



# Welcome to English Composition I

Engl 1301 – Fall 2016, CRN 13074  
Tues. and Thurs. 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm, room 701  
16 Weeks: 8/22/2016 – 12/11/2016  
Core Curriculum

**Instructor:** Michael Suarez

## Contact Information:

- [michael.suarez@hccs.edu](mailto:michael.suarez@hccs.edu)
- Email for this specific class: [comp1.springbranch@gmail.com](mailto:comp1.springbranch@gmail.com)
- elearning site: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/michael.suarez>
- Office Hours: before and after class
- Office Hours Location: room 701

Please contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course, and remember that you do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. I am available. Also, be sure to take advantage of the tutors (see additional support) who are available during much of the day, five days a week.

## Additional Support:

- Tutoring and Writing Centers
  - On-Campus tutors in the Katy Campus Writing Center, Room 321, which is located across from the third floor Library. Look for posted hours or call 713-718-5841.
  - Writing Center at Spring Branch Campus, South Hall, Room 703. Look for posted hours or call 713-718-5889.
- On-Line Tutors: <http://askonline.net>

## Course Materials:

- X. J. Kennedy, Dorothy M. Kennedy, and Jane E. Aaron. *The Bedford Reader*, Twelfth Edition, Bedford/St. Martin's. 2013 (BR)
- Suggested Text: College Level Dictionary and/or Thesaurus
- Blue Books for Midterm and Final Exams (at least two)
- a notebook (or other means of note-taking)
- access to a computer and the internet

## 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. Core curriculum course. Prerequisite: A satisfactory assessment score, completion of INRW 0420 or (for non-native speakers) ESOL 0360.

## Core Objectives:

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Students enrolled in this core curriculum course will complete assignments designed to cultivate the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
- **Teamwork**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Student proficiency in Communication Skills will be assessed as a formal written out-of-class essay, which is at least 3 pages long and which includes an oral presentation component as well as a visual component. Student proficiency in Critical Thinking will be assessed by a formal out-of-class essay assignment. Personal Responsibility and Teamwork will be assessed as part of long unit or major essay assignment, which will include assigned reading responses, pre-writing activities, multiple drafts, and group activities (such as peer review or group presentations). Student project grades will account for at least 5% of the final course grade.

## **Instructional Methods:**

To fulfill my personal goal of making you the best writer and thinker I can in 16 weeks, you will experience a variety of instructional methods. I will give you very specific guidance as to how to write analyses and arguments. In addition to analysis and argument, to become more fluid and confident writers, you will also experiment in different styles of writing from personal narratives to descriptive papers.

## **Minimum Writing Requirement:**

Minimum of 5000 words during the semester.

## **Student Assignments:**

This class aims to build within each student a strong foundation for his or her writing. Given the shortened semester, students should strive to not miss any classes. Each assignment builds upon the next so that by the end of the semester, the attentive student will know how to effectively compose various essays, given a particular situation. Each student will also learn how to properly cite sources and apply MLA style. (Note that each assignment will have its own set of criteria to be met.)

Assignments include (but are not necessarily limited to):

*Midterm Critical Analysis*, an in-class essay where a student critically analyses a text from *The Bedford Reader*.

*6 Mini-Papers*, out-of-class essays in which the student utilizes a specific type of writing. A portfolio will be kept for each essay, which will contain various drafts, peer reviews, and the final draft.

*Final*, an in-class argumentative paper that tries to convince the reader on the particular stance on an issue in a text discussed in class.

*Class Participation (Discussions, Quizzes, Group Work, In-class Writing, and an Oral Presentation)*, everyday work in class includes daily quizzes on readings, peer reviews, class discussions, and the occasional writing exercise. (Extra out-of-class work may be assigned, and the resulting grades will be added here.) In addition, students will occasionally take the lead in class discussions. You will also give a 10+ minute oral presentation in which you will try and persuade the class of something.

