



Composition II (ENGL 1302)

Term: Fall 2025

Course Dates: August 25, 2025 – December 12, 2025

Professor: Heather Hepler

Course Times: Online

Office Phone: none

Classroom: Online

Email: h.hepler@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: M, W, F 9-10 & by appointment

Course Overview

The course description and learning outcomes are per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Lower Division Academic Course Guide Manual.

Course Description

Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes
- Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays
- Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical use of evidence
- Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action
- Apply the convention of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)

Required Textbooks and Readings

Open Educational Resources are used in this class. There is no textbook to buy.

Recommended Resources (Optional):

If you have a laptop, I recommend that you bring it to class. Using a laptop in class will be of immense benefit to you. Using a cell phone or other small hand-held device will be frustrating.

Course Structure

This is an online, asynchronous course with weekly deadlines. Assignments build upon each other across the Four Modules. Each module culminates in a final project.

Tips for Success in this Course

1. **Participate.** I invite you to engage deeply, ask questions, and talk about the course content with your classmates. You can learn a great deal from discussing ideas and perspectives with your peers and professor. Participation can also help you articulate your thoughts and develop critical thinking skills.
2. **Manage your time.** I get it—students usually juggle a lot, and I know you've got commitments beyond this class. Still, doing your best often means carving out enough dedicated time for coursework. Try scheduling specific blocks of time and ensure you have enough room to finish assignments, allowing extra space for any tech issues that might pop up.
3. **Login regularly.** I recommend that you log in to Canvas several times a week to view announcements, discussion posts and replies to your posts.
4. **Do not fall behind.** This class moves at a quick pace and each week builds on the previous class content. If you feel you are starting to fall behind, check in with the instructor as soon as possible so we can troubleshoot together. It will be hard to keep up with the course content if you fall behind in the pre-work or post-work.
5. **Use Canvas notification settings.** Pro tip! Canvas can ensure you receive timely notifications in your email or via text. Be sure to enable notifications to be sent instantly or daily. ([Canvas Notification Guide](#))
6. **Ask for help if needed.** If you are struggling with a course concept, reach out to me and your classmates for support.

Graded Course Requirements Information

Component	Percent of Course Grade
Research Proposal	10%
Annotated Bibliography	25%
Research Paper	30%
Presentation	20%
End of Semester Reflection	15%

Course Grade Scale

- A 90% to 100% of possible points
- B 80% to 89% of possible points
- C 70% to 79% of possible points
- D 60% to 69% of possible points
- F 0% to 59% of possible points

Minimum Requirement to Earn a C

To earn a C or above in the class, students must earn a C or above on all grade components. A grade of D or F on the Research Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Research Paper, Poster Presentation, or End of Semester Reflection will result in the grade for the class being no higher than a D. **Extra-Credit Work**

There is no extra credit work in this course.

Graded Course Requirements Information

For information on specific assignments, see Canvas.

Assignments have to be submitted to the correct drop box in Canvas. Assignments have to be submitted as a Word document or PDF. Assignments that do not adhere to these requirements will be graded a 0.

For a free copy of Microsoft Office, including Word, [click here](#)

Late Work and Make-Up Exams:

I will not accept late work except under emergency situations.

Attendance Policy:

Students must log into Canvas several times a week. Assignments are generally due on Thursdays and Sundays. Check Canvas for specific deadlines.

University Policies & Student Resources:

University policies and student resources are available on the University website and in Canvas under “Syllabus”. (You may copy or print the following information to include in your syllabus or use the links provided below.)

[University Policy](#)

[Student Resources](#)

Class Communication

If you have individual questions, you can send me a Canvas message to schedule a time to meet in person or via Zoom.

Contacting Me Please use Canvas messages to contact me. Per the [UTT Email Policy](#), I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Canvas messages and emails should provide a succinct overview of the topic and should have complete sentences and reasonably correct grammar. In the subject line list the class (ENGL- 1302), your name, and a topic.

Announcements in Canvas

I will use announcements in Canvas to communicate essential information. It is your responsibility to read and utilize the information in announcements.

For a tutorial on announcements, [click here](#). To manage notifications, click on “Canvas notifications” in the blue box at the top of the page. For help in resetting notifications, click on the help button on the left-hand side of your UTT Canvas home page (the question mark in a circle) and call the “Canvas Support Hotline (Students).”

Academic Dishonesty and Disruptive Behavior

This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention. For the UTT definition of “academic dishonesty,” see “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Disruptive behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention and may result in failing the class and/or University sanction. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- Using technology for purposes other than working on the activities assigned by the instructor.
- Creating a hostile course environment.

For more information on disruptive behavior, see “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

Using Work from Other Classes

From the UTT Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs Chapter 8. Student Conduct and Discipline: Sec. 8-802. Academic Dishonesty

b. "Academic Dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable, in whole or in part, to another person without giving sufficient credit, taking an examination for another person, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to: submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. (Emphasis added). Before you draw on research, written work, or any other work from another class for any assignment in this class, consult with me.

