

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

---

**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**English Composition 2**

**Engl 1302-001**

**Dr. Reid Makowsky**

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

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

**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 Hours: MW 930-11, TTH 11-12

**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. 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:**

**Unit 1:**

- Week of 1/8: Class 1: Introductions and Syllabus  
Class 2: Read and discuss “A Hundred Thousand Straightened Nails.”
- Week of 1/15: Class 1: Martin Luther King day. No Class  
Class 2: Read and discuss “Once More to the Lake” and “Knoxville: Summer of 1915”
- Week of 1/22: Class 1: **Quiz 1.** Discuss Minor Essay 1 and work on it in class. **Minor Essay 1 due on Thursday night.**  
Class 2: Outlines: how and why. **Work on Outline for Major Essay 1 in class.**
- Week of 1/29: Class 1: **Bring Polished Draft of Major Essay 1 to class for Peer Review.**  
Class 2: Begin discussing Unit 2. **Major Essay 1 due Thursday Night.**

**Unit 2:**

- Week of 2/5: Class 1: Discuss Unit 2 Essays. Read and discuss “Corn Pone Opinions” and “Graven Images.”  
Class 2: Discuss “Tradition and the Individual Talent” and “Bop.”
- Week of 2/12: Class 1: **Quiz 2.** Discuss five kinds of claims.  
Class 2: Work on Minor Essay 2 in class. **Minor Essay 2 due Thursday Night.**
- Week of 2/19: Class 1: Discuss researching and incorporating sources.  
Class 2: Writing Workshop for Unit 2: Word Choices.
- Week of 2/26: Class 1: Bring outline of Major Essay 2 for Outline to Draft Day. (Library)

Class 2: Bring Polished Draft of Major Essay 2 for Peer Review Day.

**Major Essay 2 Due Thursday Night.**

**Unit 3:**

Week of 3/4: SPRING BREAK!

Week of 3/11: Class 1: Discuss “Total Eclipse”

Class 2: Discuss “Pamplona in July” and “Stickeen” and Minor Essay 3.

Week of 3/18: Class 1: **Quiz 3.** Discuss Rogerian Argument.

Class 2: Writing Workshop for Unit 3: Sentence Structure.

**Minor Essay 3 Due Thursday Night.**

Week of 3/25: Class 1: Bring Outline of Major Essay 3 for Outline to Draft Day. (Library)

Class 2: Bring Polished Draft of Major Essay 3 for Peer Review.

**Major Essay 3 Due Thursday Night.**

**Unit 4:**

Week of 4/1: Class 1: Begin discussion of Unit 4. Discuss Minor and Major Essays.

Class 2: Read and Discuss: “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” **Quiz 4.**

Week of 4/8: Class 1: Discuss Proofs. In-class competition.

Class 2: Discuss Logical fallacies. In-class competition.

**Minor Essay 4 Due Thursday Night.**

Week of 4/15: Class 1: Writing Workshop for Unit 4: Paragraph Structure.

Class 2: Thanksgiving Break. No class.

Week of 4/22: Class 1: Bring Outline of Major Essay 4 to class for Outline to Draft day. (Lib.)

Class 2: Bring Polished Draft of Major Essay 4 for Peer Review.

**Major Essay 4 Due Thursday 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% total

Class participation/Daily Work: 10%

### **Major Essay Guidelines:**

Most of your grade depends on the four major essays. Here are some things to remember:

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.

**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 20% AI or if there is a verifiably false attribution to a source, I will ask for a rewrite. If no rewrite is supplied, the essay will receive a grade of 0).**

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

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. If you arrive after class has begun you will be counted tardy. Three tardies equal one absence. 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.

10/09/2023



## **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) (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. 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 may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. 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 [success@mclennan.edu](mailto:success@mclennan.edu).

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

**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:**

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more 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-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/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](#) 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.