## **Student Assessments**

- 6 Mini-Papers 30%
- Mid-term: In-class Critical Analysis Essay 20%
- Final: Argumentative Essay 10%
- Class Participation 40%

## Where to Find Copies of Specific Assignments and Written Support for this Class:

On the elearning site noted above, this syllabus and calendar, assignments, and other materials concerning English are available to read, download and/or print.

## Instructor Grading Criteria:

- Out-of-class papers, as well as the Midterm and Final (and any in-class writing or homework)
  - These papers will be graded by English Discipline standards, which include grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, word usage, tone, and mechanics. The grading profile is weighted by the following percentages:
    - Content 27%
    - Organization 23%
    - Sentences 20%
    - Word Use and Tone 17%
    - Punctuation and Mechanics 13%

## HCC Grading Scale:

A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 70

D = 69 – 60

F = 59 and below

## HCC Policy Statements:

- **Discipline:** As your instructor and as a student in this class, our shared responsibility is to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. This is a college class and I expect college-level (a.k.a. professional) behavior from each of you. I take this responsibility seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for me to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and to assist me achieve this critical goal. (See Student Handbook)
- **Academic Honesty:** A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcing roles. You are expected to be familiar with the HCC's policy on Academic Honesty found in the catalogue. What that means is that if you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you.

Just so there is no misunderstanding, plagiarism (using another's ideas or words without giving credit), Collusion (unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit), and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. To be accepted, all papers require proof of their development. Students who plagiarize, collude, or cheat may face disciplinary action including the grade of 0 for the assignment, an F for the course, and/or dismissal from the college. For more on plagiarism, see "Plagiarism" in *The New McGraw-Hill Handbook, second edition*. (See Student Handbook)

- **Special Needs:** ADA- Services to Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are only authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

The ADA counselors: Northwest ADA Counselors: Lisa Parkinson – 713.718.5667 (officed at Spring Branch) and Dr. LaRonda Ashford – 713.718.5408 (officed at Katy)

- **Missing Class:** If absent or late to a class, the student is responsible for any information missed. After an absence, students are to find out what they missed before returning to class. Do not ask the instructor if you missed anything important. If students come in tardy, it is their responsibility to find out what they missed and to make sure, after class, that their attendance has been recorded; otherwise, they will be considered absent. Also, you may be excused for certain absences given that you provide a truthful and adequate reason for doing so, as well as evidence.
- **Title IX:** 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.

- **Attendance/Withdrawals:** You should understand that your in-class grade will suffer as a result of absences, and of course, your ability to do the work required

in the course will also be impaired and grades on that work will naturally be lower. If a student misses more than 6 hours of class, excused or non-excused absences, the student may be dropped from the course. Three tardies equal one absence. Leaving early is the same as a tardy. If students stop attending the class, they will receive an Fx, failure due to absences, on their transcript.

- If you feel that you cannot complete this course, please take the time to meet with me to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. I may be able to provide you with suggestions to enable you to complete the course. Your success is important.
- If you wish to withdraw, fill out the withdrawal form online and submit it. Faculty can only withdraw you from a class for excess absences. However, before you withdraw from any class, please consider the following carefully: The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. For example, if you take the same course more than two times, you have to pay extra tuition. In 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting new students (those starting college in Fall 2007) to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. There may be future penalties imposed.

- **Last day for Administrative /Student Withdrawals:**  
Friday, October 28, 2016

### **Census Date**

Students who have no recorded attendance before the Census Date (the Official Day of Record) will be automatically dropped from the class by the Registrar. Students dropped for nonattendance will not be reinstated. The Census Date varies according the session. Please refer to the Academic Calendar for the exact date for each session.

### **Savings Assignments:**

Save your work on a **FLASH DRIVE**. If a C drive crashed with no backup, students will be faced with rewriting assignments. You are responsible for saving your own work. Please do not delete such items until the semester has ended and you have received your grade for the class to ensure that you can re-submit work if needed.

### **Peer Email Addresses and Phone Numbers:**

Students should get email addresses and cell phone numbers from at least **two classmates** in case they are absent from class. I make announcements in each class that should be added to your syllabus, so if you are absent, you will miss them if you don't check with a classmate. I can't possibly include every single thing we do in class on the syllabus.

## HCC Student Services Information:

Student Services provides master's and doctoral-level counseling for the Northwest College student body. Counselors are available at each campus to assist students in creating class schedules, evaluating college transcripts, and completing degree/certificate plans.

Student Services regular business hours are the same at both campuses. Phone numbers:

- \* 8 a.m. – 7 p.m. M – Th
- \* 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. F – Sat
- \* Katy Campus, 713-718-5751
- \* Spring Branch Campus, 713-718-5669

Additional Information:



<http://northwest.hccs.edu/northwest/campus-services>

Early Alert: HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor will “alert” you through counselors of concerns that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance.

## Instructor Requirements:

- **Submission of materials.** As in any activity, writing follows certain rules so that audience and participants know what to do and what to expect.
  - **In-class essays** must be written on blue books. Unless told otherwise, students will write on one side of a page and skip every other line to allow room for instructor comments.
  - **Out of class** papers are to be turned in at the beginning of the class period on which they are due. Papers will be penalized one letter grade (10 points) after the beginning of class when due and every calendar day they

are late up to three days. After that, a paper is no longer accepted. Make-up of in-class exams follows the same criteria, unless otherwise excused by me.

- Out-of-class essays must follow basic MLA rules (Modern Language Association: the writing body that is the equivalent of the NBA) and be typed, double spaced, and printed on 8 1/2 x 11" white paper with 1" margins and use a 12 pt. plain font. For my class, unless told otherwise, please do not submit title sheets, cover booklets, or bindings. Secure the required materials with a staple or paper clip. Points will be deducted from papers, which do not meet requirements. **Students are also required to submit their out-of-class essays via this class's Gmail on or before the day said essays are due. (Send emails with your name in the subject line. If you have any questions concerning this, ask. If you fail to submit properly, I will ask you to resubmit.)**
  
- **Electronics in the classroom:** As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.

## **Syllabus:**

It is up to students to download the syllabus from the Learning Web. Because of limited copying budgets, instructors have been told to post their handouts on line to reduce copying costs.

## **Extra Credit:**

Any and all extra credit will be at the discretion of the professor.

## **EGLS<sub>3</sub> (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System)**

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Go to [www.hccs.edu/egls3](http://www.hccs.edu/egls3) for more information.



## **Open/Campus Carry of Handguns**

**No Firearms Are Allowed on Campus.** If you see anyone carrying a firearm on campus call the HCC Police Department at **8-8888** immediately.

Texas House Bill 910—known as the “Open Carry” law—provides holders of a handgun license may now carry their handgun visibly in a waist belt holster or a shoulder holster, but they may not openly carry on or in a college campus or building and they may not openly carry on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage or other parking area of the college. Open Carry is effective as of January 1, 2016.

Campus carry and open carry are two (2) separate laws. Texas Senate Bill 11—known as the “Campus Carry” law—will allow individuals who have a valid Texas handgun license to carry a concealed handgun in certain areas on college campuses. The Campus Carry law becomes effective at 4-year institutions on August 1, 2016 and at 2-year institutions on August 1, 2017.

All information regarding both Open Carry and Campus Carry will be posted at <http://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry> .

## **Campus Safety**

If you are on campus and need emergency assistance, call 713-718-8888 or, from any campus phone, 8-8888. Use this emergency number instead of 911, which gets routed back to the HCC Police Department dispatch thus lengthening response time to your emergency situation.

## **The Egalitarian**

The Egalitarian is HCC’s student newspaper, written and produced by students. The Egalitarian promotes the free exchange of ideas and information. The newspaper staff maintains a high standard of writing and journalistic excellence. Through The Egalitarian, interested students may have an opportunity to further expand their writing skills and see their work published. The Egalitarian is always in need of more writers. They publish stories on local and community news, sports, art and entertainment, as well as commentary. The Egalitarian is open to all currently enrolled HCC students at all HCC campuses regardless of their major.

