

English 1302: Composition II (Section 015)

Spring 2026

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Kelly

Class Meetings: Tues/Thurs, 12:30-1:50pm

Class Location: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) 104

Instructor's Office: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) 236

Instructor's Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 3:30-5:00pm (please email to confirm visit)

Instructor's Email: mkelly@uttyle.edu

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.)

Grade Distribution

Each major project is designed to help you move towards the course goals outlined above but every assignment prompt will also include a handful of specific criteria that will be used to evaluate your success on a given project. If you ever have any questions about how I will evaluate a project, feel free to ask.

Your final grade will be calculated based on the following breakdown:

Learning Unit 1	20 points
Learning Unit 2	20 points
Learning Unit 3	20 points
Short Writing Assignments (updated every three weeks)	25 points
Participation (includes attendance)	15 points

Grading

To compute the final course grade, the following point totals are assigned to the standard letter grades of A through F:

A = 90-100 points
B = 80-89 points
C = 70-79 points
D = 60-69 points
F = 59 points and below

Failure to turn in complete, final drafts of all three major Learning Unit projects will result in an F for the class without exception.

Attendance Policy

Students are allowed **four unexcused absences for the semester**. Any additional unexcused absence beyond these four allowances will result in failing the course. Absences due to a valid medical issue will not be counted as unexcused.

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.

Additional Course Information

Policy on AI and AI-Generated Work

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 is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required. During some class assignments, we may leverage AI tools to support your learning, allow you to explore how AI tools can be used, and/or better understand their benefits and limitations. Learning how to use AI is an emerging skill, and we will work through the limitations of these evolving systems together. However, AI will be limited to assignments

where AI is a critical component of the learning activity. I will always indicate when and where the use of AI tools for this course is appropriate.

Paper Format

All assignments will be left justified and double spaced.

All assignments will be in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, 1" margins all around.

All assignments should have a centered title and page numbers in the upper left corner.

In the upper left corner of all assignments, place this heading:

[Your name]

English 3308

Prof. Kelly

[Assignment name]

[Date]

Email Policy

Email is the easiest way to contact me. However, etiquette and courtesy in correspondence is important; that is, be rhetorical and think about your audience. Because email is quick and easy, people often do not take the time to formulate emails that will effectively communicate what is desired. When emailing me, please include a subject/title for your email, an opening address (Dear Dr. Kelly...), and a closing signature.

I will check my email regularly Mondays-Fridays from 9am-5pm. You can expect a response from me 48 hours after I have read your message (not 48 hours after you sent your message). For example, if you email me at 7pm on Friday, you should expect me to read your message on Monday morning. Consequently, you should expect a response 48 hours after I have read it (i.e., by Wednesday morning).

Lastly, I expect everyone to check their email at the same frequency. Put simply, you need to check your email regularly Mondays-Fridays from 9am-5pm. If you anticipate inconsistent email access being an issue, please speak with me.

Assignment Submission

All assignments will be submitted via Canvas. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Please see UT Tyler's policy on scholastic dishonesty:

<https://www.uttyler.edu/offices/student-conduct-and-intervention/student-conduct/policies/>

This class has a Zero Tolerance Policy for Scholastic Dishonesty. Any deliberate act of scholastic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course.

Course Readings

Reading and Writing About the Disciplines (2nd edition). Eds. Wu and Kelly.

All other course readings will be posed to our class's Canvas shell.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

The semester will be divided into three general sections, each with their own unique focus, readings, and assignments. The following schedule offers an outline of these sections. However, please ensure you check your Canvas calendar on a regular basis in order to stay up-to-date with assignment due dates. Whenever I create a new assignment, I will post a submission dropbox on Canvas with a deadline; this deadline will appear in your own Canvas calendar.

Weeks 1-5

- Introduction to academic scholarship and the peer review process
- Overview of library services and research resources
- Discuss effective annotation and summarization strategies

Weeks 6-10

- Developing an independent research agenda
- Locating differences and similarities between scholarly sources
- Making connections between coursework and professional scenarios

Weeks 11-15

- Composing a formal research paper
- Learning to present research in an academic setting
- Identifying avenues for further inquiry

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have

a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/offices/academic-affairs/disability-services/>

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.