



English 1301: Composition and Reading

Dr. Monica Smith

Office: 413C Classroom Center

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

Email: msmith@mail.wtamu.edu

Class Time/Location: MTWTH 9:45, HELC Lab I

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The WTAMU course catalog describes English 1301 as a course in the “fundamentals in power and control over language and critical thinking.” To meet these aims, students enrolled in this section of English 1301 will encounter and prepare a variety of works: standard academic essays in response to scholarly and popular texts, editorials, and critiques, both in and out of class. As we work with different kinds of texts, we will strive to become stronger, more critical readers. As we explore the recursive writing process, our goals will be to understand audience, develop individual writing styles, and craft persuasive, substantial arguments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: In this course, students should learn to: read non-fiction critically; write papers in and out of class using processes that include discovering ideas and evidence, organizing that material, and revising, editing, and polishing the finished paper; think critically so that they can recognize the difference between opinion and evidence and so that they can support an intelligent, challenging thesis; understand the collaborative and social aspects of the writing process and demonstrate an ability to critique the writing of themselves and others; develop a sense of voice appropriate to the subject, the writer's purpose, the context, and the reader's expectations; follow the conventions of standard edited English and MLA documentation.

CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE: This course is both reading and writing intensive, and as such, requires considerable daily work. Students should come to each class with all assignments prepared and with all required texts in hand. Students should be prepared to participate actively in each class day, both verbally and in writing. Failure to do so will be reflected in the final course grade. Please note that while no particular prior computer experience is required, students enrolled in this course should possess a general knowledge of word processing and file management.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND SUPPLIES: Check the edition numbers on your copies before purchasing; make sure you have the correct book.

- Package ISBN 032144454x
 - Rosen, Leonard J. *Academic Writer's Handbook*. New York: Longman, 2006
 - Munger, David. *80 Readings for Composition*. New York: Pearson Education, 2006
 - MyCompLab 2.0, CD-ROM. New York: Longman, 2006.
- *The New York Times*. Available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/>.
- Materials available on WTONline. To access course materials online:
 - Go to <http://www.wtonline.wtamu.edu>
 - Login with your WTAMU username and password.
 - Find our course. Click on this link.
 - On our course page, click on Lessons on the left-hand toolbar.
- College dictionary of your choice.
- Thesaurus or synonym dictionary of your choice.
- Thumb drive (pen drive, flash drive, jump drive). Can be purchased in the HELC for \$21-\$80

Optional but recommended:

- Headphones (**optional**, but needed for listening to MyCompLab exercises in the HELC)

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS: All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course.

Daily Assignments, both reading and writing, are substantial and demanding. All assignments should be completed before coming to class, and I strongly recommend that you get in the habit of looking ahead on the syllabus; know when your next large assignment is due, and plan accordingly.

In-class Assignments will include quizzes over the day's assigned readings, MyCompLab assignments, large and small group discussion, group activities, peer review, and class participation. If you are absent, you will receive a zero for any missed in-class assignments, and you cannot make these up.

Notebook Entries topics will vary and are designed to assist you in preparing larger assignments. Some of these will be completed in class and some for homework. Homework assignments will be announced in class. Those who have completed the entries satisfactorily will receive full credit; those who have not will receive no credit. A *satisfactory notebook entry* will be written with attention to detail, will address fully the assigned topic, and will contain few if any grammatical/mechanical errors. An *unsatisfactory notebook entry* will be sloppily or hastily written, will not demonstrate careful attention to the assignment or to detail, and/or will contain grammatical/mechanical errors. All assignments will be submitted via WTONline.

Four Papers of varying length. Topics and grading rubrics will be made available via WTONline periodically during the semester. See the daily schedule for more information.

ATTENDANCE: Because writing skills develop slowly over time, students' regular attendance is essential. **Given that we only meet for a few weeks during this shortened summer session, flawless attendance is expected.**

- I will take roll every day. Students are allowed one absence without penalty (except for any missed in-class assignments that cannot be made up).
- Two percentage points (2%) will be deducted from your final grade percentage (0-100%) for each absence beyond the allowed absences. For example, if you have a final grade of 82% (B) and you have missed four (4) classes beyond the allowed number of absences, your grade will be reduced by eight (8) percentage points, resulting in a grade of 74% (C).
- Students may not exceed the allowed number of absences for any reason, and all absences will be treated the same, i.e. no differentiation between "excused" or "unexcused" absences.
- Two tardies will equal an absence.
- A student who leaves during the break and does not return to class will be counted absent for the entire day.
- Any student who misses more than one-third of the class meetings will be asked to repeat the class.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

- Assignments are due in class and are to be delivered in person unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Any assignment that does not adhere to this requirement is considered late.
- Late assignments will lose one letter grade per business day, **not** class day.
- Assignments are not considered submitted until I receive them. To be safe, then, papers should never be left in my mailbox or stuck under my office door. Do not upload papers to WTONline or email them to me as attachments unless I have given instructions to do so.
- Each student is held responsible for all assignments, regardless of her/his class attendance on the day the assignment is made.

- If a previously scheduled event coincides with an exam or due date, a written request for an extension or make-up date will be considered. All such requests must be submitted prior to the date in question.
- Any requests for extensions based on illness or family emergency must be accompanied by written documentation verified by the Office of Student Services. All make-ups and extensions are at the instructor's discretion.

