

English 1301: Composition I  
fall semester 2016  
Instructor: Susan Spring, M.A.  
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Office: MAB 103-B  
Off. Hrs. 11:00-12:00 MW, 8:00-9:30 & 11:00-12:30 TTh  
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## *Sul Ross State University*

### Syllabus

**Course Description:** This composition course includes the study and production of various writing modes, with emphasis on exposition and analysis. Students will read rhetorical essays as the basis for written response and research and as models for their own writing. All steps of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading) will be taught as well as grammar rules and stylistic techniques.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize different purposes, modes, and audiences in writing.
2. Understand and practice steps in the writing process, including pre-writing, revising, editing, and proofreading.
3. Develop ideas fully and clearly in written assignments.
4. Organize ideas effectively in written assignments.
5. Recognize and practice conventional uses of grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and diction.
6. Construct narrative, expository, and analytical papers.
7. Employ critical thinking skills when reading and discussing assigned works.

**Course Writing Assignments:** All writing assignments must be MLA-formatted and will be assessed on a scale of 0-100 points, including your initial paper on personal and social responsibility as well as rhetorical response papers/essays. The final exam will revisit your original paper and must represent an improvement in focus, organization, development, critical thinking, and grammar/mechanics/form.

This course averages ten (10) papers per semester. The first paper will be based on a common class-wide writing prompt regarding personal and social responsibility. We will then proceed to 2-page rhetorical response papers based on one reading from the text. We will then move on to 3-page rhetorical response papers based on two/paired readings from the text. Toward the end of the semester, we will engage in a primer on academic research, and the resultant abstract will be a double grade. We will take advantage of our "Smart Classroom;" all readings will be completed and all papers composed in the classroom.

You may obtain a final exam schedule from your instructor or from the SRSU website.

#### **Grading Policy:**

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 or lower

#### **Attendance Policy:**

Class attendance is absolutely essential for success in ENG 1301. There exists a direct correlation between absenteeism and failure in the course.

**Instructional Policy:**

English 1301, your introductory course to college composition, is conducted in a learning community environment; i.e., your instructor will meet with you individually, inside the full classroom setting, to critique and discuss your papers in order to improve your reading and writing skills.

**Drop Policy:**

Friday, November 11, is the last day to drop the course with a “W.”

**Course Policies:**

Reading Assignments – Students are expected to complete readings by the dates assigned and to come to class prepared to discuss them. In-class exercises and activities cannot be made up.

Submission of Assignments – Students are expected to submit all written assignments on the dates required. I do not accept papers via email or Blackboard.

Late Submission of Assignments – Late papers will not be accepted, or, at the discretion of the instructor, will be penalized one letter grade.

Etiquette – Students are expected to come to class on time. Cell phones and headphones must be turned **off** during lectures.

Notify the instructor if you are unable to attend a class. Contact the instructor before the next class if you have missed a session and need to know what to make up.

**Required Text:**

Mims, Joan T. and Elizabeth M. Nollen. *Mirror on America: Essays and Images from Popular Culture*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford St. Martins, 2012.

**Additionally Required Materials:**

You are advised to bring a computer thumb drive to class with you. Your papers must be portable or saved to your university or email account in order to revise and print them in the library, in an ACR lab, or from your personal computer.

Always come to class prepared to take notes manually.

**Equal Access:**

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M.Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8691. Email: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu).