

English 1301: Composition I
spring semester 2020
Instructor: Susan Spring, M.A.
Email: sspring@sulross.edu

Office: MAB 103-A
Off. Hours: 11:00-12:00 MW/9:30-11:00 TR or by appt.
Office phone: 432.837.8262
Lang. & Lit. office phone: 432.837.8151/MAB-114

Sul Ross State University

Syllabus

Course Description: Students in this course will learn to compose college-level written responses to select reading passages.

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

1. Organize ideas effectively in written assignments.
2. Develop ideas fully and clearly in written assignments.
3. Recognize and practice conventional uses of grammar, mechanics, punctuation, and diction.
4. Employ critical thinking skills when reading and discussing assigned works.

Marketable Skills:

1. Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking.
2. Students will use different research strategies to address problems and develop ideas that engage a variety of perspectives.
3. Students will recognize how social and cultural contexts shape meaning and language.

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 as well as rhetorical response papers/essays. Toward the end of the semester, we will revisit your original paper, and your composition must represent an improvement in organization, development, grammar/mechanics/form, and critical thinking in terms of your sense of both personal and social responsibility.

This course averages ten (10) papers per semester. The first paper will be based on a common class-wide writing prompt. 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. I do **not** accept late research projects. We will take advantage of our “Smart Classroom;” all readings will be completed and all papers composed in the classroom.

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, April 3, is the last day to drop the course with a “W.”

Course Policies:

Reading Assignments – All reading assignments will be read aloud and discussed in class. 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 numerically penalized. If accepted, late papers will not be line-edited.

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:

America Now: Short Readings from Recent Periodicals. Edited by Robert Atwan, 12th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017.

Additionally Required Materials:

You are advised to bring a computer thumb drive/USB 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.

Save all of your graded papers! (Trust me: You'll be glad you did.)

Always come to class prepared to take notes manually.

Major Composition Due Dates:

Jan. 15-21	Diagnostic Core Assessment
Weekly, Jan. 22-April 3	Rhetorical Response Papers
Week of April 6	Final Core Assessment Paper
Week of April 13	Research Thesis + 3 printed academic sources
April 28, 29	Research Abstracts due
May 1, 4-6	Final Exams

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 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: 432-837-8203.