

ENGLISH 4398: Senior Seminar

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm-4:45pm in Classroom Hall 206

DR. LIZBETT TINOCO (SHE/HER)

- ➡ ltinoco@tamusa.edu: I'll respond within 24 hours M-F between 9am and 5pm
- ➡ Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30pm-3:30pm in Classroom Hall 314D
- ➡ Online office hours by appointment. Email me to set up Zoom meeting

WELCOME TO ENGLISH 4398!

This course invites you to revise a paper or project that you began in an earlier course in the English major. While you may choose to revise a research paper, you could also choose a technical document, a lesson plan, a creative piece, a multimedia project, or another large project. We will discuss revision as a process of *reseeing* your project. As we embark on *reseeing*, we will turn our attention to the knowledge and circulations that inform your work. Thus, as you revise your work, you will intentionally engage epistemologies informing your work and the paths of circulation that you are contributing to. Each of these facets of our work comes with ethical considerations that we will discuss throughout the course and you will present in a final capstone ePortfolio

The goals for this course are the following: develop and articulate an advanced understanding of revision; identify the epistemologies informing your work; understand both the structural and theoretical facets of the genre and medium in which you are writing; develop critical reading, writing, and thinking skills; develop research skills; and communicate complex and nuanced ideas in written and various other mediums.

CONTACTING DR. TINOCO



E-MAIL: ltinoco@tamusa.edu. I typically respond within 24 hours and during the hours of 9am and 5pm, though it may take me longer over the weekends. Please take this response time into account when reaching out—it's difficult for me to help if you contact me the night before something is due.



ZOOM: I am available to chat (with video on or off) via Zoom by appointment throughout the week. To schedule a time to meet with me outside office hours, please email me.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THIS IN-PERSON COURSE



IN-PERSON MEETINGS: This class will meet in-person every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30pm-4:45pm in Classroom Hall 206

Class meetings are designed to be as useful as possible. We will have conversations about the readings and course assignments. Each session will give you skills that build towards the major projects, so it's a good idea to show up to class! However, if you are sick, please stay home.



HOMEWORK: There is typically homework (reading, writing, or both) due every week. It's important to check our class Blackboard site frequently so that you don't miss a reading or assignment.



WORK LOAD: In addition to our class meetings, you can expect to spend roughly 3-4 hours a week on this class (give or take).

Below are my tips for staying on track with this course:

- Set a consistent time each week to sit down and focus solely on this class (and put it on your calendar!). Establishing a reading and writing routine will help you stay organized.
- Complete work on a weekly basis when it's due. Check each weekly module in Blackboard to help you check in and stay on track.
- If you find yourself falling behind, reach out to me! I'm happy to work with you individually to get you caught up and strategize for how we can get you successfully across the finish line!



ANNOUNCEMENTS: I will be in contact with you via email and Blackboard with any announcements or reminders. Please check to make sure your preferred email is linked to your Jagwire account.

REQUIRED MATERIALS



Regular access to a computer, internet, your Blackboard account, and A&M-SA email.



Time. This course requires a significant commitment to spending time with the readings and assignments. Everyone works at their own pace, so take note of how long it's taking you to get through the material and plan accordingly.



A commitment to writing as a process. This means you'll be drafting, giving/receiving feedback, and revising based on your own assessment of how your writing should evolve. You should think of me as a coach in this regard: I am more than happy to meet with you one-on-one to work on your writing.



An open mind and willingness to contribute to our learning community!



Readings will be provided as PDFs through Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES



ATTENDANCE: Attendance is required for this course because class meetings provide structure, community, and opportunities to engage with the material in ways that cannot always be replicated outside of class. That said, this course is designed with flexibility and understanding in mind.

Life happens—illness, work, family, and other responsibilities are understood, so if you are absent, please make sure to communicate with me. Students are responsible for staying current with course materials and completing all assignments on time.



