

ENGL1302: COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC II
Fall 2021: Aug.30-Dec.13
BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE

Professor: Gary Pegoda gary.pegoda@brazosport.edu

Email: Contact me through Remind. However, I cannot discuss grades on Remind.com, so for discussions of grades, we use D2L email. Remind.com will be our everyday line of communication. <https://www.remind.com/classes/7agcch2/people> This link should get you into Remind.

Office hours: I will have Zoom office hours. I will soon provide more information about that.

College Connections: Get the information you need – when you need it. Click <http://geni.us/BRAZO> to install BC Connect on your mobile device to receive reminders, explore careers, map your educational plan, be in the know about events, find out about scholarships, achieving your goals, and much more.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Composition & Rhetoric II applies analytical and critical thinking skills required in higher education to literature and composition. This course is a continuation of Composition & Rhetoric I but focuses on fiction. Students read, analyze, and research short fiction, drama, and poetry. You will not only write essays but also edit and revise your essays. This course unfolds through lectures, revisions, class discussions, and multimedia clips, and with in-class and out-of-class writings.

English 1302 Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.

Assessment: Participation in peer editing, draft workshops, and group discussions. 1-4 compositions incorporating research (passing with at least 70%)

Students will develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.

Assessment: 1-4 compositions incorporating research (passing with at least 70%)

Students will analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.

Assessment: Students support their opinion about themes and characters by using logical appeals. 1-4 compositions (passing with at least 70%)

Students will write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action

Assessment: quizzes, tests, and/or other assignments (passing with at least 70%)

Students will apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (E.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)

Assessment: 1-4 compositions incorporating research (passing with at least 70%)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon the successful completion of Composition & Rhetoric II, the successful students will be able to:

- 1) Write (and revise) compositions that are well developed: a. organizing ideas effectively (include an introduction, support, and conclusion), b. establishing a clear, narrowed, sophisticated, main idea with content that is college level and details that are full and complete, c. maintaining focus on the central idea;
- 2) Write compositions that are clear and communicative: a. using Standard English and corresponding grammar, sentence structure, mechanics, punctuation, diction, etc., b. using a style appropriate for the reader, and c. making rhetorical decisions based on audience awareness;
- 3) Write compositions that follow Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines: a. formatting the essay, b. using parenthetical documentation, c. constructing a correct works cited page, d. understanding the nature and consequences of plagiarism, e. writing an essay free from argument fallacies;
- 4) Use and evaluate scholarly sources; and
- 5) Analyze literary works

REQUIRED READINGS AND SUPPLIES:

- I have listed most of your readings at the end of this syllabus. Any reading material is fair game for any course assignment.
- All required readings or videos are available on the Internet except for *The House on Mango Street*.
- The Purdue OWL website is our grammar book and our Modern Language Association (MLA) resource: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html
- You must have access to Remind.com. <https://www.remind.com/classes/7agcch2/people>
This link should get you into Remind. Remind is required for our class. You have to be in Remind. Please let me know if you have any problems with it. Remind is our primary line of communication, but Brazosport College requires BC email for any conversation about grades. My BC email address is gary.pegoda@brazosport.edu, but don't use it unless you have to do so.
- BC's Virtual Campus, D2L, is where I have listed your assignments, where you will submit all your assignments, and where I keep your grades and your writings stored.
- Access to Microsoft Word or a compatible word processor; Microsoft Works and various other word processors may not work. Be sure that your word processor will work with Turnitin.com, for if you do not have Word, you must find a way to use Word. I only accept .docx files. I do not accept .wps files, .rft files, .gdocs, and .txt files
- You must buy the short novel called *The House on Mango Street*, by Sandra Cisneros. We will write about it near the end of the semester.
- "Required course materials are available at the Brazosport College bookstore, on campus or online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/bookstore>. A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college bookstore. The same textbook is/may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer."

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You must submit work on time as noted in this syllabus. You may need as much as six-to-nine hours per week for this course.

Semester grades run as follows:

90% and above	= A
80%--89%	= B
70%--79%	= C
60%--69%	= D
59.9% and below	= F

****Note:** To receive an A grade, you must earn at least 70% or better in all grade categories. You may receive an F for academic dishonesty. See the official college statement about academic honesty below.

Our grading breakdown is as follows:

100 points each for exams (2)

100 points each for essays (5)

50 points each for discussions and journal entries (the number of these may vary)

100 points for participation, which includes using Remind.

<https://www.remind.com/classes/7agcch2/people>

Please note that grades are not weighted. Just divide your points by the points you could have had if you made a perfect score on everything; the answer is your average. For example, if you have 900 points and the most you could have had is 1000 points, divide 1000 into 900: your average is 90. Keep track of your grades.