Required UTT AI Statement

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 (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler’s Academic Integrity Policy

AI Use in This Course

Unless I approve otherwise, using AI to write, revise, or edit assignments is prohibited. This stipulation applies to all drafts—from first drafts to final drafts.

Write: Having an AI writing assistant generate a draft or drafts of an assignment

Revise: Having an AI writing assistant revise your writing to meet grading criteria or to provide feedback which you then implement

Edit: Having an AI writing assistant edit your draft for sentence-level concerns

We will experiment with using AI for revision and editing. As we do so, I will explain how to use AI writing assistants and how to acknowledge that help. Do not use AI writing assistants other than as per my stipulations. Note that Grammarly is an AI writing assistant.

Any assignment, including drafts and other writing process work, with AI-generated content and/or AI-revised or edited content, other than as permitted via explicit class instructions, will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention for a scholastic dishonesty violation.

To comply with the class AI policy, you will need to disable Copilot in Word and the “Help Me Write” and “Smart Compose” in Google Docs.

Tentative Course Calendar

The schedule is subject to change. See Canvas for up-to date due dates and for engagement work due dates.

Time Frame	Assignment	Graded Final Due
Weeks 1-4	Research Proposal	9-21
Weeks 5-7	Annotated Bibliography	10-12
Weeks 8-11	Research Paper	11-9
Weeks 12-14	Presentation	12-7
Week 15	Final Reflection	12-12

Key Dates

Sept 8 Census Date

Nov 4 Last Day to Drop ([UTT Drop Policy](#))

Nov 24-28 Thanksgiving Holiday

Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: “The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.”

Note that the last date to drop the course is included in the calendar along with the final exam date and time. These are required.

Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course page for current deadlines. In the unlikely event of a prolonged university closure or an extended absence from the university, adjustments to the course schedule, deadlines, and assignments will be made based on the duration of the closure and the specific dates missed.

Module One – August 25 – September 21 – The Research Proposal		
Week One – August 25 – August 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post to the Week One Discussion board. This week is an introduction discussion. You must respond to two other postings. (See guidelines for discussion boards in the lesson.) Complete Week One Assignment – The Preliminary Proposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original post is due by Thursday at midnight. Two peer responses are due by Sunday at midnight Week One Assignment is due Sunday at midnight.
Week Two -- September 1 – September 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post to the Week Two Discussion board. This week you will post your edited proposal from last week. You are submitting this for peer review. You must respond to two other postings. (See guidelines for discussion boards in the lesson.) Complete Week Two Assignment – Five sources with summary and personal commentary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original post is due by Thursday at midnight. Two peer responses are due by Sunday at midnight Week Two Assignment is due Sunday at midnight.

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Week Three – September 8 – September 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post to the Week Three Discussion board. You will post what you've learned so far and the problems you've encountered. You must respond to two other postings. (See guidelines for discussion boards in the lesson.) Complete Week Three Assignment – Adding your methods and constructing your working bibliography. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original post is due by Thursday at midnight. Two peer responses are due by Sunday at midnight Week Three Assignment is due Sunday at midnight.
Week Four – September 15 – September 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Week Four Assignment -- Your final Preliminary Proposal. (See Assignment Sheet for full details.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no discussion board this week Submit the Week Four Assignment by Sunday at midnight
Module Two -- September 22 – October 5 – Annotated Bibliography		
Week Five – September 22 – September 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin drafting your Annotated Bibliography. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit a simple bibliography. There is no discussion board this week.
Week Six – September 29 – October 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue your work on your Annotated Bibliography. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit your rough draft to the discussion board for peer review Submit your full rough draft to the assignment.
Week Seven – October 6 – October 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete your final draft of your Annotated Bibliography. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn in your final Annotated Bibliography.
Module Three – October 13 – November 9 – Research Paper		

Week Eight – October 13 – October 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin the Research Paper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no discussion this week. Submit your thesis and introduction to the assignment.
Week Nine – October 20 – October 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft the body of your Research Paper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no discussion this week. Submit your introduction and body to the assignment.

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Week Ten – October 27 – November 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the full rough draft with your sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post your full rough draft with your works cited to the discussion board. Submit your full rough draft with your works cited list to the assignment.
Week Eleven – November 3 – November 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Paper final submission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no discussion this week. Turn in your final draft of your Research Paper.
Module Four -- November 10 – December 12 – Presentation and Reflection		
Week Twelve – November 10 – November 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start your Presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no discussion. Turn in your first draft of your presentation to the assignment.
Week Thirteen – November 17 – November 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit your first draft for peer review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit the first draft of your Presentation for peer review to the discussion board.
Thanksgiving – November 24 – November 30		
Week Fourteen – December 1 – December 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Final 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit your final draft of your Presentation.
Week Fifteen – December 8 – December 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn in your Final Reflection following the guidelines and using the template.