PARTICIPATION: Participation will be measured in a number of ways--weekly discussion posts, peer revisions, labor journals, and meeting with me. I take note of who has done the readings and activities, is actively listening, offers thoughtful questions, interacts with classmates and me respectfully, etc. You will have the opportunity to reflect on your engagement during the course of the semester through weekly labor journals which will help me understand what you need in order to participate and complete work successfully.



LATE WORK: If you anticipate not being able to complete an assignment on time, please reach out and let me know what is going on before the deadline. I will work with you to come up with a reasonable extension. Make sure you read the labor contract policies on ignored and late work.



COMMUNITY MEMBER: The most important rule: be a generous and kind colleague. This involves engaging with one another respectfully and collegially. This doesn't mean we have to always agree, but we should strive to interact with kindness and understanding. Please keep an open mind when engaging with your peers.

You should also be a generous reader. The readings you'll encounter in this class might be difficult. If you have a negative reaction to a text, couch your criticism in what it is about the idea, theory, or issue that sparked your reaction. We're covering a lot of topics, so please keep an open mind to our readings!



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The assumption is that your work is original and generated for ENGL 4398 during the Spring semester of 2026. However, writing can often rely on collaboration with your peers. In some situations, it can often *feel* like you're plagiarizing when in fact, you're not.

There are many types of plagiarism—some more obvious than others, but there are subtle forms you may not be aware of. A good rule of thumb to live by: if you're not sure you're violating these rules, talk to me about it *before* turning in the work in question. To familiarize yourself with the details of A&M-SA's Academic Dishonesty policy and examples of/penalties for instances of academic dishonesty, visit

<https://catalog.tamusa.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-procedures/dishonesty/>



Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI)/ChatGPT: I expect you to generate your own content/writing this semester. However, there are situations and contexts within our course 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, “meh.” For these reasons, I discourage you from using GAI technology to generate content for you. If you have reason to use GAI to generate content with you, then I ask that you consult with me before doing so. 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 my permission and/or without proper attribution qualifies as plagiarism.



COLLEGE IS HARD: Balancing your classes, job, personal life, and everything else in-between is incredibly difficult, even under ideal circumstances. The ongoing global crises (health, financial, and otherwise) have put undue stressors on us that make it difficult to maintain a quality of life that we are all deserving of.

An important part of being healthy and happy is prioritizing the activities that address your human needs, including taking breaks to rest, relax, and do the activities that bring you joy. Whether it's taking a walk, drawing, playing a video game, or talking on the phone with a friend, schedule these things into your calendar. They are necessary parts of your success. And if you're ever feeling overwhelmed by this class, please reach out to me.

PROJECTS & LABOR CONTRACT

Detailed project guidelines will be distributed to you as we encounter each assignment throughout the semester (and all project guidelines can always be found in Blackboard). Please note that final grades will be based on the labor contracts. Labor contracts will be discussed at greater length in class.

Project 1: SWOT Analysis
Project 2: Revision of Project (project proposal; annotated bibliography; drafts of revision in-progress; final draft)
Project 3: Digital Portfolio (Bio, Showcase of Work, Project Revision, Revision Process, Final Reflection)

Discussion Posts, Peer Revisions, & Interaction with Classmates

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES



FOOD:

General's Food Store:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/mays/students/general-store.html>

Texas SNAP:

<https://yourtexasbenefits.hhsc.texas.gov/programs/snap>

SA Food Bank:

<https://safoodbank.org>

SA Food Pantries:

https://www.foodpantries.org/ci/texas-san_antonio



HOUSING & SLEEP SPACES:

SA Fair Housing:

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/nhsd/programs/fairhousing>

SA Shelters:

<https://www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/cgi-bin/id/city.cgi?city=an%20antonio&state=TX>



MENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY:

Student Counseling and Wellness Services:

<https://www.tamusa.edu/student-resources/support/student-counseling-center/index.html>

To schedule a phone or video appointment, call (210) 784-1331

M-F 8am-5pm

Safety Walk Escort Program:

Call (210) 784-1900

SA Metro Health:

