

Fall 2026 Composition I Syllabus
ENGL 1301 |
Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Course Information/Contact

Instructor: Diana Shamiryan

Class Meetings: No Meetings/ All coursework is 100% Online

Virtual Office Zoom: by Appointment

Email: diana.shamiryan@tamusa.edu

Course Catalog Description

ENGL 1301 supports students in their belonging as writers. The course validates, celebrates, and explores students' languaging while introducing concepts and practices essential for success in writing. Students examine and explore their language practices and develop a digital writing portfolio. TSI Restriction(s): Reading and Writing.

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes
Demonstrate rhetorical agency when communicating with audiences about your language practices
Understand key concepts such as audience, purpose, and genre
Analyze texts using the class's key concepts
Reflect on your individual writing processes
Critically examine your language practices

Compose a digital writing portfolio
Collaborate with peers

Texas Core Curriculum Objectives

All First-Year Composition (FYC) courses are part of the Texas Core Curriculum. They are specifically designated as “Core 10” courses focused on communication.

Core Objective	Description
Critical Thinking Skills	To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
Communication Skills	To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
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.

Grades

To succeed in this course, it is crucial that you read all assigned texts, develop original ideas about those texts, attend class, take detailed notes, engage with your peers during discussions and workshops, write with integrity and inspiration, and ask for help! I grade assignments each week with written feedback. You can check your total grade at any time in Blackboard.

Grade Distribution

Assignment	Description	Points
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Digital Writing Portfolio	Publication of summative assessments and writing goals journal entries in a final digital portfolio	75
Discussions and Journals	The Journals and Class-Wide Discussion assignments are intended to provide students with informal, low-stakes opportunities to reflect on their writing, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and engage with their classmates about the writing process.	TBA
Personal Narrative	A personal essay about a selected topic of interest be used to inform future assignments (350-600 words)	100
Rhetorical Analysis	An essay analyzing the rhetorical situation of a popular source and a starting point for research on the selected topic of interest (750-900 words)	100
Scholarly Article Analysis	An essay analyzing a scholarly article over the selected topic of interest serving as an introduction to scholarly sources (850-1,050 words)	100
Persuasive Essay	An essay requiring two secondary sources (one popular and one scholarly) that demonstrates a stance over the selected topic (950-1,500 words)	100

Numerical Grade Equivalents

Final course grades are calculated on the standard scale:

A = 100-90 | **B** = 89-80 | **C** = 79-70 | **D** = 69-60 | **F** = 59 or less

Assignments

1. **Digital Writing Portfolio:** Students compile all their completed summative assessments and writing goals journal entries into a final digital portfolio, and then write an introduction reflecting on their writing processes and language practices.
2. **Journals and Class-Wide Discussions:** The Journals and Class-Wide Discussion assignments are intended to provide students with informal, low-stakes opportunities to reflect on their writing, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and engage with their classmates about the writing process.

Throughout the semester, students will complete individual journal entries and participate in class-wide discussions that encourage students to share their experiences, strategies, challenges, and progress as writers.

3. **Unit 1 Summative Assessment (Personal Narrative):** Students complete a narrative essay about their selected topic of interest, which will inform all future assignments. This assignment serves as a diagnostic for student writing and allows students to begin a long-term research project starting from their personal interests.
4. **Unit 2 Summative Assessment (Rhetorical Analysis):** Students complete an essay about their rhetorical analysis of a text which will inform their later research in Unit 3. This assessment shifts students from their personal interest into exploring how professional content creators develop text while introducing research strategies and ethical source integration.
5. **Unit 3 Summative Assessment (Scholarly Article Analysis):** Students complete an essay about their analysis of a scholarly article's main argument and what knowledge is added to the topic by this source, allowing students to review how sources add, extend, or complicate the same topic. This assessment shifts students from professional content creators to how experts in a field develop texts to advance knowledge, while still emphasizing research strategies and ethical source integration.
6. **Unit 4 Summative Assessment (Persuasive Essay):** Students complete a research essay with an informed stance about their updated perspectives on the selected topic. This assignment requires students to incorporate research from their Rhetorical Analysis and Scholarly Article Analysis assignments, demonstrating their mastery of research strategies and ethical source integration.

Email Etiquette

Too many times students forget that they are emailing their professors and not texting them. Please make sure to note your class, section number, name, etc. in all email exchanges.

