Composition And Rhetoric
ENGL-1301

Meeting Times

Contact Information

Description

48 semester contact hours. Credit: Three semester hours

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis. This writing-intensive first-semester freshman composition course includes (1) study of and practice in all phases of the writing process, both individually and collaboratively, and (2) study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Essays, including a 1500-word documented library research-based paper, are required.

Requisites

Prerequisites: A student must be college ready in reading and writing according to TSI college-ready standards.

Corequisites: None

Core Objectives

Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. 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. Core objectives of this course include critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and personal responsibility.

Assessment

Both direct and indirect assessment methods may be used to measure success in this course. Students will demonstrate their writing skills in the form of analytical and argumentative essays, including a 1500-2000 word researched paper and shorter papers, for a total of at least 4000 graded words. Faculty-designed rubrics are used for assessing written essays, MLA documentation style, critical thinking skills, oral reports, and teamwork. Personal responsibility in the form of academic integrity is encouraged by student submission of papers to a plagiarism-detection database. In addition, students develop social and teamwork skills as they participate in peer and self-critiques of papers and group assignments.

Core Curriculum Statement

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge in human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. For details relating to this core course, please see:
Outcomes

Students who succeed in this course will

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research and writing processes;
2. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays;
3. Analyze, interpret, evaluate, and respond to the ethical and logical uses of evidence in a variety of texts;
4. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose, credibly and persuasively;
5. Use edited American English in academic essays; and
6. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution, applying the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (APA, CMS, and MLA, et al.).

The coursework teaches students critical reading, primary and secondary research, academic integrity, interpersonal collaboration, and the generation, analysis, synthesis, and expression of ideas in oral, aural, written, and visual form that will serve them throughout their post-secondary learning experiences and beyond.

Materials

Textbooks


Technology and Software

- A computer (certain elements of this course cannot be completed on a phone, tablet, or Chromebook)
- Reliable Internet access
- Speakers, headphones, or earbuds
- A webcam with a microphone
- Google Chrome (download for free at https://www.google.com/chrome/)

Note: Students may purchase their textbooks from any retailer they choose. However, the following information may be helpful:

- Physical copies of all the textbooks can be ordered online from the Blinn Bookstores in Brenham (https://blinn-brenham.bncollege.com/shop/blinn-brenham/home) and in Bryan (https://blinncol.bncollege.com/shop/blinn/home). The Bookstores will ship the books to you free of charge.
- An eBook of *A Writer’s Reference* (https://store.macmillanlearning.com/us/product/Writers-Reference-with-Exercises/p/131910696X) and, if needed, access to LaunchPad can be purchased from the Macmillan store.

Academic Integrity Online Resources

http://libguides.blinn.edu/videosandtutorials/academicintegrity (https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.blinn.edu%2Facademics%2Ccore-curriculum.html&data=02%7C01%7Canna.hall%40blinn.edu%7Cb5d9cb8f526848ef991f08d8362ee27c7c64448a85d0074d57a583b6ec98e99c29%7C1%7C0%7C63731892284278025%7Cdf7a0d6jswv%2Fv%2Fds6D7JawzZ3JYmqTAjzt08%3D&reserved=0)
Course Requirements

Students who succeed in ENGL 1301 will produce

- a minimum of two 750-word or three 500-word essays (an annotated bibliography may be assigned but may not count as a major essay);
- one 1500- to 2000-word argument paper based on academic level library research;
- daily work, including but not limited to class participation, quizzes, group and team assignments, presentations, and homework; and
- a comprehensive final examination.

Online Course Integrity

Humanities Division online instructors implement a variety of strategies to ensure scholastic integrity, including but not limited to Turnitin originality checks, Honorlock proctoring, timed testing, and/or randomized test questions. Individual instructors will provide more information.

Contact Hour Requirement

In compliance with ACGM and THECB rulings,

- the number and type of contact hours per week are stated on the course reading and assignment schedule below; and
- in addition to class hours, all faculty post and keep regular office hours for individual consultations.

Evaluation

Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading System</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>Failing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>Dropped</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Weight Range</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>25-55%</td>
<td>Minimum of either two 750-word essays or three 500-word essays, as determined by instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20-25%</td>
<td>A 1500-2000 word argument paper based on academic level primary and/or secondary research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Daily Work</td>
<td>10-20%</td>
<td>Including but not limited to class discussion, in-class exercises, teamwork, oral presentations, and quizzes or exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>10-20%</td>
<td>Comprehensive final examination</td>
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Originality Requirement: All writing for this course must be original to this class this semester. Each student will produce a minimum of 4000 graded words for the course and must submit all major papers to Turnitin.

