

ENGL 1301

Composition I

ENGL 1301_023

Class Time: 3:30pm-4:45pm MW

Room: Madla 253

Instructor: Nicolas Palumbo (they/them)

Office: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

Email: npalumbo@tamusa.edu

Important Dates: Fall 2025 Regular 16-Week Session

August 25 th :	First day of class
September 1 st :	Labor Day Holiday – No classes
September 10 th :	Census Date
November 14 th :	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
November 25 th :	Last day to withdraw from the University
November 26 th :	Study Day – No classes
November 27 th - 29 th :	Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes
December 4 th :	Last day of classes
December 5 th :	Study Day – No classes
December 6 th - 12 th :	Final exams
December 16 th :	Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available online:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>

Welcome to 1301!

Hi, everyone! Welcome to our class. Before we get started, I want to share with you the College of Arts and Science's land acknowledgment. If you aren't familiar with them, land acknowledgements are formal statements that both recognize and show respect for the Indigenous Peoples who are the traditional stewards of the land you are on.

Here's the statement. Please read it with compassion, open-mindedness, and respect:

We acknowledge the land we are on, the Yanaguana, named for the life-giving waters of the San Antonio River. Indigenous peoples have lived in this area for approximately ten thousand years, and this long, rich history deserves telling. We pay respect to the elders past and present and future, and the many Indigenous people here today, including the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation and the Esto'k Gna/Carrizo-Comecrudo Nation. We recognize this region as home to the Payaya, Coahuilteca, Lipan Apache, and Comanche, as well as other diasporic peoples from Mexico, the Southern Plains, and the Eastern United States. A growing number of American Indians from a range of nations live

here now, as Texas has the fourth largest population of American Indians in the United States. We thank the protectors of this land we all share.

Founded to serve the city's historically under-resourced and predominantly Mexican American Southside, Texas A&M University-San Antonio is situated on or near the ranchlands of the Mission San Francisco de la Espada and Mission San Antonio de Valero. We acknowledge the physical and cultural violence of colonialism as well as the vast contributions of Indigenous people to San Antonio. Indigenous peoples built and sustained the San Antonio area mission communities, and many of their descendants continue to maintain the vibrancy of these communities. We acknowledge the complex history of the U.S. university system, which has expanded access to education but which has also profited from the dispossession of Indigenous land and from the labor of enslaved people. In the face of this history, we commit to decolonial work and to accountability, dialogue, and collaboration that honors the Indigenous ancestry of this land and its inhabitants. We pledge to learn about and act in solidarity with Indigenous struggles for social justice.

Thank you all for taking the time read the land acknowledgement. I appreciate it.

So let's get started. My name is Nicolas Palumbo – you can call me Professor Palumbo – and I'm thrilled to be working with you this semester. I truly believe writing and communicating are some of the most powerful things we do as people, and helping students grow and learn as writers is thus a practice I take pride in. I promise to do my best to help you this semester.

Course FAQ

There are a lot of questions you probably have about our course right now, so let me do my best to answer them. If I don't answer a question you have, and/or if I don't answer a question in a way that's helpful, please let me know.

What am I reading here?

This is called a syllabus, or a course policy sheet. You'll get one of these for every college course you take. Basically, a syllabus describes the course you're about to take and outlines what you can expect from the course and your professor. (It also outlines what your professor will expect from you.) One way of thinking about a syllabus: it's an agreement between you and your professor. Another way of thinking about it: it's a guide to the course. If you ever have questions about a class you're taking, you can always ask your professor. You can also check the syllabus.

What is this class?

Good question. ENGL 1301 is the first of two courses you'll take in the First-Year Composition (FYC) program. This class is intended to help you transition as a writer from high school to college. It does so in a particular way: it explores your language practices to help you find belonging as a writer at TAMU-SA.

Why do I have to take this class?

