

English 1302: Composition II

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Office Hours: MTWR 7:45-8:15 a.m. and by appointment

Prerequisites: English 1301

Course Description:

This course is a continuation of ENGL 1301 and an intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing researched-based expository and persuasive texts, along with being an introduction to literature. The course emphasizes effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of a sampling of literary, verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions.

Course Purpose:

English 1302 has a two-fold purpose: it encourages critical writing by introducing the students to research and writing from sources, and it introduces students to the study of literature, including short stories, drama, and poetry.

Core Objectives addressed:

- Communications skills-to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills-to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Teamwork-to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility-to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.
2. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.
3. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.
4. Apply critical thinking to the study of literature and write essays which demonstrate that critical thinking.
5. Use edited American English to write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.
6. Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., MLA)
7. Read and view videos of works of literature; analyze the use of literary devices (plot, point of view, theme, characterization, setting, symbolism, tone, etc.); participate in class discussions of the readings; and be tested over their understanding of the readings and lectures through quizzes, examinations, and/or written assignments.

Course Requirements:

1. Students will read numerous works of literature, will participate in class discussions of the readings, and will be tested over understanding the readings through quizzes, examinations, and/or written assignments.
2. Students will complete one or more written assignments which may include, but not be limited to, one or more multi-source research papers, two or more shorter papers, or a series of research questions or projects.
3. There will also be major examinations over the readings, films, and other course content.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

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. In addition to complying with federal and state equal opportunity laws and regulations, this diversity policy maintains that harassment based on individual differences to be inconsistent with SPC's instructional mission and educational goals.

Diversity Statement:

In this class, the teacher 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.

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Special 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 Special Services Coordinator. For more information, call or visit the Special Services Office in the Student Services building, 894-9611 ext. 2529.

Required Texts:

- Shea, Renee H., Lawrence Scanlon and Robin Dissin Aufses. *The Language of Composition: Reading, Writing, and Rhetoric*. Bedford/ St. Martin's

Students are strongly encouraged to purchase novels and other literature covered in the course; however, all textbooks for this course will be provided by LISD.

Grading Policy:

Essays and writing assignments will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

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

“A” Essay (Superior) To earn an “A,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).

2. Unity: The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences strongly support the thesis, and body paragraphs are unified around their topic sentences. The essay conveys a clear purpose and is tailored to a distinctive audience.
3. Support: Body paragraphs contain abundant, fresh details and examples that provide specific, concrete, logical evidence. If sources are required, the paper accurately integrates and correctly documents credible source material to add insight, sophistication, and complexity to the paper's ideas.
4. Coherence: The organization of the paper is excellent and logical (emphatic order, chronological order, etc.), transitions are sophisticated, and the paper exhibits mastery of basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. Sentence Skills: The paper contains no major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and is virtually free of other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety (simple, compound, complex) are effective and powerful.

“B” Essay (Strong) To earn a “B,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. Unity: The paper states a clear thesis, all topic sentences directly support the thesis, and body paragraphs display unity. The essay conveys good awareness of purpose and audience.
3. Support: Body paragraphs are well-developed with specific details, examples, and sound logic. If sources are required, the paper accurately uses and correctly documents credible source material to supplement its ideas.
4. Coherence: The organization of the paper is clear and helpful, transitions are helpful, and the paper exhibits strong basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. Sentence Skills: The paper contains no more than two major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) and very few other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“C” Paper (Acceptable) To earn a “C,” a paper meets all of the criteria below:

1. The paper fulfills all the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. Unity: A thesis is stated but may lack a strong claim or be obvious or predictable; topic sentences adequately support the thesis. One error in paragraph unity may occur. The essay's purpose and audience are adequately conveyed.
3. Support: Body paragraphs contain relevant details or logical reasons but need more specific examples/evidence. If sources are required, credible outside sources are usually integrated and cited correctly.
4. Coherence: Organization of ideas is satisfactory, transitions are logical, and the paper indicates competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. Sentence Skills: The paper contains no more than four major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Some other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors are present but not distracting. Word choice and sentence variety are strong.

“D” Paper (Developing) To earn a “D,” a paper will exhibit one or more of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper only partially fulfills one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. Unity: The thesis may announce the topic but no claim, contain more than one idea, or be too vague, too broad, or too narrow. Topic sentences are not tied to the thesis. Two errors in paragraph unity may occur. Essay conveys little awareness of audience or purpose.
3. Support: Details are sparse or vague and consist of generalizations, clichés, or repetition. If applicable, sources are insufficient and/or not always integrated or cited correctly.
4. Coherence: Organization is attempted but disjointed or confusing; transitions are sparse. The paper indicates awareness of but not competence in basic components (introduction, conclusion, and body paragraph structure).
5. Sentence Skills: The paper contains no more than six major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form). Several other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors distract from the content. Informal word choices occur with little or no variety in sentence type and length.

“F” Paper (Unacceptable) To earn an “F,” a paper will exhibit one or more of the weaknesses below:

1. The paper fails to fulfill one or more of the basic requirements of the assignment (for example, topic, purpose, length, format).
2. Unity: The thesis is illogical, incomplete, or missing, so the essay lacks focus on one central idea. Topic sentences are missing, so body paragraphs lack unity. The essay ignores the purpose and audience.
3. Support: Details are illogical, irrelevant, or missing from body paragraphs. If sources are required, the paper fails to use sources, does not meet the minimum source requirements, uses source material inaccurately, uses sources that are not credible, fails to document fully or correctly, and/or includes plagiarism.
4. Coherence: Organization is incoherent, transitions are missing or illogical, or the paper indicates a lack of competence in basic paper components (for example, lack of introduction and/or conclusion, lack of paragraphing).
5. Sentence Skills: Seven or more major errors (fragment, fused sentence, comma splice, subject-verb agreement, pronoun reference or agreement, verb form) occur with numerous other grammar, spelling, wrong word, punctuation, mechanical, or point of view errors. Word choice is often inaccurate, immature, or inappropriate. Multiple sentence structure/syntax errors make the paper difficult or almost impossible to read. If one type or a combination of types of errors, regardless of whether they are major or minor, seriously affects the readability of a paper, it will receive an “F.”