Blinn College Policies

All policies, guidelines, and procedures in the Blinn College Catalog (http://catalog.blinn.edu/), Blinn College Board Policies (http://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/1204), and the Blinn College Administrative Regulations (https://www.blinn.edu/administrative-regulations/) are applicable to this course.

Specific information on civility, attendance, add/drop, scholastic integrity, students with disabilities, final grade appeal, alternative retailers, campus carry and proctoring arrangements and cost. (http://www.blinn.edu/syllabus-policies/)

Notice of any action taken under these protocol and procedures, by Blinn College or its employees, may be delivered by hand, through the U.S. Postal Service, or electronically to the student's Blinn Buc e-mail account. Notice shall be deemed received upon actual receipt, on deposit in the U.S. Mail, or upon entering the information processing system used by Blinn College for Blinn Buc e-mail accounts, whichever first occurs.

Information about the changes Blinn has made to the Fall semester: Back with Blinn (https://www.blinn.edu/back-with-blinn/index.html).

Course Policies

Please read: Fall 2020 General Course Policies. (http://www.blinn.edu/back-with-blinn/course-policies.html)

Humanities Division Policies

Academic Honesty. Academic integrity is taught and enforced in all division classes. Plagiarism and other dishonesty will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. Academic dishonesty includes

- submitting another person’s work as one’s own,
• failing to credit research sources in one's papers,
• copying or sharing items on a test or exam,
• resubmitting work from another class (without explicit instructor permission),
• colluding inappropriately on an assignment, and
• submitting falsified documents such as doctors' notes.

While deliberate intellectual theft signals a lack of respect for oneself and others, careless or accidental plagiarism shows the student has not understood and followed guidelines for academic writing.

As part of the grading process, students in this division submit all major papers through a similarity detection service. An instructor who suspects academic dishonesty will call a conference with the student to clarify the issue. If a student has been found in violation of the Scholastic Integrity Policy, the student’s name will be forwarded to the Blinn College Student Conduct Database.

If the student has previously been cited for plagiarism at the College, a grade of F in the course will be assigned, even if the student decides to drop the course. If it is the student’s first offense, the instructor will decide whether to allow the student to rewrite the paper for a reduced grade or to assign a grade of zero.

If you are having difficulty with an assignment, please get legitimate help from your instructor, the Writing Center, your handbook, or a classmate rather than resorting to plagiarism. The short- and long-term consequences are simply not worth it. Please see the College Catalog for current policy and appeal statements.

Attendance and Absence. To succeed in college, students are expected to attend class regularly. Instructors will keep accurate records of student attendance, and students are responsible for contacting instructors promptly regarding necessary absences. Attendance is determined by the following College policies in conjunction with the stated instructor policy (refer to Instructor Policies below).

• Traditional and Blended Classes: Students are expected to attend during class time, whether they are scheduled to be in the physical classroom or in the virtual classroom using Zoom. Any student who has been exposed to COVID-19, feels ill in any way, or does not feel comfortable attending class in person should notify the instructor and attend class remotely using Zoom.

• Live Online Classes: In Live Online classes, students are expected to log in to eCampus and attend class using Zoom during the scheduled class time.

• Fully Online Classes: To be counted present in fully online classes, students must not only log in to eCampus but also complete the minimum specified work by the scheduled due dates. Refer to the Instructor Policies and the Course Schedule for details.

Sometimes students may be unable to attend class at the scheduled time, especially if they are extremely ill or caring for someone who is ill. In these situations, students are responsible for communicating with their instructors in a timely manner; students also should be able to provide documentation, like a letter from a doctor, to substantiate the reasons for the absence. Blinn’s health clinics are located on the Brenham, Bryan, and RELLIS Campuses and provide free health services to all current Blinn students throughout the College District, including online students: http://www.blinn.edu/health-clinic/index.html

Dropping the Class. Students who want to drop a class are responsible for dropping themselves. Students can drop a class by clicking the Add/Drop button in myBlinn. Students who need to withdraw from a class for medical reasons or military service should contact Blinn’s Enrollment Services (979-830-4800). More information about dropping can be found in the College Catalog.
For classes in the 1st 8-week term, the last day to drop a class with a grade of Q is Friday, October 2; for classes in the 16-week and 2nd 8-week terms, the last day to drop the class with a grade of Q is Monday, November 30.