Another good question. In short: it's a requirement. But why is it a requirement? Writing and communication are fundamental to who you are: you're always doing it, both with words and with other forms of communication. (This, by the way, means you are a writer.) Because you're always communicating, it's important that you do it well, especially as a college student (you're going to do a lot of communicating in college in various forms). This class helps you to be a better in your writing and in your languaging more generally.

What will I learn?

This one's a little hard to answer. Languaging is messy, complex, and individual, which means that what you learn will depend on where you are in your language use right now and what you and I think you need to learn to take the next step in your journey. While your learning this semester may be a bit individual to you, there's one thing I hope you and your classmates will learn: you are a writer with specific strengths that you can draw from both to succeed and to belong as a writer at TAMU-SA.

What work will I have to do?

We're going to do a lot of writing this semester. Mostly what's called "low stakes" writing. But there is one "high stakes" project you'll need to complete: a digital writing portfolio. We'll talk more about that in class. For now, you should know that's the one big project you'll work on all semester. You should also know you'll complete a lot of smaller writing assignments to build your portfolio. Specifically, I'll ask you to write the following:

- 3 unit assignments
- 4 labor journals
- in-class writing exercises as assigned

I'll also ask you to complete weekly Labor Logs, Writing Tasks, and Reading Notes. I'll give you all more information about these assignments later.

In addition to writing a lot, we're also going to read a lot. Each week I'll ask you to "read" one, sometimes two, pieces. These pieces may be academic articles, they may be spoken word performances, they may be visual images, etc. The readings will inform and support the work we do as writers.

Is there a textbook?

No, there's no textbook for this class. I'll provide all of the readings through Blackboard.

Because we're using Blackboard, and because you're creating a digital portfolio, you'll need to make sure you have reliable Internet access. If that's a problem for you, let me know (if you feel comfortable letting me know), and we can figure out some solutions.

How will I be graded?

I have a lot of concerns about the "conventional" ways students' writing gets graded. I won't get into all of that now (but I will soon). In the meantime, you should know that I

use what's called labor-based grading. I'll describe this form of grading when we review our grading contract. For now, it's enough to know that labor-based grading grades you on how hard you work.

What is a "Writing Community," and why do I need to join one?

This semester I'm asking you and your classmates to work together in groups I'm calling "Writing Communities." Sure, you may write on your own. For example, you might sit down and put words on the page or screen on your own. But you don't succeed as a writer on your own. For that to happen, you need an audience who cares about you and your work to read and to respond to your work. That's how you learn as a writer. That's how you make improvements as a writer/language user. And that's how you make something you're composing the best it can be. Your Writing Community will be that audience. They'll read your work, give you helpful feedback, and support you along the way. They'll also work with you to understand our readings and to complete in-class exercises.

To succeed as writers—and, honestly, to succeed as students—we need a group of supportive people behind us. Your Writing Community is one of those groups.

Again, if there are any questions you have that I didn't answer, and/or if any of my answers don't make sense, please let me know as soon as you can. Thanks, y'all!

FYC Program Commitments, Goals, and Key Terms

Faculty in the FYC program teach according to a specific set of commitments that guide what we teach, how we teach, and how we interact with you. We also teach in an effort to achieve goals that are designed to support your growth and development as a writer. In short, our commitments and goals give us focus and direction and stand as a representation of what we value and believe in. If you're ever unsure of what I'm doing in the classroom or why I'm doing it, you can always refer to this part of our syllabus to help you understand where I'm coming from.

Here are the things I'm committed to in my teaching:

1. collaborating with you with care and compassion,
2. emphasizing your learning and growth,
3. encouraging you to take risks and embrace failure,
4. honoring variations in your reading and languaging, and
5. centering and sustaining your cultural and linguistic identity.

And here are the goals I'm trying to achieve:

1. cultivating your sense of belonging as a writer,
2. increasing your rhetorical awareness,
3. strengthening your critical language awareness,
4. deepening your introspection and self-awareness as a writer,
5. increasing your skills and engagement as a reader,

6. inspiring creativity, risk-taking, and versatility in your writing,
7. increasing your self-determination and resilience as a writer,
8. helping you to see yourself as a writer,
9. increasing your confidence as a writer, and
10. increasing your appreciation of your languaging

I promise to work toward each of those goals in everything I do with and for you this semester.

