

Texas A & M, San Antonio

English 1302 - Composition II Fall 2026

Course Information/Contact

Instructor: Diana Shamiryan

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

Virtual Office Zoom: Tuesday and Thursday 2-3pm and by Appointment

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Course Catalog Description

ENGL 1302 examines students' language practices in the context of the communities they belong to, especially their academic disciplines. Students research and critically examine their communities, and they learn to contribute to their communities as effective and persuasive writers. Students compose texts in multiple genres and media, and they complete the digital portfolio they first developed in ENGL 1301/1301L.

Student Learning Outcomes

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Critically examine the conventions of academic discourse
Conduct effective research, with an emphasis on secondary research
Demonstrate rhetorical agency when communicating with academic audiences
Compose texts in a variety of genres and media
Reflect on individual and collaborative writing processes
Collaborate with peers
Compose a digital writing portfolio

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 and Assignments

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

Grades will be determined by the following:	Details		Points
Writing Goals Journal	An individual journal kept in correspondence with instructor over the course of the semester; focused on writing goals and improvement		5%
Précis Assignments	Short, formative writing assignments designed to improve rhetorical analysis and citation skills (25 points each)		100
Explorative Proposal	Short proposal essay about a selected topic of interest and how it can reflect academic argument conventions; will be used to inform all future assignments		100
Investigative Annotated Bibliography	Completed after the topic proposal, six to seven sources with annotations with working title, topic		100

	description, and preliminary thesis		
Argumentative Research Paper	Researched academic argument essay incorporating secondary sources; 2,000–2,500 words excluding references page		100
Final Project			100

Numerical Grade Equivalents

Course grades are calculated on the standard scale:

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

Assignment Descriptions

1. **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.
2. **Précis Assignments:** Précis assignments are intended to be relatively low-stakes opportunities for students to begin practicing analytical writing, with a focus on developing their skills in summary and analysis. There are five précis assignments throughout the semester.
 1. **Unit 1 Summative Assessment (Explorative Proposal):** Students complete a proposal about their selected topic of interest and how it can reflect academic argument conventions, which will inform future assignments.
 2. **Unit 2 Summative Assessment (Investigative Annotated Bibliography):** Students complete an annotated bibliography about their selected topic (established in Unit 1) to explore the conversations related to their topic. The students gather six to seven sources, mixing popular and scholarly sources, so they explore the varied perspectives and presentations of information while also understanding the role these sources have in forming academic arguments.
 3. **Unit 3 Summative Assessment (Argumentative Research Paper):** Students complete a paper providing a researched academic argument related to their semester-long work with prior unit summative assessments. The project should demonstrate key features of academic argument models.

The assignment should demonstrate the student's mastery of synthesizing sources to communicate persuasive perspectives.

4. **Final Project:** For this project, you will create an individual PSA focused on a specific issue connected to media or popular culture. Your PSA should combine research, persuasive writing, visual rhetoric, and creativity to communicate a meaningful message to a clearly defined audience.
- 5.

Course Policies

All faculty in the FYC program follow a specific set of policies you should be aware of, including attendance, plagiarism and AI use policies, as well as policies related to the classroom environment and course materials.

Late Work

All course work is due on the required due date. However, I will allow late work to be submitted up to 7 days beyond a due date. After day 7 (which equals to 14 days to submit assignments), no late work will be accepted without a medical or emergency excuse.

Please note: technology and work schedules are not valid emergency or medical excuses in this course.

For this reason, I ask that you DO NOT submit work beyond the time outlined above with the anticipation of it being graded. Even if submitted, it will be marked a 0.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are submitting late work, please email me confirming the submission to avoid 0's that are populated as placeholders.

Extra Credit / Re-do's

There are no extra credit assignments or re-do's in this course.

Exceptions/Extensions

I grant project extensions in the following situations

- mandatory military service
- mandatory court date
- a religious holiday
- contagious illness regardless of severity (please keep your germs at home)
- a documented chronic illness or disability
- a serious illness or crisis involving yourself or person for whom you are the primary care-giver
- a death in the family
- other incidents as needed

If your situation requires such accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible. Please note that the situations described above do not excuse you from completing any assigned work. You are responsible for reviewing the material on blackboard and completing all assignments by the due date unless prior arrangements have been made.

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.

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.

GAI Technology

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 information, to circulate misinformation, and to generate writing that is, at best, mediocre. For these reasons, FYC discourages you from using GAI technology to generate content **for you**. If you have reason to use GAI to generate content **with you**, then we ask that you consult with your professor before doing so. If your professor approves your use, you should acknowledge the GAI program you have used, and you should identify which portions of the text you submit were produced by GAI. Using GAI content without your professor’s permission and/or without proper attribution qualifies as plagiarism.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA 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 accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed 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 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by the SCC are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student's academic or university record. SCC provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling Center (SCC) any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text "HOME" to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

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 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. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. 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. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and 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 the 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 class, 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.

Keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature.

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 a situation 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 for the student freedom and responsibility 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. This includes the [A&M-San Antonio Student Code of Conduct](#).

Students' Rights

- A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no university rule or procedure that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
- 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, genetic information or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
- 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.
- Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

- A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and the administration.
- 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, University Catalog and students must comply with them and the laws of the land.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire university community.
- A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
- A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.
- 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