English 1302: Composition II
Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Mark Sidey
Email: msidey@uttyler.edu
Office: CAS 243
Office Hours: T/R 12:30-2:00 and by appointment
Section Info: 012: T/R,9:30-10:50, CAS 257; 013: T/R 11:00-12:20 CAS 257

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.

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, 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 Grade

For information on assignments, see Canvas.

Component	Percent of Course Grade
Preliminary Drafts	15%
Research Proposal	15%
Annotated Bibliography	20%
Research Paper	20%
Presentation	15%
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 for preliminary drafts, the proposal, the annotated bibliography, the research paper, the presentation, or for the 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.

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.

Late Work Policy

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, preliminary drafts and process work cannot be revised or submitted after the due date.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances, final drafts of assignments that are submitted after the due date will be reduced one letter grade.

Extenuating circumstances are circumstances beyond your control. For example, illnesses and emergencies that impact your ability to work on an assignment. Documentation may be required to verify extenuating circumstances. Recurring missed deadlines and recurring work that is graded as not meeting expectations precludes exceptions.

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.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Missing more than two weeks of classes is grounds for failing the class. 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 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 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 & 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 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. Any assignments with AI-generated, revised, or edited content that are submitted without correctly acknowledging that assistance 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.

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.

Time Frame	Assignment	Graded Draft Due
Weeks 1-3	Research Proposal	Sunday 2-1
Weeks 4-7	Annotated Bibliography	Sunday 3-1
Weeks 8-12	Research Paper	Sunday 4-12
Weeks 13-14	Presentations	To be scheduled
Week 15	Final Reflection	4-29

Key Dates

Jan 19	MLK Holiday
Jan 26	Census Date
Mar 9-13	Spring Break
Mar 30	Last Day to Drop (UTT Drop Policy)

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."