

**The Houston Community College System**  
**English 1301**  
**Composition I**  
**Course Syllabus**

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**Course Description:** This course is devoted to improving the student's writing and critical reading. At the end of the semester, students should be able to write essays for a variety of purposes, including personal and academic. English 1301 will introduce students to argumentation, critical analysis, research methods and documenting/citing secondary sources correctly.

**Core Curriculum Competencies:** English 1301 fulfills the six basic competencies of the Core Curriculum: reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking, and computer literacy.

**Course Prerequisite:** A satisfactory assessment score, completion of ENGL 0310, or (for non-native speakers) ENGL 0349. 3 credit (3 lecture)

**Course Purpose:** English 1301 is designed to help students write multi-paragraph expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that have the following qualities:

- clarity in purpose and expression,
- appropriate and sensible organization,
- completeness in development,
- sound content, including applications of concepts and references to assigned readings,
- unity and coherence,
- appropriate strategies of development,
- sensitivity to audience,
- effective choice of words and sentence patterns,
- grammatical and mechanical correctness, and
- appropriate MLA citation format.

### **Textbooks/Course Materials:**

All other reading selections and video links can be accessed through Google and YouTube. Hence, there is no need to purchase a textbook.

Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus (apps can be downloaded from the App Store)

Any grammar handbook from Half Price Books  
(*eg. The Little Brown Handbook and/or The Harbrace Essentials*)

### **Assignments and Point Values**

Writing Assignments: 60%: Letter of Recommendation, Application for Scholarship/Grant, Letter of Purpose, Future Goals Essay

Portfolio: 10% (Binder which includes all graded assignments)

Oral Presentations: 20% Discuss the advantages/disadvantages of your dream job/career.  
(Please use Prezi or PowerPoint)

Final essay exam: 10%

### **Grading Rubric and Justification**

A (90-100%) Excellent work that shows clear understanding of the writing topic, has few errors of any kind, and shows exceptional ability to communicate to a specific audience.

B (80-89%) Above average work that shows understanding of the writing topic, has few serious errors, and provides good communication with a specific audience.

C (70-79%) Average work that shows understanding of the writing topic, contains few errors that interfere with adequate communication.

D (60-69%) Below average work that fails to respond adequately to the writing topic, contains a number of serious errors, and provides only marginal communication with a specific audience.

F (0-59%) Work that fails to respond to the writing topic, contains a number of serious errors, and provides little communication with a specific audience

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Demonstrate knowledge of writing as process.
2. Apply basic principles of critical thinking in analyzing reading selections, developing expository essays, and writing argumentative essays.

3. Analyze elements such as purpose, audience, tone, style, strategy in essays and/or literature by professional writers.
4. Write essays in appropriate academic writing style using varied rhetorical strategies.
5. Synthesize concepts from and use references to assigned readings in their own academic writing.

NOTE\* This class will not be conducted through email or on the phone. You must attend class to know what is necessary to understand the assignments. In an effort to conserve paper, I will email most handouts to students. Written work must be submitted to me during our regular class meeting unless I tell you otherwise.

### **Important HCCS Policies:**

If you stop attending the class and don't withdraw, then you will receive an F in the class.

**Attendance:** According to official HCCS policy, you may miss four class sessions (6 hours) before being dropped from the course. Keep in mind that whatever the reason for your absence, you'll still miss important class work. If you know you must be absent or if you have an emergency, please discuss these situations with me. Missing a substantial number of classes, whatever the reason, will result in administrative withdrawal. (This applies to all students, including international students.)

**Scholastic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** According to the Student Handbook for the Houston Community College System, scholastic dishonesty includes cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Since you'll be writing essays in this class, I'll be most concerned with plagiarism, which means using another person's words or ideas and assimilating them into your own written work without quotation marks (if exact words are used) or appropriate acknowledgment if borrowed material is summarized or paraphrased--and collusion--"unauthorized collaboration."

Plagiarism will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment. You will not be allowed to rewrite plagiarized papers.

**Cell Phone and Gadget Policy:** You are more than welcome to bring your cell phones to class, as we will use them for research purposes. However, all ringers **MUST** be silenced. Please feel free to bring iPads, tablets and laptops, but understand that you **CANNOT** be on Facebook, Twitter, Candy Crush or Instagram.

### **TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1972, 20 U.S.C. A§ 1681 ET. SEQ.**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies and procedures that protect students' rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights are on the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance. It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your

rights and how to avoid these difficult situations. Log in to: [www.edurisksolutions.org](http://www.edurisksolutions.org) . Sign in using your HCC student e-mail account, then go to the button at the top right that says Login and enter your student number.