



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**English Composition 1**

**Engl-1301-028**

**Dr. Reid Makowsky**

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

**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, communication, and critical analysis.

**Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites:**

Passing score on writing portion of MCC placement test or credit for ENGL 0301 or INRW 0402

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. Reid Makowsky

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

Office Phone Number: 299-8908 (email is better)

Office Location: FO 218

Office Hours: MTWTH: 12:30-1:30. Please make an appointment.

**Required Texts:**

Title: St. Martin's Guide to Writing

Author: Axelrod

Edition: 13th

Publisher: St. Martin's

ISBN-13: 978-1-319-24922-9

Title: The Elements of Style

Author: Strunk and White

Edition: 4<sup>th</sup>, illustrated

Publisher: Penguin

ISBN-13: 978-0143112723

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

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Though I will occasionally lecture, most of our time together will be discussion-based: as a class we will discuss important concepts, essays from our book, and common problems in writing.

Students will also work in small groups to help each other improve. Students will write essays in a wide variety of genres.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies for Communication:**

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 Attendance/Participation Guidelines:**

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

**Major Essay Guidelines:**

The great majority of your grade depends on four major essays. Here are some things to bear in mind about them:

1. Each Essay involves prewriting, and the essay cannot receive an A without all prewriting.
2. Essay loses one letter grade for each class day it is late.

**3. All essays must be submitted to Brightspace. If you need help, contact the Help Desk at 299-8077.**

4. I grade essays according to the criteria set forth on the Essay Assignment Sheet. I provide feedback on Brightspace, using both the comments box and the yellow sticky note feature. I close-grade page one, then on make only comments or major corrections. At the end I assign a letter grade.

5. Revisions: You may revise Essay 1,2, or 3 if you make less than a C, **and revisions are due no later than one week after you receive your initial grade.**

6. Intentional plagiarism will be treated seriously. The first assignment that includes intentional plagiarism will receive a zero. The second instance of intentional plagiarism will result in an automatic F for the course and a referral.

### **Course Schedule:**

Note: Chapter readings should be completed by the student **before** class.

#### Unit 1: Personal Essay

Objectives: -use narrative and reflection to write a personal essay  
-craft an overall theme that unites a personal essay  
-consider how one's intended audience shapes one's rhetoric  
-make effective word choices

Week of 8/21: Class 1: Introductions And Syllabus

Class 2: Discuss ch. 1 of St. Martin's. In-class writing.

Week of 8/28: Class 1: Discuss essays in Ch. 2 of St. Martin's. Discuss Major Essay 1.

Class 2: Read from Strunk and White: II. 15, 16, 17; IV (Skim and jot down 5 words or expressions that confuse you); V14,21. In-class activity: Word Choices.

Week of 9/4: Class 1: **Bring polished draft of Essay 1 for Peer Review (classroom).**

Class 2: Self-guided work day.

**Essay 1 Due Thursday night at midnight.**

#### Unit 2: Explanation Essay+Rhetorical Analysis Essay

Objectives: -write an accurate and concise summary  
-write an effective rhetorical analysis

- use “what”, “how”, and “why” to write a compelling explanatory essay
- employ a variety of sentence structures while avoiding run-ons and fragments

Week of 9/11: Class 1: Introduction to Unit 2. Discuss Rhetorical Analysis.  
Class 2: Work on Rhetorical Analysis in Class. **Rhetorical Analysis Due Thursday Night.**

Week of 9/18: Class 1: Read from Strunk and White: I. 5, 6, 7; II. 14, 15; V. 4,5,8,9,11,16. In-class activity: sentences.  
Class 2: Discuss Essay 2 and the essays Chapter 4.

Week of 9/25: Class 1: In-class activity: fugues.  
Class 2: In class activity: Discuss outlining and work on outline for Essay 2.

Week of 10/2: Class 1: **Bring polished draft of Essay 2 for Peer Review (classroom).**  
Class 2: Introduction to Unit 3. In-class activity: music videos.  
**Essay 2 Due Thursday Night.**

### Unit 3: Review with Two Sources

Objectives: -craft a statement of judgement that encapsulates an evaluation  
-understand and use criteria to support a judgement  
-collect and include evidence to support the criteria  
-use topic sentences and logically arranged evidence to write strong paragraphs

Week of 10/9: Class 1: Discuss Chapter 8 (334-64). In-class activity: honing a judgement.  
Class 2: In class movie and discussion.

