

Nimi Finnigan
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Email: nfinnigan@southplainscollege.edu

Course Website: Blackboard

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ENGLISH 1301

Section

117

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Composition I

*Dear Students, Please Note: The course schedule/calendar is subject to change. The instructor will notify the class of any changes within a sufficient time frame. **It is the student's responsibility to take note of the changes.***

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Purpose of English 1301 is to help students understand and apply the standards of correctness in formal thought and the written English language. English 1301 helps students to think intelligently by teaching them to read and write well through its focus on the writing process, on the use of appropriate grammar and diction, on the use of logic, and on the different methods of essay development. Additional readings from different areas of the humanities are included.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Students will compose a variety of paragraph and essay length texts (equivalent to eight 500-word essays) that demonstrate clear focus, the logical development of ideas, and the use of appropriate language that advances the writer's purpose.
- Students will determine and use effective approaches and rhetorical strategies for given writing situations.
- Students will generate ideas and gather information relevant to the topic and purpose, incorporating the ideas and words of other writers in student writing, using established strategies.
- Students will evaluate relevance and quality of ideas and information to formulate and develop a claim.
- Students will develop and use effective revision strategies to strengthen the writer's ability to compose college-level writing assignments.
- Students will edit writing to conform to the conventions of Standard English.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Write a minimum of eight 500-word essays (or the equivalent), including final writing portfolio.
- View several instructor videos.
- Read short stories, poems, and essays from all areas of the humanities.
- Participate actively in class discussion of the readings and demonstrate understanding of the readings through the discussions on Blackboard
- Participate actively in peer review and in-class writing workshop activities
- Demonstrate understanding of grammar, logic, and rhetorical modes through examinations and other writing assignments.

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ASSESSMENT MEASURES/METHODS OF EVALUATION

Essays and writing assignments will be evaluated by means of letter grades A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F(<60%) (Superior, Good, Average, Poor, and Unacceptable), and will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Use of the conventions of standard grammar;
- Use of the appropriate method of development for the assignment;
- Use of the principles of unity and coherence; and
- Use of logical, factual arguments to advance the thesis of the assignment.

COURSE MATERIALS

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Langan, John. *College Writing Skills with Readings*. 9th edition. McGraw Hill. 2014
- A comprehensive dictionary or collegiate dictionary (such as *The American Heritage Dictionary* or *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*).
- A notebook to write in
- A computer so that you are able to view the class videos on Blackboard

DETAILED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

MODULE 1. COURSE INTRODUCTION & WRITING BASICS

- Students will read Short Stories & watch Recorded Course Videos.
- Students will complete a variety of small paragraphs: summaries, synthesis, and discussion/analysis paragraphs in response to Instructor-provided questions
- Students will complete a short reflection/Introductory essay
- **DUE DATE FOR MODULE 1 PORTFOLIO: September 22 by 11:59 pm**
- **210 points.**

MODULE 2. DESCRIPTIVE WRITING

- Students will read Short Stories & watch Recorded Course Videos.
- Students will complete a variety of small paragraphs: summaries, synthesis, and discussion paragraphs in response to Instructor-provided questions
- Students will complete a short descriptive essay
- **DUE DATE FOR MODULE 2 PORTFOLIO: October 20 by 11:59 pm**
- **210 points.**

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MODULE 3. ARGUMENT ESSAY

- Students will read short stories, several poems, & watch Recorded Course Videos & YouTube clips
- Students will complete a variety of small paragraphs throughout the semester: summaries, synthesis, and discussion paragraphs in response to Instructor-provided questions
- Students will complete an argument essay
- **DUE DATE FOR MODULE 3 PORTFOLIO: November 17 by 11:59 pm**
- **210 points**

MODULE 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT/MLA GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

- Students will read short stories, several poems, & watch Recorded Course Videos & YouTube clips
- Students will focus, explore, and research MLA guidelines
- Students will complete a variety of small paragraphs: summaries, synthesis, and discussion/analysis paragraphs in response to Instructor-provided questions
- Students will write a reflection essay on process
- Students will complete a Works Cited Project
- **DUE DATE FOR MODULE 4 PORTFOLIO: December 1 by 11:59 pm**
- **210 points**

MODULE 5. FINAL PORTFOLIO – FINAL EXAM

- Students will turn a collection of their writing throughout the semester.
- Each item will be revised according to Instructor requests
- **DUE DATE FOR MODULE 5 PORTFOLIO: December 10 by NOON!**
- **160 points.**

GRADE/POINT BREAKDOWN

- Module 1. 210 points
- Module 2. 210 points
- Module 3. 210 points
- Module 4. 210 points
- Module 5. 160 points.

