

# **ENGLISH 1301.068**

## **COLLEGE COMPOSITION I**

### **FALL 2026**

### **ONLINE**

Instructor: Ms. Nicole Hicks  
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Office Hours: Mondays, 6pm–9pm, & by appointment  
Office Location: [Zoom](#)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

### **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

- Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes;
- Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution;
- Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose;
- Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts; and
- Use Edited American English in academic essays.

### **REQUIRED TEXT(S) AND MATERIALS**

All course reading will be provided by me and made accessible in Canvas (i.e., there is no textbook to buy).

You will need Microsoft Word in this course. As a UT Tyler student, you have free access to Microsoft Office 365; go to <https://m365.cloud.microsoft/apps> and log in with your Patriots credentials to access online apps or install them on your computer.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

First Class Day: **Monday, August 24**

Census Date/Last Day to Drop without Record: **September 8**

Mid-Term Grades Due: **October 19**

Last Day to Drop a Course: **October 30**

Last Class Day: **Friday, December 4**

Final Exam: N/A

Final Grades due: **December 15 by 12:00pm**

## **GRADING**

You will receive a final letter grade for the course based on the assignments and scale below.

### **Assignments Overview.**

- 15% Writing Project 1: Critical Reading
- 15% Writing Project 2: Informative Summary
- 20% Writing Project 3: Rhetorical Analysis
- 35% Writing Project 4: Professional Community Issue Report
- 15% Engagement

### **Scale.**

- 100 – 90 A (demonstrates *exceptional* performance)
- 89 – 80 B (demonstrates good performance)
- 79 – 70 C (demonstrates average performance)
- 69 – 60 D (demonstrates below average performance)
- < 60 F (demonstrates poor performance)

For some further good insight into these ranges, see "[What Do Letter Grades Mean?](#)"

### **Minimum Requirement to Earn a C in the Course.**

To earn a C or above in the course, you must submit a final draft for each of the writing projects: critical reading, informative summary, rhetorical analysis, and professional community issue report. Failure to do so will result in your grade for the course being no higher than a D. (Note that only submitting a final draft does not *guarantee* you a C in the course; you still have to earn a C, and higher, through your work.)

Additionally, repeated failure to submit peer reviews will result in your grade for the course being no higher than a D.

## **COMMUNICATION**

I encourage students to communicate with me throughout the semester regarding questions, issues, or potential concerns about the course. You can set up an office hours appointment with me, you can message me in Canvas, or you can email me directly. Per the [UT Tyler Email Policy](#), I will not reply to emails sent from non-UT Tyler email addresses.

Email is the easiest way to contact me, but be rhetorical and think about your audience. Since 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 that indicates your email's purpose, and ensure your ideas are clearly expressed to a professional audience (e.g., "yo we on wut in class td 🤖" is *not* something you want to send your professors).

I reply to emails and other messages within 48 hours aside from those sent during the weekend; those will get a response the following Monday. If an issue legitimately requires immediate attention, please mark it "URGENT" in the subject line.

### **Announcements in Canvas.**

To communicate with the entire class, I will use the announcement feature in Canvas. You are responsible for reading and responding to them as needed. For a tutorial on viewing announcements in Canvas, [click here](#). For a tutorial on how to receive announcement notifications, [click here](#).

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Attendance**

Attendance and participation are critical to your success in this course. In an online environment, attendance means regularly signing in to Canvas, checking on your progression in the course, and completing work. You should plan to spend as much time doing work for this course as you would for a face-to-face course.

### **Extra Credit**

There is no extra credit work in this course.

### **Revision**

You may revise the final drafts of WP1, WP2, and WP3 for a potentially higher grade. There is no risk of rewriting papers since only higher grades are recorded. Revisions are due within one week of grade assignment. I provide detailed comments on every draft, so the rewrite must show substantial revision based on my comments to achieve a higher grade (in other words, fixing comma placement and typos alone will not improve your grade). If you turn in the same assignment without substantial revision, you will receive *a lower grade* on the revised assignment than you did on the original.

WP4 cannot be revised as it is at the end of the semester.

Additionally, papers submitted for a potential higher grade must include a cover memo in which you list and discuss, in detail, the changes you made and why you made those changes.

### **Late Work**

I will accept WP Final Drafts up to five days late. For each day it is late, a 10% reduction will apply to its final grade.

No other assignments will be accepted late.

### **Assignment Submission**

All final drafts must be submitted as a Word document to the correct drop box in Canvas. Emailed assignments or assignments submitted outside of the correct drop box in Canvas (e.g., attached as a submission comment instead of actually submitted) will not be accepted.

Instructions will be provided for how to submit rough drafts and progress work.

It is your responsibility to double check that all submissions are accurate, in the proper format, readable, and correct. After submitting an assignment, verify your submission by downloading and opening it from the submission drop box, ideally on a different device. This will ensure that the submission has not been corrupted and that you submitted the correct file. You are allowed unlimited submissions on assignments up until the due date, so if something went wrong with your original submission, resubmit your assignment immediately. I will only grade your final submission.

Assignments that I cannot open will be graded a zero. Assignments submitted by mistake (e.g., wrong file, old draft) will be graded accordingly.

### **Public Writing**

All writing in the course is public writing. I may use your submitted writing, anonymized appropriately, to discuss what is working in student papers and/or areas for improvement.

### **Use of AI**

In this course, AI is encouraged during the course, and appropriate acknowledgment is expected, as decided by the class majority on 08/31.

This means AI tools can be used similarly to a personal tutor who wants to help you understand course concepts *and* help improve your work, including helping you brainstorm, research, draft, revise, and edit.

All work submitted must still represent your own thinking and writing. You may use AI to help develop, improve, or revise your work, but you may not submit AI-generated text as your own or use AI to generate a portion or all of an assignment unless the assignment explicitly permits it.

To appropriately acknowledge AI use, you must identify any writing/text that has been significantly altered by AI by putting that writing/text in a different font color (e.g., dark blue, dark purple). Additionally, you must include an AI-use appendix in your WP Final Draft explaining your use of AI throughout the project, including any engagement assignments that

incorporated AI. In that appendix, you must have a full citation for all instances of AI use in proper [MLA format](#), an explanation of how you used AI, and an explanation of why you used AI.

If the majority of an assignment has been significantly altered by AI, that will be considered a breach of UT Tyler's Honor Code.

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.

### **Classroom Conduct**

You have all been in classrooms a great deal of your life, so you know how to behave and how not to behave, whether the classroom is physical or virtual.

I do have one rule that I will enforce quite strongly: be respectful. By this I mean that you must be respectful of me, your classmates, the assignments, and the work process of the class. You may disagree with any of the above, but you may not be disrespectful. Such behavior is grounds for disciplinary action.

### **UT TYLER POLICIES**

See "University Policies and Information" in the Start Here module in the course Canvas shell.

### **STUDENT RESOURCES**

See "Student Resources" in the Start Here module in the course Canvas shell.

### **COURSE CALENDAR**

See "Course Calendar" in the Start Here module in the course Canvas shell.