

ENGL 1302: Composition II

Spring 2026

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Office Hours: Virtual by Appointment. Available in the Evening.

Classroom Location and Meeting Times: Asynchronous Instruction through Blackboard.

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.

Required Texts and Materials

- Many of the academic materials needed for this course are available through Open Education Resources and links will be provided on Blackboard.
- Writing Spaces: <https://writingspaces.org>
- Blackboard, Computer with Internet Access, Microsoft Office Word (Only)

FYC Faculty Commitments

FYC faculty share a responsibility to:

- Celebrate and validate students' language practices
- Encourage linguistic differences and resist Standard Language Ideology
- Privilege cultural knowledge and provide opportunities to connect it to course content
- Center intersectional understandings of identity and writing practices
- Collaborate with students with care and compassion

FYC Programmatic Goals

The FYC program is dedicated to achieving the following goals:

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

FYC Program Key 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
- Standard Language Ideology: the belief that a language has an ideal, consistent, and "correct" form that should be privileged

- Critical Language Awareness: the ability to examine and understand the social, political, and ideological 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

Your development as a writer depends on your engagement in an ongoing process of reading, drafting, reflecting, and revising. I will ask you to engage in this process this semester by

- attending class regularly (by signing into Blackboard weekly)
- completing and submitting weekly assignments, including writing exercises and reflections
- completing and submitting projects, including written analyses, initial brainstorming and drafting, peer-review feedback, and revisions; and
- revising and expanding on the digital portfolio you created in ENGL 1301.

Grading Contract

By staying in this class, you agree to the following:

1. You'll be graded on the labor you complete this semester instead of the quality of your work. Regardless of your current writing ability, I believe grading you on your labor instead of the quality of your work will have a more meaningful impact on your development as a writer.
2. You'll submit work that addresses the spirit of the assignment to the best of your abilities. For example, you won't turn in a 300-word draft when I ask you to write a 1000-word draft.
3. You'll earn points for completing labor opportunities offered this term. In short, the more writing tasks (labor) you complete, the higher your final course grade. You'll still receive constructive feedback on your writing from both myself and your peers, but that feedback won't impact your final course grade.
4. Your attendance record will impact your final grade. Two weeks of unexcused absences will reduce your final grade by one letter. As per FYC two weeks of unexcused absences in an online class can result in a failing course grade regardless of points earned.
5. If you do not complete the peer review or group collaboration portions of any writing task, then you forfeit your points for that labor opportunity. Working with partners and groups can have a positive impact on your writing development, so try to seize every opportunity to work with other students in the online class environment.
6. Submitting late work will impact your final grade. I accept late work for Writing Labs and Project Drafts only. Submit late drafts up to 48 hours past the deadline for half the original point value. Final Projects/Major Essays, Final Portfolio and Bonus Writing Opportunities are not eligible for late submissions.
7. I will calculate your final grade by adding up the points you've earned through each labor opportunity and deducting points for any unexcused absences beyond two.

The points ranges are outlined below:

A Range: 500+ points (Maximum points varies depending on total points for the semester. Final grades will be calculated directly in Blackboard.)

B Range: 450 - 499 points

C Range: 400 – 449 points

D Range: 350 – 399 points

F: Below 350 points

*Final Grades are determined by total points earned during the course; not averages based on total points available for the semester divided by the number of points earned. Once a student reaches 500 points, they have earned an A for the course. Please follow the Point Ranges to determine course grades as total course points may fluctuate.

Breakdown of Labor Opportunities

Writing Labs (200+ points total)

Writing labs are writing exercises and peer-review activities completed and discussed through online assignments on Blackboard. These labs allow you to practice valuable concepts relevant to the writing projects. You must participate both independently and collaboratively for each activity to earn points for the labs.

Writing Projects/Portfolio (300+ points total)

Writing projects are major course assignments that are peer-reviewed and revised recursively throughout the course of the semester. Students will also submit a collection of work from the course in a portfolio.

Assignment Availability

The weekly course assignments are available from Monday through the following Sunday, with the exception of the first week of class and Finals Week. All assignments and readings will be found on Blackboard. All work will be submitted on Blackboard. Assignments should not be submitted through email except with the instructor's permission.

Exceptions to Grading Contract

I MAY grant project extensions, excuse late work and absences in the following situations:

- mandatory military service
- mandatory court date
- a religious holiday with paperwork filed to the university
- a documented chronic illness or disability as notified by the university
- a serious illness, hospitalization, or crisis involving yourself or person for whom you are the primary caregiver as notified by the university
- a death in the family

I DO NOT grant project extensions, excuse late work or absences in the following situations:

- school/student holidays
- school travel
- extracurricular activities
- work schedules
- computer/internet issues

- common illnesses not requiring hospitalization

If your situation requires such an accommodation, please contact the instructor 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.

