Syllabus | ENGL 0300: Integrated Reading & Writing

Course/Section: ENGL 0300-006
Class Dates: August 25 - December 13 (Fall 2025)
Time: MW 2:30pm-3:55pm
Location: Arts & Sciences (CAS) 208

Instructor Information

Name: **Dr. Billy Cryer**
Email: bcryer@uttyler.edu
Phone: 936-244-9970
Office Hours: MW: 8:00am-9:00am
F: 1:30pm-2:30pm
Or by appointment
Office Location: CAS 233

Course Description

This course is designed to help students fulfill the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) readiness requirements for college-level reading and writing. ENGL 0300 directly supports the learning outcomes, assignments, and classroom activities in the corequisite ENGL 1301 course. Emphasis on developing students' critical reading and academic writing skills.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Locate explicit textual information, draw complex inferences, and describe, analyze, and evaluate the information within and across multiple texts of varying lengths.
2. Comprehend and use vocabulary effectively in oral communication, reading, and writing.
3. Identify and analyze the audience, purpose, and message across a variety of texts.
4. Describe and apply insights gained from reading and writing a variety of texts.
5. Compose a variety of texts that demonstrate reading comprehension, clear focus, logical development of ideas, and use of appropriate language that advance the writer's purpose.
6. Determine and use effective approaches and rhetorical strategies for given reading and writing situations.
7. Generate ideas and gather information relevant to the topic and purpose, incorporating the ideas and words of other writers in student writing using established strategies.
8. Evaluate relevance and quality of ideas and information in recognizing, formulating, and developing a claim.
9. Develop and use effective reading and revision strategies to strengthen the writer's ability to compose college-level writing assignments.

    10. Recognize and apply the conventions of standard English in reading and writing

Required Text(s) and Materials

Required course readings are provided by the instructor.

Overview of Assignments

Annotated Playlist (Essay 1): Music is a central aspect of shared culture and individual human experience. For this assignment, you will create an annotated playlist of 5 songs that have special significance to you. Perhaps the song reflects a key moment in your life, or maybe the lyrics taught you an important lesson or remind you of someone you miss. The songs can be from any genre or time period, and each song must be accompanied by an annotation of at least 150 words.

Community Narrative (Essay 2): For this writing project, you will craft a 2-page essay about how a specific community that you belong to has played a role in your own personal development. Such communities might form around personal interests or hobbies like board games, video games, or stamp collecting. Perhaps your community is a sports team, or your church, or a book club.

Success Roadmap (Essay 3): For this assignment, you will develop an argument about the most important characteristics you believe students need to succeed in college and in a career. In writing the essay, you should draw upon your own experiences and observations, as well as conversations you have with individuals you deem successful in their own rights. This paper needs to be 2-3 pages in length.

Weekly Class Activities: Weekly activities will include class discussions of readings (discussion posts), grammar activities, and surveys.

Unit Surveys: At the end of each unit, students will complete an online survey. The surveys are a way to measure students' experience with the learning unit, as well as students' overall experiences with reading and writing.

Reflection Portfolio: In lieu of a final exam, students will write a Reflection Essay and complete a self-assessment reflecting on their experiences developing reading and writing skills throughout the course. Students will also complete a final "exit" survey to submit with the Reflection Portfolio.

Course Outline/Calendar

Unit 1 | Strategies for Academic Success		
Week 1 August 25-31	• Overview of Unit 1 • Goal setting • Time management • University resources	• Labor Contract • Grammar Lesson 1 • In-Class Writing 1 • In-Class Writing 2 (Essay 1 Outline)
Week 2 September 1-7	• **Monday: No Class (Labor Day)** • Work on Annotated Playlist	• In-Class Writing 3 • Essay 1: Annotated Playlist • Unit 1 Survey
Unit 2 | Reading and Responding to Complex Texts		
Week 3 September 8-14	• Overview of Unit 2 • Effective reading practices	• Grammar Lesson 2 • In-Class Writing 4 • In-Class Writing 5 (Essay 2 Outline)
Week 4 September 15-21	• Work on Community Narrative	• Grammar Lesson 3 • In-Class Writing 6 • Essay 2: Community Narrative Essay • Unit 2 Survey
Unit 3 | Developing Proficiency in Standard Writing Conventions		
Week 5 September 22-28	• Overview of Unit 3 • Effective writing strategies	• Grammar Lesson 4 • In-Class Writing 7 • In-Class Writing 8 (Essay 3 Outline)
Week 6 September 29 – October 5	• Work on Success Roadmap • Preview Reflection Portfolio	• Grammar Lesson 5 • In-Class Writing 9 • Essay 3: Success Roadmap • Unit 3 Survey
Unit 4 | Reflection Portfolio		
Week 7 October 6-12	• Work on Reflection Portfolio	**Due Sunday** (October 12) • Reflection Essay • Exit Survey
Supplemental Instruction		
Weeks 8 – 15 October 13	Individual meetings with students who need additional support.	

-December 13	

Grading

In this course, you will not receive a letter grade. Rather, you will be evaluated as "TSI Complete" (Pass) or "TSI Incomplete" (Fail). Furthermore, this course will employ a labor contract, which assesses you on the quality of your efforts and your overall growth in the course. Thus, your grade in this course depends on your efforts to meet deadlines and fulfill expectations, as well as demonstrated improvement as a writer and reader.

To pass the course and become "TSI Complete," you will be evaluated on three criteria: **Class Participation**, **Completion of Assignments and Tasks**, and **Overall Growth**. The grading contract in Canvas provides more detail regarding expectations for meeting a passing assessment for each grading criteria. Your final grade will be calculated upon submitting the Reflection Portfolio in Unit 4.

Instructor's Course Policies

Attendance: Students are expected to be on time and engage in class discussions and activities. Any student who misses more than 5 classes without a university-approved excuse will fail the course automatically. Arriving late or leaving early 3 times will count as 1 absence. Not participating in class activities will result in an absence for the day.

Revisions: To produce effective writing often requires revising and even rewriting. As such, in this course I will ask you to revise all of your assignments after receiving my feedback. I allow students to revise and resubmit all writing assignments multiple times—with the exception of the final project—for a higher grade. The considerable feedback I provide on student work is a reflection of my commitment to your growth as a reader and writer. Please honor this commitment of my time and effort by revising your work when requested.

Late Work: Please turn in all work by the due date. Late assignments will be docked 10% for each day over the due date the assignments are late.

Canvas: All your assignments will be submitted to Canvas. If you cannot log into Canvas, contact the **Office of Digital Learning** via phone at **903-566-6200** or via e-mail at canvas@uttyler.edu. You may have difficulty viewing feedback on your assignments in Canvas if using a cell phone—you'll need to use a laptop or PC to view all feedback in Canvas without problems.

Electronic Devices: Feel free to bring laptops to take notes for class. However, use of cell phones is not permitted except for specific class activities where use of the Internet may be helpful for research. Otherwise, if you need to use your cell phone, please step into the hallway.

Restrooms: If you need to use the restroom, quietly let yourself out of the classroom. However, please make your best effort to use the restroom before class.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

Note: UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

UT Tyler Policies and Information
See "University Policies and Information" in the course Canvas shell.

Student Resources
See "Student Resources" in the course Canvas shell.