

**McLennan**  
C O M M U N I T Y  
**C O L L E G E**

WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**AND**  
**INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**COMPOSITION I**

**ENGL 1301 C41**

**SARAH LIEBER**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

**COVID 19 Notice:**

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

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### **Course Description:**

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

### **Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:**

TSI complete in Reading and Writing or the equivalent.

### **Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

The course is offered as Dual Credit through Vanguard College Preparatory School.

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Sarah Lieber

MCC E-mail: [slieber@mclennan.edu](mailto:slieber@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: (254) 772-8111

Office Location: Brown 111 (Vanguard College Preparatory School)

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: M-T 8:00-8:25, by appointment

### **Required Text & Materials:**

Title: [\*Writing is Easier Than You Think\*](#)

Author: Nicholas Webb

*\*\*This is an online textbook written by an MCC professor. Click the title above to access the full textbook. \*\**

Title: *Fahrenheit 451* Author: Ray Bradbury ISBN: 978-1-4516-7331-9

Title: *Hamlet*

Author: William Shakespeare ISBN: 978-0743477123

Title: *Things Fall Apart* Author: Chinua Achebe ISBN: 978-0385474542

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

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#### **Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

ENGL 1301 is a writing-intensive, discussion-based class. Students will complete reading assignments for daily discussion and short response papers in addition to longer, critical essays. Students will complete one timed in-class essay (without preparation) and one formal, take-home essay (five pages each) for each literary text studied. In addition, students will complete a research paper of at least five pages that properly uses, incorporates, and cites 5 sources.

#### **Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

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

#### **Course Outline or Schedule:**

The following course outline is tentative and can be changed at the need of the instructor. Any changes will be communicated to students via class, email, and on BrightSpace.

Week 1: Class introduction and syllabus review August 18: Summer Reading Essay Due

Week 2: “The Lottery” and Censorship; *Fahrenheit 451* Part One Student response/ Literary Analysis

Week 3: *Fahrenheit 451* Part Two Character analysis response Week 4: *Fahrenheit 451* Part Three

Week 5: *Fahrenheit 451* Essay – focus on outline, evidence, rough draft, and personal revision

Week 6: *Fahrenheit 451* Essay; Begin class reading of *Hamlet*

Peer revision and final copy of *Fahrenheit 451* Essay due Week 7: *Hamlet* Act I  
Passage Analysis/response due

Week 8: *Hamlet* Act II

In-class essay/passage analysis

Group project: film analysis using film critique terms and external reviews

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Week 9: *Hamlet* Act III

Week 10: *Hamlet* Act IV

**October 11:** Vanguard Quarter 2 Begins

In-class passage analysis Week 11: *Hamlet* Act V

*Hamlet* formal essay – focus on analysis of evidence and creation/support of original argument; continual work with peer review and editing process

Week 12: *Hamlet* Essay work in and out of class

Week 13: Background research project – Igbo customs and *Things Fall Apart*

Begin research in class

Week 14: Begin reading *Things Fall Apart*

Research project sources (5 minimum) finalized and outline turned in Week 15: Continue *Things Fall Apart*

Students continue to work on research project draft Week 16: *Things Fall Apart*

Analytical in-class essay

Week 17: Revise and finish research project

Week 18-19: Dead Days and semester exam

Exam will be comprised of 2 passage analyses and one thematic essay that covers all texts from the semester

### **Course Grading Information:**

Essays and Exams/Presentations: 60%

Daily Work (homework, class work, etc.): 30%

Attendance and Participation (graded discussions, group work, et.): 10%

All assignments will be graded using a letter (and equivalent numerical grade) system. The average of each category of grades will be weighted using the above percentages for the semester. The semester grade is calculated by combining the student's average from the regular semester (80%), and the semester exam (20%).

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, cheating, etc. will result in a zero for that assignment and consequences as specified by MCC. Plagiarism and cheating are defined as using outside materials or ideas without proper citation and passing them off as the student's own work. This policy includes (but is not limited to) all assignments, evaluations, and essays.

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### **Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

Late work **WILL NOT** be accepted.

- To be considered on time, work must be turned in at the beginning of the class period.
- For essays/papers/projects, students must turn in a **hard copy** (no emails, Google docs, etc. accepted) at the beginning of class as well as a copy to turnitin.com by 11:59 PM on the due date.
- If a student will miss a class due to a Vanguard event (athletics, debate, etc.), but is present on campus that day, he/she must turn in work before leaving.

### **Attendance**

- Students who are absent for 25% of the class sessions will be officially withdrawn from the class and will not receive credit.
- Students more than 10 minutes late to class (or who leave more than 10 minutes early) will be counted as absent.
- Regardless of physical presence in class, all work is due on the due date by the beginning of class time.

### **Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

- Our classroom operates on a basis of trust and respect for ourselves and for each other. Students must respect the rights, property, and ideas of each other and every member of the community in order to promote a positive classroom environment as well as constructive channels of academic and social communication.
- Students must be in class with all materials, texts, and assignments on time every day. Students who are absent should contact another student in order to receive notes and the day's assignment or should contact me directly.
- Students are expected to follow the General Conduct Policy as established in the Highlander Guide.

### **[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)**

**(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.



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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability).

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu)

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf).

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Go to [www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity) for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to [www.mclennan.edu/student-email](http://www.mclennan.edu/student-email).

**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).



**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.