Face Masks. In accordance with CDC guidance, Blinn requires all individuals on campus to wear face masks or cloth face coverings that cover both the nose and mouth when in the presence of others. Therefore, all students must correctly wear face masks while attending in-person classes. Some individuals may not be able to wear a cloth face covering due to a pre-existing medical condition or other disability. Students should contact the Office of Disability Services to request an exemption. Students without accommodations who do not correctly wear a face mask or other appropriate face covering will be asked to leave class. If a student continues to refuse to wear a mask or face covering, he or she will be subject to the College's Incivility Protocol Procedure.

Health and Safety. To support the health and safety of everyone on campus, students and faculty will follow all social distancing guidelines and other recommendations provided by the CDC to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Every week, students and faculty must self-certify that they do not have COVID, do not have COVID symptoms, and have not been exposed to COVID. In the event that members of a class need to self-isolate or a room needs to be closed for cleaning, the class will continue to meet online using Zoom at the scheduled class time for the period recommended by the CDC. In these circumstances, students will be notified that they do not need to attend class in person and will instead attend class remotely. Furthermore, starting Monday, November 30, all class meetings will take place live online for the remainder of the semester. Closures, changes in class meeting locations, and other information about health and safety will be announced via email by the instructor or the College, so students should regularly check eCampus and their Buc email accounts for updates.

Papers. To maintain physical distancing, instructors will neither distribute nor collect papers in class. The course syllabus as well as instructions, prompts, and other course materials will be posted on eCampus for students to access. Students in all classes will submit all major writing assignments to a Turnitin-enabled dropbox through eCampus. All other assignments must be submitted online according to the instructor's requirements.

Proctoring Requirements. In order to maintain high academic standards, Blinn College requires that a minimum of one major assignment worth at least 10% of the total course grade must be proctored. Additional proctoring for exams, quizzes, and other major assignments will be determined by the instructor.

In this class, the following assessments are required to be proctored using Honorlock:[THIS IS AN EXAMPLE; LIST THE PROCTORED ASSESSMENTS FOR YOUR CLASS.]

- Reading quizzes
- Midterm exam
- Final exam

Honorlock uses AI technology to monitor your testing session. Blinn College pays for access to Honorlock, so there is no direct cost to students at exam time. Students must have a reliable high-speed internet connection, a webcam, and a microphone (if the webcam does not have one); students also must use Google Chrome to take the exam. Click here for an overview of Honorlock.

Student Email Accounts. Blinn College assigns every student an email account to facilitate official College correspondence. Students need to check their Blinn accounts regularly for important communications, including excessive absence reports and emergency announcements.

Textbooks. The assigned textbooks are essential for learning, especially in classes focusing on the study of the written word. Students need the books from the very beginning of the semester. Students in all classes, including online and blended classes, are expected to acquire and use the textbook assigned by the course instructor.
The Writing Center. Blinn’s Writing Center (https://www.blinn.edu/writing-centers/index.html) provides free professional online tutoring for students in all courses at Blinn College. Tutors help students correct specific writing weaknesses so they can feel confident in their writing, succeed in their classes, and work toward educational and career goals. Students can request live tutoring by clicking the Upswing link in eCampus, or students can request feedback on their essays by going to https://bucblinn.sharepoint.com/sites/WritingCenterHelpDesk and clicking the typewriter icon. For additional help or more information about Blinn’s Writing Center, please email AskaTutor@blinn.edu, call (979) 209-7591, or stop by room ACAD 9 on the Brenham Campus and A 118 on the Bryan Campus.

Division Grading Standards for Papers and In-class Essays

NOTE: To receive a grade of A, B, or C, the paper must meet all requirements of the assignment. All research material of a paper must be correctly documented, and formatting must adhere to instructor requirements and current standards of the Modern Language Association (MLA) or the style guide prescribed by instructor.

The A paper (90-100%) represents original, outstanding work. It shows consistently careful thought, fresh insights, sophisticated analysis, and stylistic maturity.