<https://www.sanantonio.gov/HEALTH>

ABOUT DR. TINOCO: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME



I'm in my seventh year at A&M-SA. I was born and raised in California, and I love watching sports, especially college football and basketball. I also enjoy



spending time with my dog, Belle. I have a PhD in Rhetoric & Composition from the University of Texas at El Paso. My dissertation (the final book-length writing project you do as a PhD student) was on writing program administration at community colleges. Currently, I'm working on a book project on feedback and linguistic justice. Here at A&M-SA, I teach courses in rhetoric and writing studies, and I'm the Director of Writing Across the Curriculum.

Please know I will be a fierce advocate for your success here at A&M-SA. You can always feel welcomed to come to me with questions or for academic/professional advice—if I don't know the answer, I can figure out where to find it!

Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week	Readings	Assignments due
Week 1 January 20-January 25 Introduction & Revision	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to Course <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read “Revision” • Digital Portfolio Introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grading contract • Reading Notes
Week 2 January 26-February 1 Revision/SWOT	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bell hooks: “Telling the Story” • Irvin: “Changing your Mindset About Revision” <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballenger and Myers: “The Emotional Work of Revision” • SWOT Analysis • Introduction to SWOT Analysis Assignment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Notes • In-class activities • Labor Journal
Week 3 February 2-February 8 Feedback/SWOT Analysis	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grauman: “What's that Supposed to Mean? Using Feedback on Your Writing” <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT Analysis Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Notes • SWOT Analysis Handout • Labor Journal

<p>Week 4</p> <p>February 9-February 15</p> <p>SWOT Analysis/Audience</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT Analysis Draft for Peer Revision <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Project Proposal & Annotated Bibliography • Developing a Revision Plan • <u>“Adapting to your Audience”</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWOT Analysis Draft for Peer Revision • Final draft of SWOT Analysis • Reading Notes • Labor Journal
<p>Week 5</p> <p>February 16-February 22</p> <p>Genre/Project Proposal</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>“Genre”</u> • <u>Introduction and Strategies for Multimodal Composing</u> • Revision Plan/Timeline <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal Draft & Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Notes • In-class activity • Proposal Draft • Labor Journal
<p>Week 6</p> <p>February 23-March 1</p> <p>Research/Revision</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop • Annotated Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Proposal due • Labor Journal
<p>Week 7</p> <p>March 2-March 8</p> <p>Research/Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop • Annotated Sources <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop • Annotated Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated Sources • Labor Journal

<p>Week 8</p> <p>March 9-March 15</p> <p>Spring Break</p>	<p>Spring Break--no class</p>	<p>No assignments due</p>
<p>Week 9</p> <p>March 16-March 22</p> <p>Research/Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop • Annotated Sources <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop • Annotated Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annotated Sources • Labor Journal
<p>Week 10</p> <p>March 23-March 29</p> <p>Research/Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop • Annotated Sources <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Workshop • Annotated Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Journal • Annotated Bib Due
<p>Week 11</p> <p>March 30-April 5</p> <p>Project Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Workshop <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference with Dr. Tinoco 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Conference with Dr. Tinoco • Labor Journal
<p>Week 12</p> <p>April 6-April 12</p> <p>Project Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Workshop <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Workshop • Start building Digital Portfolio, if you haven't already done so 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Journal

<p>Week 13 April 13-April 19 Project Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project draft and peer revision • Work on Digital Portfolio • Final Presentation Guidelines <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Workshop • Work on Digital Portfolio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Journal
<p>Week 14 April 20-April 26 Digital Portfolio/Project Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue work on Digital Portfolio • Finalize project revisions <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Journal
<p>Week 15 April 27-May 3 Digital Portfolio/Project Revisions</p>	<p>Tuesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final project peer revision <p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Project Due • Final Reflection • Labor Journal
<p>Week 16 May 4-May 10</p>	<p>Thursday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Digital Portfolio Due

*subject to change--I will notify you of any changes via Blackboard