

McLennan
C O M M U N I T Y
COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

FRESHMAN COMPOSITION II

ENGLISH - 1302 – C95

LAURICE A. JONES

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.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

SPRING 2022

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Course Description:

Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts.

Emphasis is on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

ENGL 1301 or its equivalent with a grade of C or better or consent of division chair

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Emailing Your Instructor: Emailing me is the best way to communicate with me. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your progress in the course, or need to set up an appointment to meet with me during office hours, please email me using the following guidelines:

- Always use your MCC email. Using your personal email risks getting a message filtered into my Spam folder or not getting it at all.
- Always put your first and last name at the end of the email and specify your course name and number.
- Never email homework to me in the body of the email as I will not accept it. If you need to send me a document, please attach it to the email as a Word Document (.doc) or Google Doc (make sure that you give me permission to edit a document sent in this format). Other formats will not be accepted.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Laurice Jones

MCC E-mail: ljones@mcclennan.edu

Office/Teacher Conference Hours:

Mon 12pm – 1pm

Tue 12pm – 1pm

Wed 7pm – 9pm

Thu 12pm – 1pm

Fri By appointment only

Required Text & Materials:

Title: [Writing is Easier Than You Think: A Composition Textbook with 100+ Model Essays](#)

Author: Nicholas R. Webb

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Publisher: McLennan Community College

Free OER embedded in the course

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

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Since the course is totally constructed around online participation, the student should have knowledge of using a Web browser, computer, and e-mail: the ability to create and save documents; the ability to send and receive electronic documents; and a general understanding of online technologies and appropriate online behavior.

Readings, interaction and participation in discussion boards, videos, peer review activities, writing paragraphs and essays, quizzes, and conducting library research.

Units: This course is organized into **fourteen** units. Each unit corresponds to approximately one week of work. All work will be due each **Monday by 11:55pm CST**. You are welcome to work ahead and learn at your own pace for most assignments. Students will find “due by” information in each Unit Module. You are responsible for carefully reading everything, following the instructions, submitting the assignments according to those instructions, and for reading announcements daily. Any changes will be posted in the announcements. You are responsible for reading and posting in discussion board forums to understand the viewpoints of others and to move the discussion forward.

Reading Assignments: You are required to read through and understand all the assigned readings and may, at any point during the semester, be quizzed on the material. Typically, your understanding of the readings will be evaluated via Discussion Board, where you will be required to answer a series of comprehension questions and comment on at least two responses posted by classmates. You welcome to read ahead.

Writing Assignments: Two minor writing assignments and one major essay are required in this course. Each essay is fully explained on the Assignment Sheet document that can be found within the corresponding unit. Each essay must be written within the specified time period. Topic related information will be discussed. Topics for each essay will be posted and the essays will be written over a period of time. Much more information on the essays will be provided in the assignment instructions. The use of **MLA 8th edition format** is required. Each essay should be typed in a word processing program and uploaded through the Assignment link. Failure to turn in the essay through the link by the due date will result in a grade of zero. Essays or any other

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assignments should not be sent to my email without a brief explanation of why you are emailing it to me. ASSIGNMENTS SENT TO MY MCC EMAIL WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION WILL NOT BE GRADED.

Paper Formatting: All essays and papers must be typed, double-spaced (unless otherwise specified), with one-inch margins, using the **Times New Roman 12pt font**, with your last name page number located in the upper right-hand corner of the header. They should be written in accordance with **MLA 8th edition format** which we will discuss. Also, make sure to back-up your papers by emailing a copy to yourself as an attachment, saving a copy to your hard drive, and saving a copy to a flash drive or cloud program all in .doc format. If you do not have a version of Microsoft Word on your computer, you may download a **free** version of Office 365 from MCC's Technology Help Desk website.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically analyze and respond to evidence and text.
- Create a plausible and defensible argument supported with valid resources.
- Conduct research, explore, and evaluate resources for validity and relevance.
- Compile a working bibliography of significant evidence to support a topic of choice.
- Compose several short essays using critical techniques.
- Compose a lengthy research paper using adequate and accurate support information and common knowledge.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Unit 00: Text Book Introductions /Student Introductions / Overview of Writing Process

Reading Assignment: *Writing is Easier Than You Think* – Part I

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 01 Thread

Unit 01: Rhetorical Analysis

Reading Assignment: *Writing is Easier Than You Think* - Rhetoric

Writing Assignment: **Argument Summary**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 02 Thread

Unit 02: Rhetorical Analysis

Reading Assignment: CQ Researcher

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 03 Thread

Unit 03: Current Issues

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Reading Assignment: *Writing is Easier Than You Think* – Problem-Solution Essay

Writing Assignment: **Rough Draft of Problem-Solution Essay**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 04 Thread

Unit 04: Current Issues

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 05 Thread

Unit 05: Current Issues

Video: TED Talk

Writing Assignment: **Final Draft of Problem-Solution Essay**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 06 Thread

Unit 06: Argument and Persuasion

Reading Assignment: *Writing is Easier Than You Think* – Argument Essay

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 07 Thread

Unit 07: Argument and Persuasion

Reading Assignment: *Writing is Easier Than You Think* – Argument Essay

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 08 Thread

Unit 08: Argument and Persuasion

Reading Assignment: *Writing is Easier Than You Think* – Research Essay

Writing Assignment: **Plan of an Argument's Details**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 09 Thread

