SYLLABUS – FALL 2019  
ENGL 1301 – COMPOSITION 1  
3 credit hours-ENGL 1301.61814, 61814, 61815, 61816, 61817, 61818  
Semester begins August 26 and ends December 12  
(16 weeks)

Meeting Dates and Times:  
MW 8:00-9:20am, 9:30-10:50am, 12:30-1:50pm / TTH 8:00-9:20am, 12:30-1:50pm, 2:00-3:20pm

Instructor: Amanda Torres  
Arts & Communications Phone: (214) 860-8681  
Arts & Communications Office: E-40A

My E-Mail: atorres@dcccd.edu  
Email is the best way to reach me because I check it several times a day. If I don’t respond to your message within twenty-four hours, please write me again.

Instructor Availability: Office Hours – By appointment only.

Recommended Apps (Free): Outlook (E-Mail), Blackboard, Merriam Webster

Welcome  
Dear Students,

I hope you enjoy this writing class; writing is not an easy subject. My primary goal and hope is to improve and strengthen your writing and the way you think about writing through connections and engagement in my classroom. No one can become a “great” writer in one semester; it’s an on-going process (I’m still working on it myself 😊). I look forward to coaching you throughout this course. I use the term coach because it means I will instruct, prepare and train you to be a better writer as we work together as a team to accomplish the goal of improving your writing. Best wishes for a successful semester of learning.

Ms. Torres

DCCCD CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION OF ENGL 1301: This is a Texas Common Course Number. This is a Core Curriculum course selected by the colleges of DCCCD.

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. (3 Lecture hours)

Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 2313015112

ENGL 1301- STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of English Composition 1301 students will be able to
After successful completion of this course the student should be able to:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts of various mediums.
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.

TEXAS CORE OBJECTIVES
The College defines essential knowledge and skills that students need to develop during their college experience. These general education competencies parallel the Texas Core Objectives for Student Learning. In this course, the activities you engage in will give you the opportunity to practice two or more of the following core competencies:

1. **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
4. **Teamwork** - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
5. **Personal Responsibility** - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
6. **Social Responsibility** - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

**Supplies and Materials** – ****RELIABLE INTERNET AND COMPUTER ACCESS.****
- USB thumb drive for saving your work or your own laptop, bring this to every class. All essays must be turned in through Microsoft Office Word ONLY. Because of the technical features you need for research based writing, **GOOGLE documents are not allowed.** All students can download OFFICE WORD HERE: Get Microsoft Office Here
- Notebook (digital notes are fine) and writing utensil; **bring to class everyday.**
- **FREE PRINTING** (of original student work) is available in MVC’s Ink Spot aka the Writing Center in W114.
- **LA 92** directed by T.J. Martin and Daniel Lindsay; distributed by National Geographic. We will be watching this documentary in class. **LA 92** is available for purchase on YouTube and Amazon Prime and is streaming on Netflix. ***Content Warning: This film contains imagery and language that may be emotionally distressing or offensive to some individuals,***
- Optional: headphones for use with podcast and documentary.

**Institution Policies:** Please visit Mountain View College Addendum for a complete up-to-date list on Mountain View College and DCCCD policies such as, Stop Before You Drop; Withdrawal Policy; Repeating a Course; Financial Aid; Academic Dishonesty; Americans with Disabilities Act Statement; Religious Holidays; and Campus Emergency Operation Plan and Contingency Plan.

**General Classroom Policies:** “Courtesy Talk”; no foul language, be respectful to instructor, classmates, and MVC equipment. NO food or beverages allowed during class time. Water and closed lid drinks are acceptable.
NO electronic devices should be out during class time unless specifically used for coursework. No loud music during instructional time.

**Attendance Policy:** ***More than 3 absences will result in a mandatory conference outside of class.***
***More than 5 absences will result in a five-point deduction of overall semester average.***

Punctual attendance at every class is a necessity. If it is absolutely necessary to miss class, it is your responsibility to find out from the course calendar what you missed and come to the next class fully prepared, with all assignments complete. To clarify, being absent from a prior class is no excuse for not having your assignment on the day you do attend. Students must be in attendance in all classes of enrollment. No exceptions. Financial Aid will not be granted to students who have been certified as not attending, by the certification date. For this lecture course, your physical participation in class, on or before the certification date will allow you to receive credit for FA purposes. For certification dates, check with the division or FAO for further information. Students who are not certified as beginning class are responsible for any payments due as a result of non-certification, to include the dropping of courses.

