English 1301.474
Composition I

Instructor Name: Chimene Burnett
Office: Faculty Center 113
Telephone: (361) 825-6084 TA Office
           (361) 825-2150 First Year Program Office
Email: jimena.burnett@tamucc.edu
Webpage: http://falcon.tamucc.edu/wiki/ChimeneBurnett/home
Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:30 or by appointment

Classes: ENGL 1301.474 TR 9:30-10:45 in CCH 209
         ENGL 1301.475 TR 11:00-12:15 in CCH 209

Course Description
Principles, techniques, and processes of written composition, textual analysis, and critical thinking.

Welcome to English 1301. This course concentrates on developing reading, writing, and thinking skills that will be valuable to students in and outside of college. We will explore how writing serves as a means of communication, and we will be working with practical writing skills in the writing process such as generating and focusing ideas for essays, composing drafts, and polishing (revising and editing) drafts. Students will read, analyze, and discuss written pieces from a wide variety of genres. Students will gain more experience with critical thinking skills such as analysis, synthesis, argumentation, and persuasion. Active participation in and outside of class is a must.

The heart and the bones of this class are writing and reading. Be prepared to write and to read!

1301 Student Learning Outcomes
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

- Apply principles of the writing process, including drafting, editing, and revision, to generate academic / professional documents
- Analyze complex issues / ideas in research-based academic writing
- Analyze and interpret a variety of texts by engaging with the reading material
- Write in several genres
- Produce an introduction with a solid focus, direction, and purpose
- Cohesively integrate academic research to support the writer's purpose
- Connect ideas across courses

The required textbook for all English 1301 classes
- Writing about Writing, by Elizabeth Wardle and Doug Downs

1301 will also require these other materials
- Access to University Network and an active "Islander" e-mail account.
- Access to a computer with Microsoft Word.
- Appropriate / compatible media to save and transport computer files among computers on campus and / or between home and campus.
- Sanddollar card and money in your account to print on campus, if needed.
- Be sure and always bring a pen and paper to class.

**Grade Distribution (dates, nature of assignments, assignment weight)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>% Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation (attendance, reading journals, mini-writing assignments, quizzes)</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 1 Literacy Narrative</td>
<td>4th week</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2 Sustainability Paper (Shared Assignment)</td>
<td>8th week</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio One</td>
<td>9th week</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 3 Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>11th week</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Celebration Presentations</td>
<td>15th week</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 4 Ethnographic Research</td>
<td>15th week</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio Two</td>
<td>16th week</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Brief Description**
The course will be divided into four units, each covering specific aspects within the study of writing. You will be asked to write an essay for each unit covered, a total of 4 major writing assignments in the course of the semester. You will also be asked to submit 2 major portfolios: 1 midterm, and 1 final. Specific guidelines will be posted to the class website for these as well as other writing assignments.

**Policies**

**Professionalism & Class Expectations**
As a new member of the university community, you may or may not be familiar with the general rules for acceptable college-level conduct. All instructors have their “do’s” and “don’ts,” which will vary from course to course. Here are mine:

- **COME TO CLASS PREPARED.** Read all assigned readings, complete all assigned work, and come to class fully prepared to write and discuss the day’s topics, readings, and writings.
- **BE RESPECTFUL.** Please be tolerant and respectful of others, particularly those who differ from you.
- **COMMUNICATE WITH ME.** If there is something going on in your life that is affecting your work, please let me know as soon as possible. If you don’t understand or are having trouble completing an assignment, please let me know so I can work with you to help you. I prefer some form of written communication such as email to initiate this process.
- **MEET DEADLINES.** It is your responsibility to turn in your assignments at the designated time and date.
- **DO NOT BRING IN FOOD OR DRINKS.** The computer labs do not allow food or drinks unless they are closed bottles kept on the floor.

**Technology Policy:** Do not use technology to conduct personal/social business in class. Practice polite technology use by silencing and putting away phones in class.

**Attendance Policy:** You are a valued member of our discourse community. Please make every effort to attend class. In the unlikely event of being absent, please email me letting me know your situation. You are allowed one absence with no penalty to your grade. Once again, email me.

**Late Work:** Many things in life are time-sensitive. Please be aware of due dates and make every effort to get your work in on time. If you need an extension for a major assignment, you must
communicate with me in writing (email), detailing your dilemma. This must be done 24 hours prior to the due date.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism.

**University Rule: 13.02.99.C3.01 Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases**
Disciplinary action for academic misconduct is first the responsibility of the faculty member assigned to the course. The faculty member is charged with assessing the gravity of any case of academic misconduct and with giving appropriate sanction to any student involved. The faculty member must file a record (an Academic Misconduct Incident Form) for each case of academic misconduct, along with any materials involved. Any student who has been penalized for academic misconduct has the right to appeal the judgment or the penalty assessed, unless the student chooses not to sign the Academic Misconduct Incident Form within the time constraints indicated below. (Further details are available the University website: [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html), or from the Division of Student Affairs at 825-2612.

Plagiarism includes:

1. using the work of another as your own,
2. downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
3. using resource materials without correct documentation,
4. using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.

Be aware that there are other ways to use sources incorrectly, or to plagiarize. When in doubt, visit me or the Writing Center for help on correct use of sources, how to paraphrase, and how to document correctly.

**Academic Dishonesty**
Other forms of academic dishonesty include falsification (the intentional alteration of information), fabrication (the intentional invention of information), multiple submission (using the same material for two separate assignments or courses without permission from the instructors), and abuse of academic materials (the intentional destruction of resource materials).

**Students with Disabilities and Veterans**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in in CCH 116 and 119.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.
Grade Appeal Process
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule

- 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1  Introductions & Icebreaker; WAW orientation; Malcom X; Tierney and Pearson
Week 2  Pre-writing for P1; Lamott; Introduce CARS model & reading strategies; Brandt; Alexie
Week 3  rough drafts of P1 due; peer review; conferences; Grant-Davie;
Week 4  P1 due; P2 introduction; P2 readings; library skills; Swales
Week 5  P2 readings/activities; rhetorical analysis; Penrose & Geisler
Week 6  P2 rough drafts; peer review
Week 7  P2 conferencing; introduce P3
Week 8  Project 2; research & two annotated sources
Week 10  Draft 2 of P3; peer review; Portfolio 1
Week 11  P3 due; Drop Date (Friday, Nov. 5)
Week 12  Bitzer; Mirabelli; draft and peer review of P4
Week 13  FY celebration prep; P4 conferences
Week 14  In class practice for FYC; Thanksgiving
Week 15  First-Year Celebration (Thursday, Dec. 1); Project 4
Week 16  Final Portfolio

*Please note that this outline is subject to change. Always refer to the wiki for day-to-day specifics.*