TOTAL POINTS – 1000

A RANGE 900 – 1000: Document exemplary. It exceeds assignment objectives. No revisions necessary.

B RANGE 800 – 899: Document is proficient. It meets assignment objectives. Minor revisions are necessary.

C RANGE 700 – 799: Document is marginal. It does not meet all assignment objectives. Revisions are necessary.

D RANGE 600 – 699: Document is unsatisfactory. It meets few of the assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

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BELOW 600 -> F: Document is unacceptable. It does not meet assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

All of these margins are strict margins. This means that 899.8 points does not get you an A. You need 900 points to be in the A range. **No exceptions.**

COURSE POLICIES

SIGNING UP FOR REMIND

All students need to sign up for Remind (through Remind.com) which will send class updates/notifications directly to your phone. Instructions will be given on Blackboard on how to register for the notifications. This will keep you updated on any changes to the class schedule, reading list, and any class/Blackboard issues.

GRADING TIME FRAMES

When your assignments are evaluated, you will have them back. Please do not inquire as to whether or not your papers/exams are graded.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- This is an online course with Videos on Blackboard. Timely submission of all required information either via Blackboard, email, or Skype will count as class attendance.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- Please be respectful in your emails since these will be our main means of communication. Moreover, make sure that you have already researched the answers to your questions prior to emailing me because most of your questions will probably have answers in the syllabus or Module instructions/guidelines.

VISITING DURING OFFICE HOURS

Students are encouraged to contact me via email. Please allow at least 48 hours for a response. If you would like to see me in person during my office hours, contact me via email, and I will share my office hours with you.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE:

If you need to contact me via email, you may do so via Remind or at my primary email address at South Plains Email.

- Netiquette: I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communications with me, including in emails. To this end, emails should clearly **identify who the sender is, what course they are taking, present proper grammar, include salutations**, and should be void of vernacular turn of phrases or "texting" expressions.
- Emails that do not follow proper netiquette will most likely not be answered.
- Students are responsible for checking their South Plains email regularly.

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- Please make sure that your email includes your full name and section number and/or class meeting times. I teach several sections and that information will allow me identify your account more quickly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

"It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension" (SPC General Catalog, pp. 21-22). "Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of whatever length as well as to final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers" (SPC General Catalog, p. 22). Students should consult the General Catalog on p. 23 for the college's detailed policies on plagiarism and cheating. Failure to comply with these policies will result in an F for the assignment and can result in an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-4675, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of this instructor not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY

In this class, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world, and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

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SYLLABUS AS CONTRACT

1. I understand that class attendance (submitting all required information on time to my professor) is part of my grade and that failure to meet attendance policies may result in a grade of F (regardless of my performance on assignments).
2. I understand that once I hand in an assignment to the instructor, it will be graded in the time it takes to grade it. I will not inquire about the grading timeline.
3. I understand that the course schedule/calendar is subject to change and that it is entirely my responsibility to be aware of the changes.
4. **Blackboard.** Please note that Blackboard is used for this course.
5. **Sign up for Remind @Remind.com.** This is an integral tool for the course. I will send out announcements such as due dates, change of schedule etc via Remind. If you do not sign up for it, you understand that you are still responsible for the material/announcement included in the message.
6. **Email.** I understand that I must use my South Plains Email account for the course. All electronic communication will be through your South Plains email.
7. **Netiquette.** I understand that I must send emails that are written appropriately, correctly punctuated and free of grammar errors. I must respect proper conventions when sending out emails. This shows respect.
8. **Responsibility.** This is a college course. I understand that I am responsible for my actions, for the level of effort I put into the course and for my overall performance.
9. **Grade.** I understand how I will be graded in this course and how the grading system works.
10. **Textbook.** It is my responsibility to purchase the textbook and download, print, or read the assigned files for our readings online.

Your signature at the bottom of this contract signifies that you have read and agree with all of the points/elements in the syllabus as well as outlined in this contract. Simply type your name at the bottom and save this document on your computer. Once it is saved, email it to me as an attachment. This will be a binding contract between you and me.

I have read and agree to abide by all of the policies outlined/discussed in the syllabus and the syllabus as contract for this course.

Name: _____ Date: / _____