

Spring 2026 Composition II Syllabus

ENGL 1302-043 | TR 11am – 12:15 | Classroom Hall 309

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

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Course FAQ

What am I reading here?

This is called a syllabus, or a course policy sheet. You're likely familiar with syllabi by now, but here's a bit more about them in case you're not: 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, me. You can also check the syllabus.

Why do I have to take this class?

It is a requirement, just like ENGL 1301. But why is it a requirement? Writing and communicating 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. And since you are going to do a lot of writing in college, this class helps you to be a better writer.

Course Description

ENGL 1302 builds on the reading and writing skills developed in ENGL 1301 and invites students to enter into academic discourse through research wherein they will be asked to synthesize and respond to a variety of perspectives on a topic of their choosing. Students will also read and compose a variety of texts oral, written, and visual.

Course Structure

ENGL 1302 features four units, the first three are focused on different writing genres, while the last one leads up to the final exam. Unit 1 focuses on critical language awareness, rhetorical awareness, and languaging. This unit bridges ENGL 1301 and 1302 by reviewing key terms and concepts from ENGL 1301 and prepares you for ENGL 1302. Each week, you will complete assigned readings, take reading notes, and work on your draft of the unit assignment. To conclude the unit, you will submit your completed essay and also publish it as your Unit 1 Portfolio on Digication. The writer's portfolio is one of the things you will

create in unit 1. In this unit I will also hold a one-on-one conference with each student to discuss your topics, challenges and performance.

Unit 2 introduces you to the research process in academic writing. We will discuss ethical research and AI use, writing style guides, and formatting best practices. Each week, you will read texts to help your understanding, take handwritten notes and take grammar quizzes. You will conduct scholarly research, find, cite, read, and annotate scholarly journal articles through the University Library's Database System. You will choose an original research topic, develop research questions, and then proceed to write a Research Paper following the models and techniques we will discuss and practice weekly in class. We will have a writing workshop in class, and I will also give individual feedback to those who submit their drafts in time. At the end of the unit, you will submit your paper on Blackboard and also publish it in your Writer's Portfolio.

In Unit 3, you will all be invited to take your research paper and remix it into another genre designed for a specific audience. This assignment includes a brief analysis essay that explains all the rhetorical decisions you made in creating your remix. Unit 3 demands that you bring all you have learnt about rhetorical situations and use that knowledge to create a new text or media which you will present to our class, and also add to your Writer's Portfolio.

I will hold Final Conferences with each of you to discuss your final grade and progress as a university-level writer. And after this, you get to write a final reflection and submit your final portfolio for your exam.

Required Materials

- All course readings will be provided for free on Blackboard.
- Bring a notebook and pen/pencil for handwritten notes and writing exercises in class.
- Bring a laptop and charger to class, and maintain reliable home internet.

Writing Community

This semester, you and your peers will work together in writing communities. While you sit down and put words on the page or screen on your own, you cannot succeed as a university-level writer on your own. You need an audience who cares about you and your work to read and respond to your work. This is how we learn and improve as writers. Your writing community will read your work, give you helpful feedback, and support you. And you will do the same for the other member(s) of your writing community.

Digital Tools

This course uses Blackboard and Digication. While instruction will be provided, it is your responsibility to submit assignments on time. If you experience technical difficulties with

Blackboard or Digication, please try a different browser, contact me, or contact the ITS Help Desk: (210) 784-4357 or helpdesk@tamusa.edu

Please endeavor to submit PDF files or Word documents to Blackboard and Digication. Google Docs or SharePoint files often pose a problem as I am unable to view those files due to sharing permissions. For some assignments, I can also accept clear pictures of handwritten notes.

Course Assignments

This course involves a lot of reading and writing and will also include a lot of group discussion. Throughout the semester, you will publish major assignments to your Writer's Portfolio. You will also have other assignments and activities including:

- Weekly Reading Notes
- Labor logs
- Labor journals/Reflections
- Grammar Quizzes
- Annotated Bibliography
- Research Paper (Draft and Complete)
- Writing Workshop Peer Reviews
- Remix Assignment
- Final Portfolio with Final Reflection