For more information visit [HCCEgalitarian.com](http://HCCEgalitarian.com)

Alyssa Foley, Editor in Chief, would like you to contact her if you are interested in writing for The Egalitarian. Her email is [afoley@hcc egalitarian.com](mailto:afoley@hcc egalitarian.com)

## Libraries

HCC has a Learning Resource Center at each campus for student use. The library provides electronic resources including an online catalog system as well as numerous databases that contain full-text articles all available at <https://library.hccs.edu> . Find out library locations and hours here: [http://library.hccs.edu/about\\_us/intersession\\_hours](http://library.hccs.edu/about_us/intersession_hours) .

## Open Computer Labs

Students have free access to the internet and word processing in open computer labs available at HCC campuses. Check on the door of the open computer lab for hours of operation.

## Remind 101

Go to Learning Web and find the registration instructions for your class. This helpful tool allows us to communicate via text without having to share any information. **Strongly recommended.**

## Email

Your HCC email is an official mode of communication for this course. Although a Gmail account has been set up for this class, please use my HCC email for all communications. Understand that I will check this email frequently, but please be aware that email is not a substitute for in-class participation or face-to-face consultation. If you are having trouble in this course, make plans to meet with me before or after class.

## Tutoring

The Houston Community College Writing Centers provide a student-centered environment where professional tutors support student success for all HCC students. The primary goal of the Writing Centers is to offer free, convenient, and personalized assistance to help students improve their writing at any stage of the writing process required in any courses at HCC. Tutors will also assist students with their job application letters, resumes, and scholarship/transfer essays.

Each session lasts about thirty minutes. Students should bring their professor's assignment/writing prompt, any printed rough drafts, their textbooks, and (if necessary) a flash drive.

Consult Find-A-Tutor at <http://ctle3.hccs.edu/alltutoring/index.php?-link=stu> for Writing Center locations and times.

At HCC Writing Centers, each tutoring session becomes a learning experience.

Don't forget on-line tutors: <http://askonline.net>

# Calendar for Composition I: Fall 2016

Readings and assignments must be read or completed by the date assigned, and they may be augmented or deleted by instructor at any time during the semester.<sup>1</sup> Any additional readings will be found on Learning Web and must be printed and brought to class to receive full participation credit for that day.<sup>2</sup> (Links for videos and films will be posted on Learning Web.)

## Week 1

8/23 and 25:

**T** Introduction

Info sheets

**TH** Syllabus and Calendar

Introductions and Discussion of the Text: *The Bedford Reader (BR)*

Being Critical

Review various forms of criticism

“This Is Water”

**Mini-Paper #1 assigned**

## Week 2

8/30 and 9/1:

**T** Critical Reading and Writing

Introduce the notion of “academic writing”

Review of MLA Citation and Format: Do’s and Don’ts

Citation Exercise

**Last Day to Turn in Mini-Paper #1**

Recommended Reading: pgs. 70-90

**TH** The Writing Process

Thesis vs. Purpose and Rhetoric

In-class writing exercise

Quiz #1

Required Reading: “Disability” by Nancy Mairs (*BR* 12-15) and *BR* 22-26

Recommended Reading: Chapter 1, 2, and 3

## Week 3

9/6 and 8:

**T** Visual Rhetoric

Bring in a piece of visual rhetoric for class

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<sup>1</sup> It is on you to keep up.

<sup>2</sup> You’ll turn these in at the end of class. No reasons or excuses accepted.

