



Course Syllabus First Year Composition

Spring 2026

Composition II ENGL 1302

Class Time: Online/Asynchronous

Class meets from January 20th through May 12th

This is an online course.

Instructor: Yvette Rodriguez (formerly Torres)

Office: Classroom Hall Rm. 228

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 am-3:00 pm.

Email: ctorres@tamusa.edu. Please include the course section number in your email. I usually respond to all emails within 24 hours on Monday-Thursday. I do not check my email on Fridays, the weekends, or on holidays.

Virtual Office: <https://tamusa.webex.com/meet/carmen.torres>

Office Phone: 210 784-2645

Important Dates

January 20	First day of classes
February 23-March 6	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break-no classes
April 3	Study day-no classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
May 4	Last day of scheduled classes
May 5	Study day-no classes
May 6-12	Final Examinations
May 12	End of Spring Semester

Course Description

ENGL 1302 builds on the reading and writing skills developed in ENGL 1301 and invites students to enter 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 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:

Skills	Description
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.

Required Course Materials

All materials needed for this course are available through Open Education Resources and links will be provided on blackboard. I encourage you to look through these resources because there might be topics you are interested in learning about that we do not cover in class. Reading assignments will also be made available as pdf copies on blackboard before the assigned dates.

Supplies:

- Access to a computer and reliable internet – computer labs are available on campus.
- If you do not have a computer or reliable internet at home and you would like this technology, please contact the ITS Help Desk at (210) 784-4357 or HelpDesk@tamusa.edu to request assistance. There are a limited number of supplies that are distributed on a first come, first-served basis.

Blackboard

This course uses Blackboard extensively; most writings will be submitted as attachments on Learn, as will much of the homework. 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. When all else fails, contact me via email and attach your assignment.

Grading Overview/Labor Based Assessment

In this class I utilize labor-based assessment which assesses you on the quality of your labor rather than the quality of your finished product. This means that you will be assessed on the work that you complete. There will be a special emphasis on your ability to meet deadlines and meet or exceed assignment expectations. Quality and attention to detail will ensure that your level of writing will improve and that you will grow as a scholar. In short, the more you work, the better your grade—and the better you'll position yourself to learn and grow. 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 visit my office to request an extension (in advance) or a revision on a previously submitted assignment.

Score	Description
100	On-time and complete
75	Late or incomplete
50	Late and incomplete
0	Missing or plagiarized

Course Assignments

This course is reading and writing-intensive, and will also include a lot of online discussion. Throughout the semester, you will publish major assignments to your Writer's Portfolio. Major assignments include an Annotated Bibliography, Synthesis Research Paper, an Abstract, a Final Presentation Brochure, and a Final Presentation. Formative weekly assignments include Online Discussion Boards, Reading Notes, Labor Logs, and Labor Journals.

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.

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.

Online Classroom Environment

I am 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, I 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 I 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.

Texas A&M University San Antonio Important Policies and Resources



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

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 in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the 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 accommodation 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:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 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 include 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 the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan on our website](#). 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, 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 e-portfolios, 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. Students wanting to work in real time with a tutor can schedule an Online Appointment. Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an e-Tutoring appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). 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 [submit a CARE report for support](#). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

Military Affairs

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety 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 with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course 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.

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, equal 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 and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to 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, based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct 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 Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) 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, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students

Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused

absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities

The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. 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, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. 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.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. 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, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.

3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#).

Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marting Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) as available on our website.

Course Calendar

Each week's assignments are due the following Monday by 11:59 pm.

Unit 1: Rhetoric and Language

Week 1 (1/20-1/23): Introducing Composition II

- Readings: Syllabus, Tamusa Library Guide and take the quizzes on Introduction to the research process <https://libguides.tamusa.edu/c.php?g=922087&p=6645847>
Watch the two videos and take the quiz. Enter your preferred email address in the field after you complete the quiz to receive a copy of the results!
- Assignment: You upload your copy of the results to Blackboard. Labor Log due.
- Digication: Create your homepage for your digication.
- Writing Assignment: What do you want to do with your degree? Do you want to go to graduate school or maybe get a job? Where do you see yourself in 5 years? What is your five-year plan?