Unit 09: Argument and Persuasion

Reading Assignment: *Writing is Easier Than You Think* – Research Essay

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 10 Thread

Unit 10: Argument and Persuasion

Video: TED Talk

Writing Assignment: **Rough Draft of the Research Essay**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 11 Thread

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Unit 11: Argument and Persuasion

Reading Assignment: **None**

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 11 Thread

Unit 12: Argument and Persuasion

Video: TED Talk

Writing Assignment: **Final Draft of the Research Essay**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 12 Thread

Unit 13: Course Wrap-up

Reading Assignment: **None**

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 13 Thread

Unit 14: Course Wrap-up

Reading Assignment: **None**

Writing Assignment: **None**

Discussion Board: Response to Unit 14 Thread

Course Grading Information:

Rough Drafts: 20%

Final Drafts: 40%

Discussions: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Grading Scale:

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80 – 89%

C = 70 – 79%

D = 60 – 69%

F = 0 – 59%

Plagiarism: We will discuss the correct ways of quoting and paraphrasing another's work for proper use in your assignments. Blatant use of someone else's work without giving appropriate credit, without the person's consent or with the intent of passing someone else's work off as your own will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the assignment for the first offense. A second offense will result in failure of that assignment as well as the course.

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Grading Criteria

An **A** paper (90-100%) is excellent in nearly all respects. It shows originality of thought that goes well beyond material presented in class. It is well argued and well organized with a clear, specific, and ambitious thesis. It is well developed with content that is specific, interesting, appropriate, and convincing. It has logical and artful transitions and is marked by stylistic finesse and varied sentence structures. It demonstrates command of mature diction and has few, if any, mechanical, grammatical, spelling, or diction errors.

A **B** paper (80-89%) is excellent in several respects but may have a less sophisticated thesis, a less distinguished style, some minor lapses in organization and development, some ineffective sentence structures, and some minor mechanical, grammatical, spelling, or diction problems.

A **C** paper (70-79%) is generally competent, but compared to a B paper, it may have a weaker thesis and less effective style and development. It may contain some lapses in organization, poor or awkward transitions, less varied sentence structures that tend toward choppy or monotony, significant problems with mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction.

A **D** paper (60-69%) is below average and may present a thesis that is too vague or too obvious to be developed effectively. It generally exhibits problems with organization, support, transitions, sentence structures, mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction that impede understanding.

An **F** paper (59% and below) is far below average and may have no clear thesis or central topic. It may display a lack of organization, support, and development. It may contain major and repeated problems with mechanics, grammar, spelling, and diction and may fail to fulfill the assignment or may be unacceptably brief.

NOTE: Notice how high the standards for “A”, “B”, and even “C” papers are. This might be significantly different from your experience in other classes or in high school.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Students must submit all assignments for each unit by 11:55pm CST each Monday in order to be considered present. Students will be withdrawn from the class when they have failed to submit work equal to 25% of the final grade before the last day for student-initiated withdrawals. Students who reach the 25% limit after the last day for student-initiated withdrawals will receive a grade of F. Absences will be recorded starting with the very first unit.

There are no substitutes or make-up assignments for missing discussions, exercises, quizzes or having your Rough Drafts reviewed. Not having an essay reviewed via Smarthinking will result in a **zero (No-Credit or NC)**. Please email me immediately if you have any issues submitting your assignments to Smarthinking.

Smarthinking Access and Expectations:

Smarthinking is an online tutoring program that is located in Brightspace. Once logged into Brightspace, students should be able to access this free service. Rough drafts are to be uploaded onto the Smarthinking site at least **24 hours** before the due date listed on the Assignment Sheet to allow the tutor to review the document, provide feedback, and then email the student with instructions on how to access the report. Smarthinking, while integrated into Brightspace, is **not** connected to the Gradebook; this means that the instructor will need time to review the report before issuing a grade. This process will generally take 24-48 hours after the due date. Rough Drafts that are correctly uploaded will be graded **Credit/No Credit**; meaning students will receive full points for submitting the report correctly and on time and will not receive credit if the report is not turned in, turned in incorrectly, or turned in late. Students may use the service **as many times as they would like** but are only required to submit **one** report for grading.

Keep these things in mind:

1. Typically, it takes 24 hours to get the report back from Smarthinking.
2. Students should receive an email from Smarthinking when the report is ready.
3. Students should follow the instructions in the email to retrieve the document.
4. Students should download and save the document to their computer or cloud program.
5. Students should upload the report onto Brightspace under the correct Rough Draft assignment.

If this process does not work, students should contact MCC's technology help desk for assistance.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Any assignments due that day must be turned in on or before the time specified by the instructor. Late assignments will lose **one letter grade** for each day following the due date that they are late, unless otherwise noted for a particular assignment.

To maintain an environment that is conducive to learning, no biased or prejudicial language will be tolerated in the Discussion Board forums.

[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.

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

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 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/. 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. 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.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to 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.

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 for help.

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.

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.