

Texas A & M, San Antonio
English 1302 - Composition II Spring 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

Section: 657

Zoom link: <https://tamusa.zoom.us/j/2352278236>

Email: dshamiryan@tamusa.edu

Course Description

ENGL 1302 introduces students to academic reading and writing through the development of reading habits and composing practices that will enable students to respond critically and communicate persuasively to a variety of audiences in various modes of writing across various academic disciplines and in various modes and genres. This course will help you gain the foundational skills you need to effectively communicate in your various disciplines.

Course Outcomes

All First-Year Composition (FYC) courses are part of the Texas Core Curriculum. They are specifically designated as “Core 10” courses, which focus on communication. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, “Core 10” courses “involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.” These courses are expected to achieve the following

Core Curriculum Outcomes:

Communication – The effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication

Critical Thinking – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Personal Responsibility – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Teamwork – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Here are some of the ways your FYC course might help you to achieve these outcomes:

Communication – Your instructor will likely teach you “rhetorical agency,” which is the ability to make intentional choices when composing texts for different audiences and contexts

Critical Thinking – Your instructor will likely ask you to analyze a variety of texts, with particular attention both to the choices the authors/artists made and to the way language functions in society. This is called Critical Language Awareness

Personal Responsibility – You’ll fulfill this outcome mostly through reflection on your writing practices and processes. This could take the form of “labor logs” and “labor journals.”

Teamwork – You’ll do a lot of group-based work this semester. This could look like the formation of “Writing Communities,” but it could also look like small-group discussions and collaborative activities.

Not all FYC courses will help you to achieve the Core Curriculum outcomes the same way, but they are all designed to help you achieve the outcomes.

FYC Program Commitments, Goals, and Key Terms

Faculty in the FYC program help you to achieve the Core Curriculum outcomes through a specific set of commitments and goals. Our commitments guide what we teach, how we teach, and how we interact with you, and our goals 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 you’re doing for this course, you can always refer to this part of the syllabus for context.

Here are the things FYC faculty are committed to in our teaching:

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

And here are the goals we're trying to achieve:

- cultivating your sense of belonging as a writer,
- increasing your rhetorical awareness,
- strengthening your critical language awareness,
- deepening your introspection and self-awareness as a writer,
- increasing your skills and engagement as a reader,
- inspiring creativity, risk-taking, and versatility in your writing,
- increasing your self-determination and resilience as a writer,
- helping you to see yourself as a writer,
- increasing your confidence as a writer, and
- increasing your appreciation of your languaging

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

In addition to the commitments and goals, there's a set of key terms that inform all that FYC faculty do in the classroom. These terms guide the work FYC faculty do with you, and they help us all to deepen our understanding of writing specifically and of languaging generally.

If you ever need a reminder of what FYC faculty are trying to teach you, please refer to the list of terms below.

- 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 Agency: 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

All faculty in the FYC program follow a specific set of policies you should be aware of. One of the policies involves plagiarism, one involves our classroom environment, and one involves GenAI 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 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 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.

GenAI 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.

Required Course Material

All materials needed for this course are available through links will be provided on Blackboard.

BLACKBOARD and Digital Responsibility

This course uses Blackboard extensively; all assignments will be submitted as attachments in docx or pdf formats.

While some instruction will be provided, it is *the student’s personal responsibility to learn how to attach files and submit work on Blackboard. There may occasionally be problems submitting work. In that case, try again. Try with a different browser. Contact the help desk.*

Grading Overview

I treat writing as a recursive and exploratory process involving continual drafting, revision, and reflection. I am also committed to affirming linguistic diversity in student writing. For these reasons, I will use a combination of labor-based grading and traditional rubric-based grading.

Labor-based grading assesses you on the quality of your labor rather than the quality of your writing. That is, I will grade your writing this semester on the amount of work you complete, on your ability to meet deadlines and fulfill expectations, and on the time and effort you put toward achieving course goals. Yes, your colleagues and I will address the quality of your writing. We will also expect you to put forward the substantial time and effort it takes to improve upon the quality of your writing; that is, we will expect you to demonstrate significant growth and improvement in

your writing over the course of the semester. But you will not entirely be graded on quality.

In short, the more you work, the better your grade—and the better you'll position yourself to learn and grow.

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.**

Incompletes (IN)

You will only be eligible for a grade of incomplete (IN) in this class (a) if you can demonstrate documented medical hardship or personal trauma (e.g., extended hospitalization, the death of a family member, divorce, etc.) and (b) if you have completed the labor to earn a passing grade at the time you request an incomplete.

Assignments

Essays

Reflections

Outlines

Discussions and Journals

Final Portfolio

All grades are calculated in your Blackboard gradebook.

FYC Policies

Attendance

Your success and development as a writer depend upon your active participation within a community of writers. The health and success of that community, in turn, depends upon the active participation of all of its members. Consistent attendance in your FYC classes is, therefore, crucial. If you are struggling to attend class this semester, we urge you to communicate with your FYC instructor, who will work with you to negotiate a plan for attending, participating in, and completing the class. Attendance in an online class means checking in on a regular basis, reviewing weekly Announcements and Schedule, and participating in classroom-based activities on Blackboard and Discord.

Classroom Inclusion

We are committed to fostering inclusive classroom environments where diverse backgrounds and perspectives 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 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, including, but not limited to, sexist, racist, homophobic, classist, ableist, and/or anti-ethnic language, will be reported to the university and may be subject to Student Code of Conduct policies.

1. 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@tamus.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@tamus.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.tamus.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://tamus.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