Please make sure to email from your tamusa.edu account and not personal emails to avoid them being placed in junk mail.:

Please make sure you have the following:

- 1- a subject line – i.e. English 1301, section #
- 2- salutation – i.e. Dear, Hi, Hello, Professor or Ms. S/Shamiryan (either will work)
- 3- specify your questions
- 4- closing with your name – i.e. Thank you, Best, etc. Jane Smith

Communication/Office Hours

I am more than happy to help via email and will respond within the first 24 hours of your email (usually MUCH sooner). If you don't hear from me within that window, please resend your email as technology happens and I may either not have received or miss an email.

Office hours are coordinated and set as an agreed upon day and time via email. All office hours are conducted on Zoom. Please schedule office hours at least 24-48 hours in advance to guarantee a meeting, requesting an office hour meeting the evening or day of that you'd like to meet is not a guarantee of a meeting.

Late Work Policy

All work in this course will have a due date attached to it. Meeting this deadline ensures gaining full points for the assignment due.

Late work will be accepted up to 1 week after a due date with a 10% deduction.

No late work will be accepted 8 days after something is due.

HOWEVER, IF you have medical or emergency circumstances, please email me ahead of time, so we can meet and coordinate getting you back on track. If you miss more than 3 weeks of class assignments it will be difficult to get back on track and impact your grade in this course.

Respect

I am committed to fostering a respectful classroom environment in which different backgrounds and perspectives are acknowledged. While working with classmates and instructors, you will respectfully listen to others' experiences and perspectives, share your own experiences and perspectives, and value the opportunity to learn from each other. Demonstrating respect for those different from you prepares you for success in the classroom and as citizens. If you use violent, harassing, and or discriminatory language, you will be reported to the university and may be subject to Student Code of Conduct policies.

Plagiarism

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 plagiarize, copy, or otherwise cheat on an assignment, you will receive a permanent zero on that assignment without the opportunity for revision.

Generative AI

The FYC program expects you to generate your own content this semester. However, there are situations and contexts within our courses where you may use generative artificial intelligence (GAI) tools to support your work as a writer. For example, GAI technologies such as ChatGPT can work well as a starting point for written assignments, assisting you with brainstorming, outlining, generating ideas, and collecting basic information about a topic/idea. Note that the emphasis here is on "support." GAI programs have been shown to provide biased or incorrect information, and to generate writing that lacks human imagination. For these reasons, the FYC program discourages you from using GAI technology to generate content **for you**. If you have reason to use GAI to generate content **with you**, consult with your professor before doing so. Using GAI content without your professor's permission and/or without proper attribution qualifies as plagiarism.

Digital Tools

This course uses Blackboard. While instruction will be provided, it is your responsibility to submit assignments on time. If you experience technical difficulties with Blackboard, please try a different browser, contact me, or contact the ITS Help Desk: (210) 784-4357 or helpdesk@tamusa.edu. Links to Google Docs or SharePoint files will not be accepted, as I am often unable to access the files behind those links due to locked sharing permissions.

University Policies

The university also has policies we'll all need to follow this semester. Here they are:

Student Services and Support

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.

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.

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for individuals with disabilities. Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodations of their disability. If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability

Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

Counseling Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Student Counseling Center (SCC) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call 210-784-1331 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. After-hours crisis support is available by calling 210-784-1331. Please contact UPD at 911 if harm to self or harm to others is imminent.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (to the extent permitted by law), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

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

More information about Emergency Preparedness and the Emergency Response Guide can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/upd/index.html>.

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 the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend 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.

Jaguar Writing Center: The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. 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 www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

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 contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. In addition, you may notify the instructor if you are comfortable doing so.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, about special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person, Room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military@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 A&M

System policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or 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.

Respect for Diversity: We understand that our students represent diverse backgrounds and perspectives. When we are equity-minded, we are aware of differences and inequalities and are willing to discuss them so we can act to resolve them. The University is committed to building cultural competencies, or the attitudes, skills, and knowledge that enable individuals and organizations to acknowledge cultural differences and incorporate these differences in working with people from diverse cultures. Respecting and accepting people different than you is vital to your success in the classroom, on campus, and as a future professional in the global community. While working together to build this community we ask all members to:

- Share their unique experiences, values, and beliefs.
- Be open to the views of others.
- Honor the uniqueness of their colleagues.
- Value each other's opinions and communicate respectfully.
- Use this opportunity together to discuss ways in which we can create an inclusive environment in this course and across the A&M-San Antonio community.

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, equality of 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, diversity, pluralism, and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should 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, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals

who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create 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, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors 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 university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about an incident of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The purpose of the following statement is to enumerate the essential provisions of students' freedoms and responsibilities to learn at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. All students are required to follow all policies and regulations as set forth by The Texas A&M University System, including the A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct.