- The reader moves through the A paper effortlessly because of its effective transitions and topic sentences, strong organization, and thorough, purposeful development.
- The thesis of an A paper is a complete, well-formulated sentence appearing early in the paper. It clearly states the controlling idea of the paper and projects the organization of supporting ideas to follow.
- Directly quoted and paraphrased passages are gracefully integrated into the text with correct attribution.
- An A paper is not marred by distracting mechanical and syntactic errors such as fragments, run-on sentences, subject-verb agreement problems, and incorrect or missing punctuation.
- Word choice is marked by precision and a varied, advanced vocabulary. It is free of jargon, clichés, and empty language.

The B paper (80-89%) represents clearly good, above average college level work. It demonstrates insight, detailed analysis, and a varied vocabulary.

- Its specific points are logically ordered, with appropriate transitions and topic sentences; ideas are well developed and supported with evidence.
- The thesis of a B paper is a complete sentence, appearing early in the paper, which states the essay’s controlling idea.
- Directly quoted and paraphrased passages are smoothly integrated into the text with appropriate attribution.
- A B paper is mostly free of distracting mechanical and syntactic errors such as subject-verb agreement problems or incorrect or missing punctuation. Serious errors, such as fragments and run-ons, rarely appear in the B paper. The writer’s meaning is clear throughout the document.
- In summary, the language of the B paper is clear, correct, and often thoughtful, but it lacks the candor and precision of the most memorable writing.

The C paper (70-79%) represents average college-level work. It is a competent expression of ordinary thoughts in ordinary language and exhibits a writing style that is basically correct.

- It has an organizational pattern, with body paragraphs containing information that is relevant to the assignment. However, it often lacks varied transitions, clear topic sentences, and other information needed to guide the reader.
- It has a thesis, but it usually lacks specificity in language and focus. It may be insubstantial, vague, or simply too broad or general.
- Analysis is superficial or inconsistently provided.
- Directly quoted and paraphrased passages are integrated into the text with attribution.
- A C paper may have some serious mechanical and syntactic errors such as fragments, run-on sentences, subject-verb agreement problems, or incorrect punctuation. Errors may distract the reader but do not obscure the writer’s meaning.
- In summary, the language of the C paper is characterized by generalities rather than precise, illustrative details.

The D paper (60-69%) represents below average college work. It often demonstrates one or more of the following characteristics:

- it has only skeletal organization—e.g., body paragraphs lack topic sentences—and minimal or superficial development;
- the thesis is unclear or missing;
- analysis is infrequent, extremely vague, and/or does not follow logically from the evidence;
• direct quotations and paraphrased passages lack signal phrases or are dropped into the text without context, but still have some attribution (e.g., quotations standing alone as their own sentences, but with internal citations);
• it has serious mechanical and syntactic errors, including fragments, run-on sentences, subject-verb agreement problems, and incorrect or missing punctuation. These errors are distracting and interfere with the reader’s ability to understand the document;
• its style and sentence structure are awkward, non-standard, and ambiguous.

Note: A paper exhibiting major weaknesses in any specific area—organization, content, development, documentation conventions, grammar and mechanics, writing style—or, indeed, a failure to adequately address the assignment is usually considered, at best, a D paper.

The F paper (59% and below) is characterized by writing that falls below minimal standards for college-level literacy. It demonstrates one or more of the following characteristics:

• it has little or no organization with a lack of logical paragraphing;
• the thesis is unclear or missing;
• lack of analysis, thought, and/or purpose;
• lack of evidence, or direct quotations and paraphrased passages lack sufficient attribution;
• it has numerous and pervasive mechanical and syntactic errors, including fragments, run-on sentences, subject-verb agreement, and incorrect or missing punctuation. These errors are very distracting and significantly interfere with the reader’s ability to understand the document;
• it has a garbled or immature style.

Note: Sometimes significant inadequacy in one area is enough to fail a paper; however, serious weakness usually occurs in several areas of concern.

The No-Credit Paper (0) demonstrates one or more of the following serious errors:

• plagiarized content in any form, including the failure to acknowledge the source of any borrowed material (summarized, paraphrased, and directly quoted) and unmarked exact wording (directly quoted from either a primary or a secondary source), whether a specific well-chosen word, a phrase (two or more words), a clause, or full sentence(s);
• failure to address the assigned topic;
• failure to meet the requirements of the assignment;
• failure to follow directions.

Instructor Course Policies

Schedule

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<th>When</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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