

English 1301: Composition I

SPRING 2026

Instructor: Professor Michaela Murphy

Office: CAS 205B

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30am – 12:30pm and 1:30 – 2:30pm; Zoom and In-Person options available

Section Info: ENGL 1301.003, .003T

Office Hours Links

[Zoom link](#) – Passcode: 093617

Course Overview

The below 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.

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.)

Textbook

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

Laptops

If you have a laptop, it is essential 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 highly frustrating and may lack the full range of resources you need.

Course Grade

For information on assignments, see Canvas. Percentages and assignments are subject to change.

Component	Percent of Course Grade
Critical Reading	10%
Informative Summary	15%
PCI Report	40%
- Proposal – 5%	
- Annotated Bibliography – 10%	
- Report– 15%	
- Presentation– 10%	
Assessment/Reflections	20%
- Pre-Assessment – 5%	
- Midterm – 5%	
- Post-Assessment – 5%	
- Final Reflection – 5%	
Engagement	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

Extra-Credit Work

There is **no** extra credit work in this course.

Late Policy

I will accept late work within 24 hours after the official due date with a penalty of 5 points off, unless otherwise stated.

Extensions are not guaranteed. However, if you would like consideration for an extension, you must email me in advance or with proof of an emergency.

“Engagement” Work

Engagement work is submitting drafts of assignments, engaging in in-class activities, and submitting worksheets etc. Process work is graded as complete or incomplete which is how Canvas handles pass/fail grading:

Complete: Meets expectations and is submitted on time

Incomplete: Does not meet expectations and/or is not submitted on time

In most cases, process work cannot be revised or submitted after the due date. There may be situations which warrant an exception to this policy—see “Missed Work.” Recurring process

work that is graded as incomplete precludes exceptions.

Public Writing

I will use student work to discuss what is working well and areas for improvement. If you would like me to not use a particular draft in class, please let me know.

Submitting Assignments

Assignments have to be submitted to the correct drop box in Canvas. With the exception of the poster presentation, assignments have to be submitted as a **Word document**. Do not zip your files or submit a 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](#).

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. **Missing more than two weeks of classes is grounds for potentially failing the course.** This class meets two times a week; two weeks of absences is four (4) classes.

It is your responsibility to find out from **other students (not your professor)** what happened in class during your absence.

Being late (arriving after I take attendance) **two** times equals an absence. If you are late, it is **your responsibility** to remind me AFTER class to note that you were late not absent. Similarly, leaving early (before I dismiss class) **two** times equals an absence.

Missed Work

If you see that you will miss, or you do miss, a week or more of class work due to an illness or a significant life event, contact me ASAP. I will discuss the situation with you to determine if you can keep up with the class. Documentation may be required.

For relevant UTT policies, see the UTT policy on “[Class Attendance/Excused Absences](#),” and the [UTT policy on withdrawals](#) including “Medical Withdrawal/Course Load Reduction.”

Class Communication

If you have individual questions, you can talk with me after class or feel free to send me an email 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 & 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:

- Talking when the instructor is talking
- Repeatedly arriving late and/or leaving early
- Sleeping during class
- Using technology for purposes other than working on the activities assigned by the instructor
- Doing something other than working on the activities assigned by the instructor
- Hindering other students from working on the activities assigned by the instructor

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 and Grammarly in Word and the “Help Me Write” and “Smart Compose” in Google Docs.

Required UT Tyler Policies & Information

See “University Policies and Information” in the UT Tyler Syllabus Module.

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	Deadline
Week 1	Pre-Assessment	1/18
Week 2	Critical Reading	1/25
Weeks 3-4	Informative Summary	2/8
Week 5-6	Research Prep	2/22
Weeks 7-8	PCI Report Prep and Midterm	3/8
Week 9	Spring Break	3/9-15
Weeks 10-13	PCI Report	4/12
Weeks 14-15	PCI Presentations	4/26
Week 16	Final Reflection	5/3

Key Dates

Jan 26	Census Date
Mar 9-15	Spring Break Holiday
Mar 30	Last Day to Drop/Withdrawal (UTT Drop Policy)
May 1	Spring 2026 Graduation Commencement/Last day to submit assignments

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.”