In addition to the commitments and goals, there's a set of key terms that will inform all that I do in the classroom. These terms will guide the work we do together, and they'll help us all to deepen our understanding of writing specifically and of languaging generally. If you ever need a reminder of what I'm trying to teach you, please refer to the list of terms below.

Here are our key terms and their definitions:

- Belonging: the feeling of being valued, respected, and included as you are
- Languaging: the ongoing process of developing and communicating meaning and ideas
- Translanguaging: the process of using one's full linguistic repertoire to interpret, understand, and communicate meaning and ideas
- Audience: the person or the group of people languaging is intended to affect
- Purpose: the intended effect or impact of languaging
- Genre: a specific form of languaging that is shaped by social convention and audience expectation
- Context: the situation in which languaging occurs
- Rhetorical Awareness: the ability to assess context and to make intentional choices when languaging
- Critical Language Awareness: the ability to examine and critique how language functions in society
- Standard Language Ideology: the belief that a language has an ideal, consistent, and "correct" form that should be privileged

Course Policies

As I wrote above, this course is part of the FYC program. This program has a few policies that I'll follow this semester, so I want to make sure you're aware of them. One of the policies involves plagiarism, one involves our classroom environment, and one involves AI programs such as ChatGPT.

Plagiarism

We recognize that what constitutes plagiarism depends upon context. As such, we work with you to learn how different genres, professions, and academic disciplines define plagiarism. In the context of your FYC classes, plagiarism is defined as the intentional use of another's "language, ideas, or original (not common-knowledge) material" without acknowledgement ("Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism"). If you are found to have

committed plagiarism as defined here, your instructor may report you for academic dishonesty, and you may be subject to failing the assignment or even failing the class.

Classroom Environment

We are committed to fostering welcoming classroom environments where all students are not only respected and understood, but are also recognized as powerful resources for building communities of writers both in the classroom and across campus. While working with classmates and instructors, we ask that you:

- respectfully share your unique experiences and perspectives
- demonstrate respect for and openness to the perspectives and experiences of others
- value the opportunity to learn from difference

Demonstrating respect for those different from you not only prepares you for success in the classroom, but it also prepares you for success as citizens and professionals in a global community.

Because we value the respectful expression and exchange of ideas, students who use violent, harassing, and/or discriminatory language will be reported to the university and may be subject to Student Code of Conduct policies, as well as any classroom conduct or civility policies your instructor has established.

GAJ Technology

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

University Policies and Resources

The university also has policies we'll all need to follow this semester.

Additionally, being a college student is hard. You're taking a bunch of different classes that are asking you to complete a bunch of different work, often at the same time. You're trying to balance that work with other responsibilities you might have like a job (or two or three), like family. And you're doing all of that while you may be struggling with some real issues involving mental health, food insecurity, academic success, etc. It's not easy, I know. Thankfully, you don't have to handle all of that on your own. The university provides important services that can help

you make it as a student. Please check out the list below, and *please* reach out to any that you might need. There's no shame in getting help.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

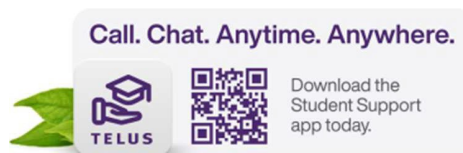
Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are **free and confidential** (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com>

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non- Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the

student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars: can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

Final Note

I really am committed to you and your success, so please know that I'm part of the team rooting you on. This means you can reach out to me any time you have a question or a concern. It also means you can reach out to me if you ever feel like you're falling behind. Let me know if that's happening as soon as you can, and we can work together to figure out how to get you where you want to be. You can also let me know if you're finding any parts of our class exciting or interesting. In other words, you don't just have to reach out if you're having trouble. I want you to succeed this semester, and I'm going to do what I can to help make that happen.