



**ENG 1301: College Reading and Writing
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013**

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PLEASE NOTE: This is a common syllabus used by graduate assistants teaching sections of this course.

COURSE INFORMATION

– Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook(s) Required:

- ***Problem Posing: Readings for Democratic Learning.*** Eds. Mary Couzelis, J.D. Isip, and Tabetha Adkins. Fountainhead Press, 2013.
- **ENG 1301 Course Pack**- available from your instructor and online:
<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/firstYearWriting/informationForStudents.aspx>
- **College Ruled Notebook**

Course Description:

English 1301 - Introduces students to writing as an extended, complex, recursive process and prepares students for English 1302, which more rigorously examines the forms and structures of argument and means to approaching multiple audiences. In 1301 students will write weekly, and will work on essay organization and development. The course will emphasize close reading, summarizing, and analysis of expository texts, including student writing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.

2. Students will be able to engage with peers in a way that demonstrates their understanding of relevant course theories and concepts.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize varied sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.
4. Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

Core Objectives (Language, Philosophy & Culture):

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will be able to form substantive and evidence- driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize varied sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.

Communication Skills: In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M- Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.

Social Responsibility: Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

Local learning outcomes:

Communications: In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M- Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.

This objective will be assessed by the instructor using a rubric upon each student's successful completion of at least four major writing assignments.

Teamwork: Students will be able to engage with peers in a way that demonstrates their understanding of relevant course theories and concepts.

This objective will be assessed by an evaluation of at least one essay or researched presentation from each student. Students will be responsible for reading and giving productive feedback to peers based on guidelines and/or a rubric provided by the instructor. Students revise work based on feedback received in peer review from one or more peers.

Critical Thinking: Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize varied sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.

This objective will be assessed by an evaluation of at least one essay, critical response paper, or researched presentation from each student.

Social Responsibility: Students will describe the relationships of individuals to their communities.

This objective will be assessed by an evaluation of at least one essay by each student. The essays will focus on specific readings and issues relevant to the course

Personal Responsibility: Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

Following a unit that looks at the cultural, legal, and academic contexts surrounding plagiarism, students will take a quiz that determines if students have understood the content of the unit and why plagiarism is taken so seriously in academic contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Major Writing Assignments (WAs):

- **WA1: Worldview Essay**
- **WA2: Rhetorical Analysis (current issue)**
- **WA3: Bibliographic Essay**
- **WA4: Literacy Analysis**
- **WA5: Photo Essay**

This is a writing course, and consequently, I believe that you should be graded exclusively on your writing. My grading system, therefore, is very simple. You will write 5 essays in this class, and each essay will be worth 15% of your grade.

All essays must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. I do not accept emailed papers.

Essay 1 = 15%

Essay 2 = 15%

Essay 3 = 15%

Essay 4 = 15%

Essay 5 = 15%

Total = 75%

There is one catch. Because every essay will be the culmination of your thoughts on the material we are discussing in class, regular attendance is very important. If you don't come to class, you will not know what I want you to write about. It's that simple.

As encouragement towards regular attendance, you will also be required to keep a journal with one entry for every class period. **Every entry should fill a handwritten, single spaced, half-page of a college ruled notebook.**

On days that readings have been assigned, I will expect you to come to class with your journal entry already written, and I will call on several students every class period to share their thoughts on the reading to get our discussions started. You can use your journal entry as a way to guide the thoughts you will share with me and the class.

On days that no reading has been assigned, I will give you time at the end of the class period to journal about what you learned or your thoughts related to our discussion in class that day.

Just as regular practice is essential to improving in sports, so it is essential to improving your writing. The journal entries are designed to keep you in the habit of writing. Thus, you could write all five essays and get perfect scores, but if you miss all 25 of the journal entries, you will only be capable of receiving a 75% (C) in the class. I will check your journal entries 5 times throughout the semester to ensure that they are timely, on topic, and up to date.

5 Essays = 75%

25 Journal Entries = 25%

Total = 100%

Grading Scale:

90-100	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and below	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You will need:

- Flash drive or other means (dropbox.com account, for example) of storing digital versions of the essays and other written material you generate (always, always keep a backup of everything you turn in!)
- A valid, working email address that you check often (everyday)
- Regular internet access (additional readings available online)
- Access to a computer with a word processing program and a printer (assignments must be typed and printed)
- Ability to print 30-50 pages throughout the semester (funds, ink, paper, etc.)
- Access to our eCollege course shell for supplemental course information

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Some texts for this course exist exclusively online, so you must have Internet access to read and/or view these texts.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me with any questions you may have. My communication preference is e-mail, and my address is: aspencer6@leomail.tamuc.edu. Also, each instructor in the department of literature and languages is required to keep at least three office hours per course per week. My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. I welcome students in my office with any questions or concerns, or just to say hi.