**TH** Narrative  
Quiz #2

Required Reading: "Fish Cheeks" by Amy Tan (*BR* 110-111) and "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson (*BR* 134-144)

Recommended Reading: Chapter 4

#### **Week 4**

9/13 and 15:

**T** Description

Quiz #3

In-class writing

Required Reading: "Arm Wrestling with My Father" by Brad Manning (*BR* 156- 163) and "Shooting Dad" by Sarah Vowell (*BR* 164-173)

Recommended Reading: Chapter 5

**TH** Comparison and Contrast

Quiz #4

**Mini-Paper #2 assigned**

Required Reading: "Neat People vs. Sloppy People" by Suzanne Britt (*BR* 242-247) and "Batting Clean-Up and Striking Out" by Dave Barry (*BR* 248-253)

Recommended Reading: Chapter 7

#### **Week 5**

9/20 and 22:

**T** Analysis

What Being Critical Leads Us To

Quiz #5

In-class exercise

Required Reading: "Consider the Lobster" (online)

**TH** Analysis (cont'd)

Quiz #6

**Last Day to Turn in Mini-Paper #2**

**Mini-Paper #3 assigned**

Required Reading: "Vampires Never Die" (*BR* 335-341); "Our Zombies, Ourselves" (*BR* 342-348); and "The Capricious Camera" (*BR* 361-367)

Recommended Reading: Chapter 9

## **Week 6**

9/27 and 29:

**T** Literary Analysis

Quiz #7

Required Reading: "Bitter Grounds" by Neil Gaiman (online text)

Recommended Reading/Viewing: "Make Good Art" by Neil Gaiman (online)

**TH** Rhetorical Analysis

Quiz #8

Required Reading: "Why We Lie" (*BR* 440-446) and "The Rise and Fall of the Hit" (*BR* 455-463)

Recommended Viewing: "Everything is a Remix" (online)

## **Week 7**

10/4 and 6:

**T** TBA

**TH**

Prepare for Mid-term

Introduce and discuss your Oral Presentation

**Last Day to Turn in Mini-Paper #3**

## **Week 8**

10/11 and 13:

**T & TH**

**Mid-term In-class (Critical Analysis) Essay**

## **Week 9**

10/18 and 20:

**T** Rhetorical appeals

Discussion of ethos, logos, and pathos

Quiz #9

Required Reading: MLK's "Birmingham Jail" (online text)

Recommended Reading: MLK's "Birmingham Jail" video (online)

**TH** Argument and Persuasion

Quiz #10

**Mini-Paper #4 assigned**

Required Reading: "Tracking Is an Assault on Liberty" (*BR* 538-544); "Web Users Get as Much as They Give" (*BR* 545-548); and "Facebook Is Using You" (*BR* 551-556)

Recommended Reading: Chapter 13 (BR 509-523)  
Recommended Viewing: *Terms and Conditions May Apply* (film)

### **Week 10**

10/25 and 27:  
T Argument and Persuasion (cont'd)  
Quiz #11

Required Reading: "Waste Not, Want Not" (BR 557-561); "Forget Shorter Showers" (BR 564-569); and "Eating Green" (BR 570-577)

**TH**  
Halloween Lecture  
**Last Day to Turn in Mini-Paper #4**  
**Mini-Paper #5 assigned**

### **Week 11**

11/1 and 11/3:  
T No class  
Prep for Oral Presentation

**TH**  
**Oral Presentations**  
**Last Day to Turn in Mini-Paper #5**

### **Week 12**

11/8 and 10:  
**T & TH**  
**Oral Presentations**

### **Week 13**

11/15 and 17:  
**T**  
**Oral Presentations**

**TH** Mixing the Methods  
Quiz #12

Required Reading: "Superman and Me" (BR 582-588); "I Want a Wife" (BR 589-594); "Shooting an Elephant" (BR 619-629); and "A Modest Proposal" (BR 630-638)

**Week 14**

11/22 and 24:  
T Final Lecture  
Semester Review for Final Exam  
Peer Review of Mini-Paper #4  
**Mini-Paper #6 assigned**

**TH**  
**Thanksgiving**

**Week 15**

11/29 and 31:  
**T & TH**  
**Final Exam (In-class Argumentative Essay)**

**(Tues. – Last Day to Turn in Mini-Paper #6)**

**Week 16**

12/6 and 8:  
T TBA

**TH**  
All work returned, including Final Exams