Week 2 (1/26-1/30): Rhetorical Awareness

- Readings: Mike Bunn “How to Read like a writer”
- Assignments: Research your major. Discussion board topic, How is “Reading Like a Writer” similar to and/or different from the way(s) you read for other classes? Labor Log and Reading Notes due.
- Writing Assignment: What kinds of choices do you make as a writer that readers might identify in your written work? Is there anything you notice in the Bunn essay that you might like to try in your own writing? What is that technique or strategy? When do you plan to try using it?

Week 3 (2/2-2/6): Critical Language Awareness

- Read: Select an academic article and annotate the piece as you normally would.
- Assignment: Research and locate five sources that pertain to your major. Review the sources and locate the rhetorical context: author, audience, purpose, and context. Upload a pdf or snaps of the annotated article. Labor Log, Labor Journal, and Reading Notes due.
- Writing Assignment: Tell me what your annotation strategy is.
- Digication: upload your annotated article and the information about how you annotate to your digication page.

Week 4 (2/9-2/13): Student Conferences

- Readings: No readings this week
- Assignments: Unit 1 Portfolio, Labor Log due.

Unit 2: Research and Ethics

Week 5 (2/16-2/20): Style Matters, MLA and APA

- Readings: MLA and APA style guides
- Assignment: choose 3 quotes from one of your sources and then write a paragraph using the quote as a citation. Cite the correct citation style for your discipline. Labor Log and Reading Notes due.

Week 6 (2/23-2/27): Keeping an Annotated Bibliography (the backbone of research)

- Library: Use the following link to get information from the library on annotated bibliographies. <https://libguides.tamusa.edu/c.php?g=587297&p=8221230>
- Writing Assignment: Create an annotated bibliography of at least 10 sources for your major. Labor Log, Labor Journal, and Reading Notes due.
- Digication: make sure you annotated bib is on your digication page.

Week 7 (3/2-3/6): Responding to Academic Writing (How academics communicate)

- Writing Assignment pick one source from your annotated bib. Write a summary of the article, paraphrase the main argument, list 3 quotes you think are important and what they mean to you. Labor Log and Reading Notes due.
- Digication: make sure you annotated bib is on your digication page

Week 8 (3/9-3/13): Spring Break (No classes)

- Readings: No readings this week
- Assignments: Complete any pending assignments

Week 9 (3/16-3/20): Student Conferences

- Readings: No readings this week
- Assignment: write a brief argument agreeing or disagreeing with one of the sources from your annotated bib. Labor Log and Labor Journal due.

Week 10 (3/23-3/27): Writing Your First Response Paper 2-3 pages

- Make an appointment with the librarian to help you organize your research projects.
- Read: An academic article on salary and work responsibilities for your selected field of study.
- Assignment: Write a response paper draft of your findings, Unit 2 Portfolio. Labor Log, and Reading Notes due.

Unit 3: Synthesis and Reflection

Week 11 (3/30-4/3): Revision, Editing, and Proofreading

- Revise your paper: Submit final draft by due date
- Assignment: Labor Log, and Reading Notes due.

Week 12 (4/6-4/10): Writing an Abstract (Proposal for a research paper or project)

- Writing Assignment: Submit an abstract for your final research paper. Labor Log, Labor Journal and Reading Notes due.

Week 13 (4/13-4/17): Research Paper – on your topic 3-5 pages paper

- Writing Assignment: Submit final copy of your final research paper. Labor Log, and Reading Notes due.

Week 14 (4/20-4/24): Single Page handout of your research paper

- Handouts for presentations on your selected career
- Assignment: create a single-page handout for your presentation, make sure to have a selected readings list on there so that people who are interested can get more information about your topic. Labor Log, and Reading Notes due.
- Digication: make sure that the final draft of your handout is on digication.

Week 15 (4/27-5/1): Designing Presentations

- Assignment: create the visuals for your presentation and turn them in as an assignment. Labor Log, Labor Journal and Reading Notes due.
This is a first draft. Make sure that your final draft is on digication so that it can be accessed by everyone.

Week 16 (5/4-5/8): Final Conferences

- Readings: No readings this week
- Assignments: Final Portfolio (with Final Reflection)