The withdraw date for this class is **Thursday, November 14**

**Late Work Policy:** The course calendar (separate from your syllabus) lists due dates and times for the entire semester. Check it every day. I do not accept late work, however if an unavoidable absence may be necessary, it is YOUR responsibility to notify the professor to make arrangements BEFORE an upcoming deadline. I welcome those communicated notices.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Be sure you fully understand the following explanations. An essay containing plagiarism or evidence of collusion will receive a grade of “0” with a required conference before the possibility of completing any future assignments.

Plagiarism, using someone else’s words or ideas without giving credit, is a serious academic offense in America. Common types of plagiarism include the following forms:
- Turning in a paper any part of which you did not write,
- Cutting and pasting a paper together from various sources without attributing the sources correctly,
- Changing a few words but basically keeping most of the words and sentence structure of the original,
- Using the ideas of another without giving credit to the person who originally had the ideas.

Collusion is working with someone so closely on your paper that a section or sections have been reworded or edited by someone other than you. You may get help from tutors, but the grade you earn should reflect your ability—not someone else's.

**Grading Policies:** All assignments MUST be turned in with proper MLA format: 12pt, Times New Roman font, double spaced, 1” margins, proper citations, etc. I DO NOT ACCEPT GOOGLE DOCS.

Every paper requires a rough draft and a final copy (excluding the Annotated Bibliography). If you do not have a completed rough draft by the due date, you forgo the Conference grade. How does that affect you? It will result in a ZERO(s) for 15% of your total grade (see Evaluation Procedures below). For each essay, you will turn in a completed rough draft, and receive feedback from me, in the form of a conference. You will make necessary revisions and submit a final copy. Again, you will not earn any credit if you missed the rough draft due date, and **I do not accept incomplete rough drafts.** Conferences are crucial parts of the revising process. If you only submit a hard copy of your rough draft, but fail to show up for conference, you will receive a ZERO for the rough draft/conference grade. I do not issue letter grades on rough drafts, only final copies. I do not issue ANY grades until I see a plagiarism report, after your paper has gone through SafeAssign when you submit.
Submission of Essay Process: All assignment materials can be accessed through Blackboard/eCampus. I have a very rigid submission cycle for essays. Your essays are submitted in the following order.

Rough drafts – Online to Blackboard w/Safe Assign and in hard copy format. You are responsible for printing. Rough drafts are always due at the end of your scheduled class period.

Final copies – Online to Blackboard, w/Safe Assign. All final copies will receive digital feedback from the professor, see my comments on BB. Final copies are always due at midnight.

IMPORTANT note about Safe Assign: When you submit a paper/assignment online, make sure you check the small box next to “I agree to submit my paper(s) to the Global Reference Database.” This box runs your paper through SafeAssign, a plagiarism software. I will not grade your assignment until you have submitted through Safe Assign.

Description of Assignments and Grading Criteria:

Synthesis Essay: Given a combination of sources, you will synthesize multiple viewpoints on a particular issue and stake a claim. You will listen to a podcast that will present various claims, issues, evidence, stylistic and sonic elements, as well as read a corresponding article that addresses similar issues on the topic of surveillance. In a three (3) page essay you will identify at least one issue presented in the podcast (in the form of a question), and analyze how the podcast responds to this particular issue, through the various elements presented above.

Rhetorical Analysis of a Film: As a class, we will watch and afterwards discuss the controversial issues and claims presented within a documentary and its appeals to ethical responsibility. After careful analysis of the film’s cinematic elements and rhetorical techniques, you will write a four (4) page essay that carefully analyzes the 2-3 key scenes for their rhetorical effectiveness, and how they support any of the controversial issues/claims presented within the film.

Annotated Bibliography: In preparing research for your proposal essay, you will find ten (10) relevant sources from the MVC library databases over your chosen topic. For each of your 10 sources, you will provide a summary of one paragraph for each as well as a second paragraph which identifies and analyzes how you will incorporate it into your final paper.

Proposal Essay: In a four to five (4-5) page paper, you will identify your intended audience and advocate for a position on a chosen issue with a well-supported argument. You will pick a current event or issue that involves a problem that needs addressing. You will provide a brief history of this controversy, outline a clearly stated problem, and provide possible solutions. The research conducted in your Annotated Bibliography will directly inform your position in this essay, however the two assignments will be graded separately.

