changes in assignments or schedules.

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

Please read all instructions for each assignment carefully to ensure you receive full credit for your work.

Except for extreme situations at my discretion, I will not take late work in this class or extend any deadlines. This is the only way to keep an online course fair and organized. Please contact me as soon as possible prior to the deadline in case of an extreme exception.

However, as important as it is to be personally responsible, the learning is more important. If you find you will be unable to submit a completed assignment by the published deadline, please submit the work you have done for partial credit and feedback.

There is no opportunity for extra-credit.

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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collective writing processes.	Teamwork	Multimodal Narrative
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution	Personal Responsibility	Academic Essay
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose	Communication Skills	Open Letter
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.	Critical Thinking	Rhetorical Analysis
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.	Communication Skills	Academic Essay

Academic Dishonesty:

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. It 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 are unsure whether something may be considered plagiarism, please contact me.

Do not use artificial intelligence (AI) to write all or part of an academic essay or other academic assignment. Submissions found to be all or substantially generated by AI will not be accepted for a grade, and unless revised in the author’s own words will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment.

Do not use an AI paraphrasing tool (Quillbot) or rephrasing tool (ProWritingAid). You may use the style, combo, and grammar tools in ProWritingAid to edit your work.

Do not use Grammarly to edit your work.

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 Dr. Brian Anderson – Department Chair of Humanities at (409) 933-8186 or BAAnderson@com.edu.

Course outline:

Date	Event
8/24	Introduce Yourself (Discussion Post)
8/24	First Short Essay
8/24	Plagiarism Quiz
8/24	What I like or Don't Like (Discussion Post)
8/27	Essay 1 1st Draft Due
8/31	Considerations of Document Format and Standard English (Discussion Post)
9/7	Essay 1 Due
9/7	Journal #1
9/7	Quiz - Writing Process
9/14	Plagiarism (Discussion Post)
9/14	Quiz - Research Tutorial
9/14	Essay 2 Due
9/21	"A Modest Proposal" (Discussion Post)
9/21	Journal #2
9/21	Logical Fallacies (Discussion Post)
9/21	Essay Topics (Discussion Post)
9/24	Essay 3 Draft Posted
9/28	Slang (Discussion Post)
10/1	Essay 3 Due
10/5	Writing vs. Oral Presentations (Discussion Post)
10/5	Literary Reading (Discussion Post)
10/5	Oral Presentation Video Due
10/8	Essay 4 Due
10/9	Final Exam

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.