Grievance Procedure:

Students who have concerns about their writing course or instructors should speak *first* to the instructor about those concerns. If the student is unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation, the next person in the chain of command is the Director of the First-Year Writing Program, Dr. Tabettha Adkins. Students should contact her via e-mail at Tabetha.Adkins@tamuc.edu

See this website for details about these policies:

<http://web.tamuc.edu/academics/colleges/humanitiesSocialSciencesArts/departments/literatureLanguages/firstYearWriting/informationForStudents.aspx>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance Policy

Students may miss up to six times without penalty. After the seventh absence, the student's final grade will drop by one letter. After the ninth absence, the student cannot pass the course.

There is no such thing as "partial attendance"—students are either present for the entire course or they are absent.

Excessive tardiness can be penalized as an absence.

The university has no policy for "excused absences" except for university sanctioned events, so please save your absences for illness, court appearances, child care arrangements, and other situations when you must miss class.

Academic Honesty

The official departmental policy: "Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors

uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3])

If you ever have any questions about a particular use of a source, always ask your instructor. They want you to avoid plagiarism, too, so they will help you do so whenever and wherever they can. Do what you can to take advantage of this support—to look innocent in addition to being innocent when it comes to charges of plagiarism.

Students guilty of academic dishonesty of plagiarism can expect to fail the assignment in question or the entire course depending on the nature of the incident. See your *Writing at Texas A&M University-Commerce Guide* (a required text for this course) for more information.)

On University-Sanctioned Activities

To accommodate students who participate in university-sanctioned activities, the First-Year Composition Program offers sections of this course at various times of the day and week. If you think that this course may conflict with a university-sanctioned activity in which you are involved--athletics, etc.--please see your instructor after class on the first day.

University Specific Procedures:

Statement on behalf of students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This calendar is likely to change in order to accommodate learning needs.

Week 1 (8/26-8/28)	<p>TUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plato's allegory of the cave. • Intro to class <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldview Discussion (WA1 assigned) • MLA format
Week 2 (9/2-9/4)	<p>TUE: Current issue discussion</p> <p>THU: Writing and Pol. Sys. (Movie clip)</p>
Week 3 (9/9-9/11)	<p>TUE: Student Conferences</p> <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA1 DUE • Student Conferences
Week 4 (9/16-9/18)	<p>TUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genres of Writing • Summary vs. Analysis <p>THU: How to Read a Prompt (WA2 assigned)</p>
Week 5 (9/23-9/25)	<p>TUE: Research Techniques (guest librarian)</p> <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JOURNALS DUE • Bibliographic essays • Types of Thesis Sentences
Week 6 (9/30-10/2)	<p>TUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing an Introduction • Writing a Conclusion <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA2 DUE • Writing Transitions
Week 7 (10/7-10/9)	<p>TUE: WA3 assigned (Research Paper)</p> <p>THU: Plagiarism</p>
Week 8 (10/14-10/16)	<p>TUE: Using Sources</p>

	<p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JOURNALS DUE • Rhetoric
Week 9 (10/21-10/23)	<p>TUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventing the University • Burkean Parlor <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA3 DUE • Drafting US Literacy
Week 10 (10/28-10/30)	<p>TUE: Blue Collar Brilliance</p> <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsors of Literacy (pg. 140-144) • Shane the Lone Ethnographer • WA3 Assigned
Week 11 (11/4-11/6)	<p>TUE: Watch Movie</p> <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JOURNALS DUE • Watch Movie
Week 12 (11/11-11/13)	<p>TUE: Discuss Movie and Literacy</p> <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA4 DUE • Writing Lab
Week 13 (11/18-11/20)	<p>TUE: Conferences</p> <p>THU: Conferences</p>
Week 14 (11/25-11/27)	THANKSGIVING WEEK: NO CLASS
Week 15 (12/2-12/4)	<p>TUE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINAL JOURNAL DUE • Computer lab: write WA4 <p>THU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FINAL PAPER (WA5) DUE
Week 16 (12/9-12/11)	<p>Finals Week (no formal exam for ENG 1301)</p>