Quizzes/Daily Work: Occasionally we will have a quiz over the material discussed in class that week, or you will be asked to respond to a question in the form of a discussion post (see Course Calendar for details).

Readings: Any articles listed should be READ by the date listed in the calendar.

The formatting for each writing assignment is discussed AT LENGTH and in great detail during class. Class time is valuable, as this is when clarification is gathered and questions about assignments are answered. Assignments will occasionally be supplemented with handouts and examples. Attendance to each class period is extremely important for this reason.

***One extra credit opportunity is available in the form of a documented visit to the Cliff Gallery.***

Evaluation Procedures:

Synthesis Essay= 15%
Rhetorical Analysis of a Film= 20%
Annotated Bibliography=10%
Proposal Essay = 25%
Quizzes/Daily Work/Discussion Posts=15%
Rough Draft Submissions/Conferences= 15%

Grading Scale:

90-100 % = A
80-89 % = B
70-79 % = C
60-69 % = D (This grade does not transfer to most universities.)
0-59 % = F

General Policy: The instructor reserves the right to change as necessary sections of this syllabus or course.

Schedule of Assignments – ENGL 1301 FALL 2019 – TTH Schedule

Introductions Tuesday August 20 Introductions/Syllabus/Course Overview
Thursday August 22 Blackboard/Grammar Diagnostic & Practice
Friday August 23 Syllabus Quiz due on BB

Week 1 Tuesday August 27 Read PMR’s “How to Say Nothing in 500 Words,” Discussion
Thursday August 29 Essay Structure Lesson/“Creating an Outline” Mini Lesson
Friday August 30 Writing Lab

Week 2 Tuesday September 3 MLA Formatting/In-text Citations, Works Cited Lesson
Thursday Sep 5 MLA Quiz due on BB/MVC Databases Lesson & Practice

Week 3 Tuesday Sep 10 Read The New Yorker’s “Citizen, The Smartphone Blotter” and Listen to Radiolab’s “Eye in the Sky” in class, Discussion
Thursday Sep 12 Continue “Eye in the Sky” Begin Synthesis Essay Outline

Week 4 Friday Sep 13 Continue Synthesis Essay
Tuesday Sep 17 Synthesis Essay rough draft due end of class on BB

Week 5 Tuesday Sep 24 Synthesis Essay final copy due on BB
Thursday Sep 26 “How to Write About Film” Lesson/Analyzing Rhetorical Devices
Friday Sep 27 Rhetorical Devices Quiz due on BB

Week 6 Tuesday October 1 Watch LA 92 in class
Thursday October 3      Finish LA 92, Rhetorical Analysis in Film Discussion

Week 7 Tuesday October 8      Begin Drafting Rhetorical Analysis
Thursday October 10     Continue Drafting Rhetorical Analysis

Week 8 Tuesday October 15    Scene Analysis discussion post due end of class
Thursday October 17     Continue Drafting Rhetorical Analysis

Week 9 Tuesday October 22    Rhetorical Analysis rough draft due end of class
Thursday October 24     Rhetorical Analysis conferences in class
Friday October 25    Rhetorical Analysis final copy due at midnight

Week 10 Tuesday October 29     “Opposing Viewpoints” discussion post due end of class
Thursday October 31   Revisit MVC databases, Opposing Viewpoints, SIRS Researcher

Week 11 Tuesday Nov 5     “12 Steps of an Arguable Issue,” Issue Approval
Thursday Nov 7      Begin Annotated Bibliography, read & annotate sources

Week 12 Friday Nov 8     Continue Annotated Bibliography, read & annotate sources
Tuesday Nov 12    Annotated Bibliography final copy due on BB

Thursday Nov 14     “How to Write a Proposal” Lesson

Week 13 Tuesday Nov 19     Begin Proposal outline
Thursday Nov 21    Continue drafting proposal essay
Friday Nov 22    Continue drafting proposal essay

Week 14 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY/ NO CLASS

Week 15 Tuesday December 3   Proposal Essay rough draft due on BB
Thursday Dec 5    Proposal Essay conferences in class

Week 16 Tuesday Dec 10   Proposal Essay Final Copy due end of class/Last day of class
Thursday Dec 12    Last Day of Class