COMPUTER ACCESS:

- Students are expected to check email daily and the course webpage several times a week or as indicated on the daily schedule.
- Students are responsible for securing working computer equipment; labs are available on campus.
- Please note that since “The printer wouldn't work,” “Something's wrong with my disk,” and “I don't know what happened—I saved it but now it's not there” have become the 21st century versions of “The dog ate my homework,” computer, software, or printer malfunction/failure of any kind will not constitute a valid excuse for missed, late, or incomplete work. **Remember:** save early, save often; print early, print often.

PEER EDITING: On the day a peer editing session is planned, you must bring a complete draft of the assignment in the specified format to class. Any student without a complete, properly formatted draft during a peer editing session will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent for that day. Any student absent on a peer editing day will lose 5 points from that assignment's final grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All students are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. **Any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported immediately to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.** Examples of academic dishonesty, as defined by the WTAMU Academic Integrity Code, include Improperly Acquiring Information, Improperly Providing Information, Plagiarism, Conspiracy, Fabrication of Information, Violation of Departmental or College Rules, and Inappropriate Multiple Submissions of the Same Work. All students are expected to inform themselves about and abide by the policies set forth in the WTAMU Academic Integrity Code. Failure to do so will result in the most severe penalties allowable under university regulations. See <http://www.wtamu.edu/academic/facultyhb/page/app.htm> for more information.

ACCESS STATEMENT: If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (i.e., physical, mental, psychological, learning), have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services and to contact the faculty member in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations.

GRADING:

Paper One	10%
Paper Two	10%
Paper Three	20%
Paper Four	20%
Notebook Entries	20%
In-class Assignments (MyCompLab, participation, small group work, peer review, quizzes)	20%

DAILY SCHEDULE: Subject to change. All assignments should be completed for each day before coming to class. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The most up-to-date version will be available via WTONline. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed and up-to-date with any changes.

RC = 80 Readings for Composition

AWH = The Academic Writer's Handbook

WTONline = available via WTONline

Wednesday, May 30: Introduction to class

Thursday, May 31: Diagnostic Writing; Introduction to lab and MyCompLab

1. Read Joan Didion, "On Keeping a Notebook" (RC 2); Kurt Vonnegut, "How to Write with Style" (RC 39).
2. Read AWH Chs. 1, 2, and 10.
3. A reminder: do not come to class without your books and your flash drive.

Monday, June 4

1. Read Zora Neale Hurston, "I Get Born" (RC 306).
2. Read AWH Chs. 28, 29, and 42.
3. Paper One Topics and grading rubric available (WTONline); print, read, and bring to class.

Tuesday, June 5

1. Read Annie Dillard, from *An American Childhood* (RC 312)
2. Read AWH 35.

Wednesday, June 6

1. Print and read Essays on WTONline under Lessons > Sample Essays. Follow the instructions. Bring this completed assignment to class.
2. Read AWH 44.

Thursday, June 7

1. Read AWH 31.
2. Bring full, complete draft of Paper One to class on your flash drive. You should also email a copy to yourself. Your inability to open the file in the computer lab will not excuse you from the day's activities; instead you will be dismissed from the class, counted absent for the day, and docked 5 points from the paper's final grade (see Peer Editing above).

Monday, June 11

1. **Paper One DUE.** Place a copy of the grading rubric, your final paper, all drafts, outlines, brainstorming, prewriting, outlines, etc. in a folder. Papers are due at the beginning of class.
2. Paper Two Topics and grading rubric available (WTONline); print, read, and bring to class.

Tuesday, June 12

1. Richard Wright, "The Library Card" (RC 318).

Wednesday, June 13

1. Frederick Douglass, "The Meaning of the 4th of July for the Negro" (RC 239).

Thursday, June 14

1. Bring full, complete draft of Paper Two to class on your flash drive. You should also email a copy to yourself. Your inability to open the file in the computer lab will not excuse you from the day's activities, but instead you will be dismissed from the class, counted absent for the day, and lose 5 points from the paper's final grade (see Peer Editing above).

Monday, June 18

1. **Paper Two DUE.** Place a copy of the grading rubric, your final paper, all drafts, outlines, brainstorming, prewriting, outlines, etc. in a folder. Papers are due at the beginning of class.
2. Paper Three Topics and grading rubric available (WTOonline); print, read, and bring to class.

Tuesday, June 19

1. Print, read, and follow the instructions on WTOonline under today's date.

Wednesday, June 20

1. Print, read, and follow the instructions on WTOonline under today's date.

Thursday, June 21

1. Bring full, complete draft of Paper Three to class on your flash drive. You should also email a copy to yourself. Your inability to open the file in the computer lab will not excuse you from the day's activities, but instead you will be dismissed from the class, counted absent for the day, and lose 5 points from the paper's final grade (see Peer Editing above).

Monday, June 25

1. **Paper Three DUE.** Place a copy of the grading rubric, your final paper, all drafts, outlines, brainstorming, prewriting, outlines, etc. in a folder. Papers are due at the beginning of class.
2. Paper Four Topics and grading rubric available (WTOonline); print, read, and bring to class.

Tuesday, June 26

1. Read Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (RC 217)

Wednesday, June 27

1. Read Mark Twain, "Running for President" (RC 225)

Thursday, June 28

1. Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (RC 116);

Monday, July 2

1. John Stuart Mill, from *The Subjection of Women* (RC 121)

Tuesday, July 3

1. **Paper Four DUE.** Place a copy of the grading rubric, your final paper, all drafts, outlines, brainstorming, prewriting, outlines, etc. in a folder. Papers are due at the beginning of the final exam period.