Week of 10/16: Class 1: In class activity: outlining a review.  
Class 2: Read from Strunk and White: II. 12, 13, 18, 19, 20. In class activity: paragraphs.

Week of 10/23: Class 1: Discuss Chs. 17. In-class activity: searching for sources.  
Class 2: **Bring outline of Essay 3 for Outline-to-Draft day.**

Week of 10/30: Class 1: **Bring polished draft of Essay 3 for Peer Review.**  
Class 2: Introduction to Unit 4. **Essay 3 due Thursday night.**

### Unit 4: The Researched Problem-Solution Essay

Objectives: -explicate a problem using reasons and evidence

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- propose a solution, use reasons and evidence, deal with alternative and objections
- conduct research that uncovers relevant and useful sources
- incorporate and cite sources using MLA

Week of 11/6: Class 1: Discuss Ch. 7 (283-315). Look at Essay 4 planning worksheet.  
Class 2: Discuss “Solving for Pattern” (Posted in Unit 4 folder)

Week of 11/13: Class 1: Discuss Ch. 18. In-class activity: evaluating sources.  
Class 2: Discuss Chs. 19 and 20. In-class activity: using and citing sources.  
**Topic Proposal Due Thursday Night.**

Week of 11/20: Class 1: **Bring outline of Essay 4 for Outline-to-Draft day.**

Class 2: Thanksgiving. No Class.

Week of 11/27: Class 1: **Bring polished draft of Essay 4 for Peer Review.**  
Class 2: Optional Conferences. **Major Essay 4 Due Thursday Night.**

**Course Grading Information:**

The grades will be distributed as follows:

Essay 1: 15%

Rhetorical Analysis Essay: 5%

Essay 2: 15%

Essay 3: 20%

Essay 4: 25%

Daily Grades and Class Participation: 20%

**Intentional plagiarism on any of these essays will result in an irrevocable grade of 0 for that assignment. Two instances of plagiarism will result in failure for the course.**

**A word about ChatGPT and other AI platforms.** My goal for you in this class is to become a better thinker and a better writer. That won't happen if you don't think or write.. Farming your thinking out to someone else (or to an algorithm) is cheating yourself. Some students say they like to use AI for brainstorming but then do their own writing. I question even this. If AI hands you a structure and few basic ideas that it gleaned from the internet, then your essay won't really reflect your thoughts even if you do the actual writing. *If everyone wrote in this way, no new thoughts would be written. Where would we be then? Somewhere even worse than where we already are.* That said, I cannot (and do not wish to) police how your brainstorm. What I can do

is look at the result. And this result I expect to be written in your own words, and sources should be cited in the correct manner. **So, if the AI detection tool in Turnitin detects more than 10% AI, I will ask for a rewrite. If no rewrite is supplied, the essay will receive a grade of 0).**

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

If you want to do well in this course, you should plan to do all the readings and attend all class meetings. Failure to attend at least three quarters of all meetings will result in a grade of “W” or “F”, depending on whether you were passing. If you arrive after class has begun you will be counted tardy. Three tardies equal one absence. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will be counted absent. Students use their phones in class may be counted absent. Students who do not bring the necessary books to class may also be counted absent.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that shows respect for other students and the instructor. **Bring your book. Be prepared. Be on time. Be attentive. Be off your phone.**

**[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.

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Updated 07/18/2023



## **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) 2542998122 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 acting Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center 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/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>).

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 either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing [crew@mclennan.edu](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu) or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu](mailto:SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu). Both are located in the Completion Center located on the second floor of the Student Services Center (SSC) which is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to [https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_07byXd7eB8iTqJg](https://mclennan.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07byXd7eB8iTqJg). Both the Completion Center and Paulanne's 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. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

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

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teachingandlearning/FacultyandStaffCommons/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/studentemail](http://www.mclennan.edu/studentemail).

**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](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**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.