Grades

This course uses labor-based grading, which assesses the quality and quantity of your labor. Your grade in this course depends on the amount and quality of work you submit, your ability to meet deadlines and fulfill expectations, and the time and effort you put toward growing as a university-level writer over the course of the semester. I grade assignments frequently with written feedback, provided you submit on time. You can check your total grade at any time in Blackboard. Your assignments are incomplete if you submit them on time, but fail to meet expectations. Your assignments are late if you submit them after the deadline and missing if not submitted. Please email me or speak to me in class, to request an extension (in advance) or a revision of a previously submitted assignment.

| Score | Description |
|-------|------------------------|
| 10 | On-time and complete |
| 7.5 | Late or incomplete |
| 5 | Late and incomplete |
| 0 | Missing or plagiarized |

FYC Program Goals

A goal is something specific that gives you focus and direction that you're working hard to achieve. You likely have individual goals you're trying to achieve this semester both as a student and as a writer (if you don't have goals right now, we'll work together to develop them). I also have goals I'm trying to achieve as an individual and as a teacher.

In addition to the individual goals I have, I'm also working to achieve the goals of the FYC program. This means that all of the work I do with you this semester is geared toward achieving the program's goals. Those goals are as follows:

- Increasing students' rhetorical awareness
- Increasing students' confidence as writers
- Helping students to see themselves as writers
- Cultivating students' sense of belonging as writers
- Strengthening students' critical language awareness
- Increasing students' appreciation of their languaging
- Increasing students' skills and engagement as readers
- Increasing students' self-determination and resilience as writers
- Deepening students' introspection and self-awareness as writers
- Inspiring creativity, risk-taking, and versatility in student writing

FYC Faculty Commitments

- Emphasize students' learning and growth
- Collaborate with students with care and compassion
- Encourage students to take risks and even 'fail'
- Honor variations in students' reading and languaging
- Center and sustain students' cultural and linguistic identities

FYC Key Terms

You're going to hear and see me use a particular set of terms this semester every time I communicate with you all about both reading and writing. Those terms are FYC's "key terms," and they represent the most important concepts we'd like you to learn in our FYC classes. I ask you to become familiar with these terms so that you understand what I'm saying to you all as we talk about your languaging and writing/communication this semester.

Here are the terms:

- *Languaging*: the ongoing process of developing and communicating meaning and ideas
- *Translanguaging*: the ability to fluidly access and use one's full linguistic repertoire to interpret, understand and communicate your ideas with others
- *Standard Language Ideology*: the belief that a language has one ideal, consistent, and "correct" form that should be privileged

- *Critical Language Awareness*: the ability to examine and understand the social, political, and historical aspects of language and communication
- *Rhetorical Awareness*: the ability to assess context and make intentional choices when communicating
- *Audience*: the person or people a text is intended to affect
- *Purpose*: the intended effect or impact of a text
- *Genre*: a specific type or form of writing/communication that is shaped by social convention and audience expectation
- *Context*: the social, historical, and cultural circumstances in which texts are read and composed
- *Reflection*: the act of examining and learning from one's actions, experiences, and writing

Course Policies

The FYC 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 attendance, one involves diversity, and one involves AI programs such as ChatGPT.

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. Relying on generative AI to write content for you prevents you from growing as a university-level writer and critical thinker. 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. If your professor approves your use, you should acknowledge the GAI program you have used and identify which portions of the text you submitted were produced by GAI. Using GAI content without your professor's permission and/or without proper attribution qualifies as plagiarism.

Attendance

You are absent if you are not present for class and late if you arrive after attendance has been taken. You must communicate the circumstances with me in advance to be excused for an absence or late arrival. Your success and development as a writer depend on your active participation within your writing workshop group. Consistent attendance is crucial and is graded, as much as active participation in class.

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 who are different from you not only prepares you for success in the classroom, but also prepares you for success as citizens and professionals. 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.

Some Important University Policies And Resources

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

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 at our website 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 academic accommodations with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

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 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance. While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

| | Appointments available | Walk-in Tutoring – No appointment needed |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| Monday | 8 am – 6 pm | 9 am – 5 pm |
| Tuesday | 8 am – 6 pm | 9 am – 5 pm |
| Wednesday | 8 am – 6 pm | 9 am – 5 pm |
| Thursday | 8 am – 6 pm | 9 am – 5 pm |
| Friday | 8 am – 5 pm | 11 am – 4 pm |

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. 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. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.* The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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 system. 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: [this website](#). More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found online. Download [the SafeZone App](#) 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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the writing Center in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu. See [the WLDCC Website](#) for more information

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 for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus.