

Instructor: Ms. Boswell
Office: Dallas Hall 17-E
Office Hours: T 9:30-11:00, F 10:30-12:00
Phone: 214-768-3407
English 1301 Sect. 029

2011 Fall English 1301

This course provides tools that will make you a more efficient reader, writer, and speaker. English courses such as this one can improve your likelihood of excelling at the university, and the skills you gain will help you to interpret and engage in the world beyond these halls. Our objectives will include utilizing basic techniques for interpreting and constructing arguments, recognizing subtext in fiction and non-fiction works, and honing critical reading and composition skills. This is a critical thinking course that you will find to be much more like a workshop than like a formal lecture class. You will be called on to contribute to class discussion regularly and thoughtfully, and to share ideas about what you have read and/or written.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, you will be able to:

Identify rhetorical devices
Formulate an argumentative thesis
Integrate diverse source material into your essays

Course Materials: Please bring your copy of SMU's 2011-12 *Criteria*, the 3rd edition of Maimon's *A Writer's Resource*, and a folder with pockets and organizer tabs. Most of the course texts and documents will be available on Blackboard (online). Please print and then bring these texts (including this course calendar) to class every day; you will need hard copies to annotate and use during class discussions. Please always bring paper, pencils, and highlighters. Thank you for bringing these required materials to every class period.

Blackboard: All students enrolled in the course will be expected to consult Blackboard postings prior to each class meeting. The most effective pattern is to consult Blackboard 24 hours before the next class and once each weekend. With some frequency, reading assignments, discussion questions, and writing worksheets will be posted on Blackboard. Printing and bringing the appropriate materials to class is a requirement. Students who fail to bring the appropriate materials to class may be counted absent. All students' grades will be posted regularly on Blackboard, and students may check Blackboard at any time to calculate their current grade in the course.

Classroom Policies:

1. Your presence and your participation are integral to your success in English 1301. Unlike a seminar or lecture-style class, this workshop will focus on your writing, your questions, and your critical thinking. Please come to class each day with questions and comments to offer. Because active classroom discussion of all assigned material is essential for success in this course, lack of class participation and homework completion will negatively impact your ability to create an effective written argument and will, ultimately, affect your essay grade. Class participation includes finished homework that you bring to class and use during class discussions, as well as thoughtful, informed participation on a daily basis. I will "credit" class participation points when you successfully complete assigned homework and contribute to class discussions, and "debit"

class participation points when you do not. Your class participation will be factored into each essay grade percentage.

2. I do not accept late homework.
3. Please do not bring laptops to class.
4. **ABSENCE POLICY** : As noted in Criteria 2010-11, this class is a workshop class in which "attendance, preparation, and participation are both expected and required." In consideration of your peers, please be on time to class. In accordance with the Written English Department Policy, you are allowed **4 excused absences** this semester. Bring a copy of your [medical excuse](#) to class within one week to excuse your absence. **On the 5th absence, you should expect an F for this class** (absence-failure); you cannot withdraw from this course. If, as the semester progresses, you attempt to drop yourself from the course, at the end of the term the W will automatically become an F. Students with poor attendance records almost never do well in this class. It is the responsibility of tardy students to make sure that their absence has been corrected to tardy. Correcting an absence to a tardy may be done only on the day of the tardy. *Three tardies will be counted as an absence, and students who come to class more than fifteen minutes late will be counted absent for the day.* Students who travel on University business (with an athletic team, a musical or artistic performance group, a debate team, or other officially approved University travel activities) should provide the Instructor with documentation written by the University official responsible for administering such travel. Requests for such absences may not be made by the student him/herself but must be made by the University official in charge.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities (University Undergraduate Catalogue): *Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.*
5. Thank you for coming to class prepared to discuss the homework, staying alert and participating in class, being respectful to your peers, and being inquisitive and bold enough to challenge and/or acknowledge new ideas.
6. All essays (both digital and hard copy) are due at the beginning of class on the due date. All papers should conform to MLA standards. Incorrectly formatted essays will lose 5 points--this is a simple but important task, so just do it.
7. I cannot accept emailed essays and cannot comment on writing via email except for special circumstances. All assignments need to be turned in through Blackboard SafeAssign (before class) and in hard copy (stapled before you come to class). Please ask questions about the writing process during class or during office hours.
8. Grammar and punctuation count. Consult *A Writer's Resource* to review rules of grammar, punctuation, etc., that you may have forgotten or never mastered. If you are already aware that you have problems in this area, plan to visit the Writing Center English tutors several times a week.
9. There will be no extra credit or rewrites of essays. Work diligently on your critical reading and writing skills to improve over the semester. You must make a 70 in order to pass this course.

Classroom Courtesy: Thank you for turning off and placing out of sight all electronic devices (laptops, cell phones, pagers, iPods, headphones, etc.), not bringing food to class, and not bringing to class anyone not enrolled in this class.

Conferences: A few times this semester, we will have individual conferences in my office instead of formal class. On these days, class will not meet. You will sign up for a conference time and will incur absences if you do not attend your individual conference. These conferences are especially important because they allow the Instructor and you extended individual time to focus on your strengths and weaknesses as a writer and on the progress you are making in the course. Missing a conference is the same as missing a full week of classes; normally unexcused missed conferences are not made up. Conference sign-up sheets will be available on my office door one week before the first conference time. Bring to our conference two copies of your completed first draft and at least three specific questions about improving your draft.

Contacting the Instructor: Please contact me if you are concerned about any aspect of the course or are interested in pursuing any ideas that arise in the course. Please note: I cannot reconstruct class content via email, so I discourage you from emailing questions about what you missed because of an absence. I strongly encourage you to visit during office hours (or any time I am in the office) or to telephone during office hours. Office hours are open, and no appointments are necessary. If someone else is already conferencing with me during office hours, please write your name on the waiting list so that I know to limit conference times to 10 minutes. Email is usually the best method of contacting me to set an individual conference outside of office hours.

Essay information:

- 1) All papers must be computer generated, have 1" margins, 12 point font in Times New Roman, be double-spaced, have numbered pages with your last name on the top right corner, and stapled pages. Include your name, my name, the course and section numbers, and the due date in the heading.
- 2) Observe conventions of formal style, proper spelling and grammar in all written work.
- 3) All work must comply with MLA format.
- 4) Before submitting your final drafts, you will turn in your earlier drafts on Blackboard. You must submit digital drafts and final papers on Blackboard as well as one hard copy to me. If these drafts are not turned in on time, your essay grade may reflect a significant reduction.
- 5) Please visit the Writing Center at least once for assistance with each essay.
- 6) Be prepared on due dates: print and staple all papers the evening before the due date to avoid last-minute printer/staple problems.

Weighted Grades:

Essay 1 (in-class diagnostic essay) 5%
Essay 2 (4-5 pages exploratory essay) 25%
Essay 3 (4-5 in-class literary analysis) 20%
Essay 4 (4-5 pages exploratory essay) 25%
Essay 5 (4-5 pages interpretive film analysis) 20%
Quizzes (all averaged together) 5%

Grading Scale:

		73-76	C
94-100	A	70-72	C-*
90-92	A-	67-69	D+
87-89	B+	63-66	D
83-86	B	60-62	D-
80-82	B-	57-59	F
77-79	C+		

*Students must earn a grade of C- or higher to satisfy the University's General Education Written Communication requirement. Students earning a grade below C- must repeat the course the following semester.

Week	Dates	In Class	Written Homework
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Honor Code: All work for this course (quizzes, in-class and out-of-class papers, anything submitted to meet a requirement or to earn a grade) is governed by the SMU Honor Code. Any student with a question about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism should raise that question on syllabus discussion day (first day of class) or through conversation with the Instructor as the course progresses. In general, consulting with anyone not enrolled in the course or employed in SMU's Learning Enhancement Center will be treated as intentional cheating. All essays submitted in the course are subject to review through "SafeAssign," which is a computer- and web-based plagiarism recognition program; all students are required to keep on file an electronic version of essays two, four, and five throughout the semester.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first be registered with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) to verify the disability and to establish eligibility for accommodations. Students may call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4; an attachment describes the DASS procedures and relocated office.)

Students with disabilities that might affect performance in the course must register with the Office of Disability Accommodations and Success Strategies (DASS), located in the Loyd Center (214-768-1470), and must notify the Instructor no later than the first week of class. Students must meet with a DASS representative prior to requesting disability consideration.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

The following pages outline our class discussion topics, homework assignments, and due dates. Be sure to consult the calendar daily.

Assignments from the *A Writer's Resource* are indicated by "WR," from Criteria by "Cr," and posted on Blackboard by "Bb." All discussion preparation sheets and other worksheets will be available under the Docs and Discussions Folder tab on Blackboard; course readings will be located in the Folder corresponding to each Assignment. Please take your reading quizzes on Blackboard in the 24 hours before class; these quizzes will be averaged with your Discussion Prep Sheets.

NOTE: Please bring your textbooks to every class, as we will often use them in class discussion.

