

# McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

# COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

## **AND**

## **INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Composition II**

**ENGL-1302-001**

**Reid Makowsky, PhD**

**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. We are also concerned for your safety. We are working through COVID-19 guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. This will include smaller class sizes to manage social distancing and proper cleaning techniques. You will have the advantage of a physical classroom experience but may also need to work part of the time online as we adjust to limited classroom capacity. This will also allow us the flexibility to move online if so directed by federal, state and/or local COVID 19 guidelines. Faculty and staff are preparing now to ensure that you have the best experience in the midst of these uncertain times.

**Course Description:** This course aims to help students read and write at a college-level and emphasizes the basic skills of persuasive writing: ethical rhetorical strategies, research, and deft handling of sources.

**Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:** Prerequisite: English 1301 with a grade of C or better

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

1. Writing is an art, not a science. Science has to do with knowing, but art has to do with making. As with any kind of art, writers learn about certain principles—certain mental gear that helps them—but these only take a writer so far. Improvement depends on practice of the craft.
2. Writing well is challenging. The best writers in the world work very hard to write well. No successful writers consider their first draft to be their final draft.
3. Writing is up to the writer. As a class, we read and discuss great writing together; we learn the principles of good writing; and we practice the various stages of writing. However, it is finally up to you to decide that you are going to make the effort to write well.

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name: Dr. Reid Makowsky  
MCC E-mail: [rmakowsky@mclennan.edu](mailto:rmakowsky@mclennan.edu)  
Office Phone Number: 299-8908  
Office Location: FOB 218  
Office/Teacher Conference Hours:

**Required Text & Materials:**

Title: The Best American Essays of the Century  
Author: Oates and Atwan, eds.  
Edition: N/A  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin  
ISBN:978-0-618-15587-3

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

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:** Much of our time together will be spent discussing the readings from our book. This semester I've chosen to use an anthology of great American essays (rather than a text book) so that we can learn from and respond directly to truly great writers. There will also be short lectures, quizzes, and four major essays as well as four minor essays.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:** While honing the writing skills gained in 1301, students will learn both to analyze and use rhetoric to make their writing more persuasive.

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Students will also develop their ability to think carefully and deeply about various problems and articulate such well-developed thinking in their essays.

Assignments will require students to read sources carefully and critically; to evaluate information and sources accurately and fairly through summary, paraphrase, and quotation; and to incorporate and document sources in their own writing. At the end of this course, you should be better equipped to understand and engage the people, the ideas, and the world around you.

**Course Schedule:**

Week of 1/11: Introductions and Syllabus

Week of 1/18: Read and discuss “A Hundred Thousand Straightened Nails.” Minor Essay 1 due on Friday night.

Week of 1/25: Begin discussing Major Essay 1. Read and discuss “Once More to the Lake.”

Week of 2/1: Read and Discuss “Knoxville: Summer of 1915”, Quiz 1 in class. **Major Essay 1 due Friday Night.**

Week of 2/8: Begin discussing Major Essay 2. Read and discuss “Corn Pone Opinions”

Week of 2/15: Read and discuss “Tradition and the Individual Talent.” Minor Essay 2 due Friday Night.

Week of 2/22: Read and discuss “Graven Images”

Week of 3/1: Read and discuss “Insert Flap A and Throw Away” and “Bop” Quiz 2 in class. **Major Essay 2 Due Friday Night.**

Week of 3/8: Begin discussing Major Essay 3. Read and discuss “Total Eclipse”

Week of 3/15: Read and Discuss “Pamplona in July” Minor Essay 3 Due Friday Night.

Week of 3/22: Read and Discuss “Stickeen”

Week of 3/29 Read and Discuss: **TBD Major Essay 3 Due Friday Night.**

Week of 4/5: Read and Discuss: **TBD**

Week of 4/12: Read and Discuss “Letter from Birmingham Jail” Minor Essay 3 Due Friday Night.

Week of 4/19: Work on Essay 4 in class.

Week of 4/26: **Major Essay 4 Due MONDAY Night.**

**Course Grading Information:** The grades will be distributed thus:

Major Essay 1: 10%

Major Essay 2: 15%

Major Essay 3: 15%

Major Essay 4: 20%

Minor Essays: 5% each

Quizzes: 10%

Class participation/Daily Work: 10

**Essay Assignments:**

Keep the following guidelines about the major essays in mind:

1. You lose one letter grade each class day an essay is late.
2. I grade essays according to the criteria set forth on the Essay Assignment Sheet. I close-grade page one, then on make only comments or major corrections. At the end I assign a letter grade.
4. 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.**
5. 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.

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

No make-up daily work is permitted except in special cases. If you want to do well in this course, you must do all of the reading and should plan to 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. Failure to submit an assignment counts as an absence. 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 will be counted absent. Students who do not bring the necessary books to class will also be counted absent.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

You should observe common courtesy by treating others with dignity and respect. Be prepared for class by having done the reading and completed the assignments. Arrive on time. Listen to others when they are speaking. If your phone is distracting you, put it in your bag.

**\* [Click Here for the MCC Academic Integrity Statement](#)**

**([www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity))**

The link above will provide you with information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

\* [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.

\* *You will need to access each link separately through your Web browser (for example: Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Safari) to print each link's information.*

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## ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

### **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. Students can 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).

### **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 contacted/notified through 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.

\* [Click Here for the Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace](https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html)  
(<https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty%20and%20Staff%20Commons/requirements.html>)

Click on the link above for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**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.

**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 her/his 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.

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward the 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 become lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

**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. Instructors should not provide accommodations unless approved by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [mclennan.edu/disability](http://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

\* [Click Here for more information about Title IX](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix)  
([www.mclennan.edu/titleix](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix))

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

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[titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC by calling 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting the following website: <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

McLennan's Title IX webpage (<http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/>) 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.

*\* You will need to access each link separately through your web browser (for example Mozilla Firefox, Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Safari) to print each link's information.*