Class Conduct Policy

By remaining in this class, you agree to

- log into Blackboard weekly and complete all assignments,
- communicate with your instructor and classmates respectfully,
- use technology responsibly during class,
- check Blackboard and university email regularly, and
- ask for help when you need it.

Late Work

All assignments are expected to be submitted by due dates. Exceptions MAY be made by the instructor given extenuating circumstances, which must be communicated with the instructor prior to assignment deadlines. DO NOT send late work by email. IF work is accepted late, the instructor will re-open an assignment for the student to submit their work. This will be communicated directly with the students. Late work sent to the instructor without authorization will not be accepted.

Attendance

Student attendance in an online course is determined by signing into Blackboard and completion of the weekly assignments. Students who fail to complete ONE week of coursework WILL be dropped from the course before the drop deadline or will receive a failing grade for the course after the drop deadline. Extenuating circumstances may be considered, but are not guaranteed to be accepted by the instructor to prevent drop or failure. Students who do not log in to Blackboard by the Census Date WILL be officially marked as "never attended."

Students who wish to drop the course are responsible for submitting their request directly to the university. Please do not ask the instructor to drop you from the course or assume the instructor will request the drop for you.

Student Services and Support

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 make individual or group appointments with a writing tutor. The Writing Center is located in Central Academic Building, Suite 208. The Writing Center can be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu or calling 210-784-1222. Students can also make appointments with the Writing Center under the Student Services tab in JagWire.

Students with Disabilities The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be

guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disability. If you believe you have a disability that may require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. DSS is located at the Main Campus on the 2nd floor of the Central Academic Building in suite 210. The phone number for DSS is 210-784-1335 and email is dss@tamusa.edu.

Student Counseling and Wellness Services

The Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) provides short-term individual, couples, and group counseling services, consultation, and prevention services that facilitate students' academic and life goals and enhance their personal growth and well-being.

SC&WS's staff of licensed mental health professionals can work with you to identify effective strategies both to cope with difficult situations and to achieve goals set with your counselor. To schedule an appointment please call 210-784-1331 or email StuCounseling@tamusa.edu. SC&WS is located in Modular C, 166.

General's Store

General's Store is an on-campus food pantry to serve members of the campus community who need food assistance. Located in Patriot's Casa room 110, this service is available Wednesdays (2-6 p.m.), Thursdays (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) and by appointment. For more information email foodpantry@tamusa.edu or visit <http://www.tamusa.edu/mays/general-store/>

First-Year Composition Program Policies

Attendance

Your success and development as a writer depends 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.

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 failing the class which is at the discretion of the instructor.

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.

University Policies

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, please contact the Help Desk at 210-784-4357. If you don’t hear back from them within 48 hours, contact them again. They have a lot of requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up.

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.

Student Misconduct

Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head.

All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, a grade of ‘F’ on the particular paper or assignment, a failing grade in the course, or possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students’ best interests to avoid even the appearance of such

behavior. If you are ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact your instructor for an assessment of the situation.

All student term papers and other written assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software.

Final Note

As your instructor, I am committed to helping you achieve the course and program outcomes. As such, I encourage you to email me with any questions or concerns you might have, and to schedule virtual office visits when necessary. Remember that I am here to help you succeed.

Week/Dates/Topics/Important Info

1 1/20-1/25 Syllabus, Course Schedule, Class Introductions

2 1/26-2/1 Academic Writing

3 2/2-2/8 Writing Process, Invention & Prewriting (2/4 Census Date)

4 2/9-2/15 Argument, Logic, & Rhetorical Appeals, Rhetorical Analysis Project

5 2/16-2/22 Rhetoric & Rhetorical Analysis Project

6 2/23-3/1 Peer Review, Rhetorical Analysis Project Due

7 3/2-3/8 Classical Argument, Argumentation Project

3/9-3/15 Spring Break – No Classes

8 3/16-3/22 Toulmin Argument, Argumentation Project

9 3/23-3/29 Rogerian Argument, Argumentation Project

10 3/30-4/5 Peer Review, Argumentation Project Due

11 4/6-4/12 Research Project Topic Selection and Prewriting

12 4/13-4/19 Research Project Annotated Bibliography and Working with Sources (4/17 Last Day to Drop Course with “W”)

13 4/20-4/26 Research Project Outlining and Drafting

14 4/27-5/3 Peer Review, Research Project Final Research Project Due (11/27-11/29 Thanksgiving Holiday)

15 5/4 Final Portfolio and Reflection Due (No Late Submissions)