<p>Week One</p> <p>This week's handbook reading: "Editing for Grammar Conventions," pp. 445-495 in <i>A Writer's Resource (WR)</i>.</p>	August 22, Monday	(First day of classes)	T: Find an excerpt that exemplifies your topic
	23 Tuesday	review syllabus; <i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (HL)</i> ; kinds of literary analysis	
	25 Thursday	<i>The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (HL)</i> ; Discuss writing under pressure	TH: Prepare for in-class writing
Week Two	30 Tuesday	<u>In-Class Diagnostic Assignment #1</u>	T: Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "Self-Reliance" before class.
	1 Thursday	Discuss "Self-Reliance" (on Bb, folder for Assignment #2); embedding quotes	TH: Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "Corn-Pone Opinions" before class.
Week Three	September 6 Tuesday	Discuss "Corn-Pone Opinions" (on Bb, folder for Assignment #2); Instructions for Assignment #2	T: Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "Generation Me" before class.
	8 Thursday	Discuss "Generation Me" (on Bb, folder for Assignment #2); summary v. paraphrasing	TH: (Stop by my office to see where it is well before your conference.)
Week Four	13 Tuesday	Thesis Workshop; Introduction and thesis statement due; Strong Topic Sentences	T: Post your completed draft on Blackboard's Blog Drafts before your conference with me.
	15 Thursday	No class. Individual Conferences in Instructor's office. Bring a complete, typed, first draft and a pen.	My Conference Time/Day is: _____.
Week Five	20 Tuesday	No class. Individual Conferences in Instructor's office. Bring a complete, typed, first draft and a pen.	T: Work on revisions
	22 Thursday	<u>Final draft of Assignment #2 due</u> ; Lecture on Short Story Analysis	TH: Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "A&P" before class.
Week Six	27 Tuesday	Discuss "A&P" (on Bb, folder for Assignment #3); Passive Voice	T: Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "Where Are..." before class.
	29 Thursday	Discuss "Where Are..." (on Bb, folder for Assignment #3)	TH: Write 2 two-paragraph analyses; bring two copies to class.

Week Seven This week's handbook reading: "Editing for Correctness," pp. 497-561 in <i>WR</i>.	October 4 Tuesday	Collaborative work on answers to prompts	T: Prepare for in-class essay
	6 Thursday	<u>In-Class Essay for Assignment #3</u>	TH: Read "Allegory of the Cave" on Bb folder for Assignment #4; Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "Allegory I" before class.
Week Eight	11 Tuesday	Monday-Tuesday: Fall Break. No class.	TH: Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "Allegory II" before class.
	13 Thursday	Discussion of Allegory Part I; Level I and II analysis	
Week Nine This week's handbook reading: "Editing for Clarity," pp. 392-442 in <i>WR</i>.	18 Tuesday	Discussion of Allegory Part II; Instructions for Assignment #4	T: Read assigned paragraphs from <i>Criteria</i> .
	20 Thursday	Paragraph Unity and Transitions; Passive Voice	TH: Work on Tuesday's draft
Week Ten	25 Tuesday	700 words of Assignment #4 due for exercise; bring two copies of intro + body paragraphs: Peer Review	T: Finish first draft for conference
	27 Thursday	No class. Individual Conferences in Instructor's office. Bring a complete, typed, first draft and a pen.	My Conference Time/Day is: _____.
Week Eleven	November 1 Tuesday	No class. Individual Conferences in Instructor's office. Bring a complete, typed, first draft and a pen.	T: Revise essay #4
	3 Thursday	Assignment #4 Due. Lecture on Film Analysis.	
Week Twelve	8 Tuesday	Watch Film in Class.	T: Complete questions over film
	10 Thursday	Film Discussion, Q&A, and Group Discussions. Instructions for Assignment #5.	TH: Complete Prep Sheet and Quiz on "No One..." before class.
Week Thirteen	15 Tuesday	Discuss "No One Errs Willingly"; Tone and Audience	T: Begin writing Assignment #5
	17 Thursday	Bring to class 2 copies of thesis statement, topic sentences, and outline.	
Week Fourteen	22 Tuesday	Optional Individual Conferences: Sign up in	My Conference Time/Day

	24 Thursday	advance on my door or drop by. University Holiday – Thanksgiving.	is: _____.
Week Fifteen	29 Tuesday December 1 Thursday	Make-up Day. Make up all quizzes, in-class essays on this date. You are excused from class if you have nothing to make up. Assignment #5: Final Hard & Digital Drafts due beginning of class. Staple alert. Final Words and Self-Evaluation in class.	Stop by open office hours for paper conferences if you need extra help.
Week Sixteen	5 Monday (NO CLASS)	(Last day of instruction. No Final Exams for this course. Have a good break.)	