EXAMS: You will have two exams: a Midterm Essay and a Final Essay, and you must submit these through D2L.

Exams will include all course materials covered up to the day of each exam.

You can take the Midterm late, but I will deduct ten points. You cannot be late for the Final. As per Brazosport College policy, you must take the Final, or you cannot pass this course. If you have conflicting activities, you should arrange to submit your work earlier.

ESSAYS: You must write five essays of 600-700 words each. Check Contents in D2L for the exact dates.

All essays must have two and only two correctly cited quotations, both from Brazosport College's academic databases: I will not accept quotations from our assigned readings. I will deduct ten points if you fail to use quotations, use quotations not from our academic databases, or use quotations from the assigned readings.

No quotation can be over twenty words long.

Both quotations can be from one source.

Write your quotations into complete sentences in your essay, so the connections are clear.

Every essay must include a Works Cited page—not having one costs 10 points; see the Purdue OWL for information. Works Cited pages must include your assigned readings and your source or sources.

You must access unique details for each assignment through D2L, but you must also know the general rules for writing in our syllabus.

You must submit all essays through D2L.

I will accept late essays, but I will deduct ten points; revisions cannot make up those ten points.

You can revise and resubmit essays until you do as well as you wish to do (until it is too close to the end of the semester for me to grade any more), but you cannot make up points deducted if your original essay was late. Also, let me know if you want to revise. For revisions, you must fix every instance of any errors I noted on your first edition. A revision grade can be worse than the first grade if you submit the same essay again or if it is just half-corrected; however, only your highest grade will count, so it is good to try to do a revision for a better grade.

If you want help with your writing (often, the best writers do), here is the information:

-For students to get online tutoring from the BC Writing Center:

Need to schedule an appointment?

Go to <https://tutortrac.brazosport.edu/>

Log in using your BC username and password (like MyBC)

Click "Search for Availability"

Search for an available appointment:

Select Writing Center from the "Center" drop-down.

OPTIONAL--Select the consultant with whom you would like to work; however, this will limit the number of appointments you find. Unless you are only interested in working with someone specific, leave this space blank.

Select the date(s) you want to search for an appointment.

OPTIONAL: Narrow the times you're searching by moving the arrows to the right or left. Click SEARCH.

Click the time that you'd like to reserve for your appointment.

Follow the directions provided and click SAVE.

If you want your session to be ONLINE, please select "Online Tutoring-Writing."

How to engage in your online Writing Center session:

Participation: Participation is mandatory. Participation means more than asking questions. Participation includes having your work in on time and following instructions. Plagiarism will, at minimum, lower your participation grade, but you absolutely should read the official college statement about plagiarism in this syllabus.

Discussions and Journal Entries: You may submit them late, but I will deduct 10 points unless you have a valid excuse that I accept.

Discussions: If you are the first to post on a discussion, you can go ahead and post your three posts alone. If you are the second person to post, you can post your two replies to the first person. Everybody posting later must post responses to two people. If you just agree with someone else, you will not get much credit. Every post you make needs to show your own thoughts although something someone writes may give you an idea about something else you would like to write. Your first post must be at least two hundred words, and your reply posts must be a hundred words each.

Journal Entries: Each entry must be at least two hundred words. These are less formal, but you must show real thought in what you write.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL WORK:

All assignments must have correct MLA headings. You must write an original title for any submitted work.

Assignments must be typed in MS Word in Times New Roman size 12, with one-inch margins all around, double-spaced. Originality, structure, serious thought, spelling, grammar, punctuation, and format all count.

Use complete sentences. Use paragraphs. Using only one paragraph will result in an automatic point deduction.

I do not accept bullet-point lists and such as that; I require paragraphs and sentences. Use professional/formal English (do not use text-message language or clichés, for example).

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Brazosport College assumes that students eligible to perform on the college level are familiar with the ordinary rules governing proper conduct, including academic honesty.

The principle of academic honesty is that all work presented by you is yours alone.

Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion shall be treated appropriately. Please refer to the Brazosport College Student Guide for more information. This is available online at <http://www.brazosport.edu>.

Academic dishonesty violates both the policies of this course and the Student Code of Conduct. In this class, any occurrence of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for prompt adjudication and may, at a minimum, result in a full letter grade loss in this course, but may result in an F for the course for two or more instances. Sanctions may be imposed beyond your grade in this course by the Dean of Student Services.

Students with Disabilities:

Brazosport College is committed to providing equal education opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities including counseling, tutoring, equipment, and software to assist students with special needs. For a student to receive any accommodation, documentation must be completed in the Office of Disability Services. Please contact Phil Robertson, Special Populations Counselor, at 979-230-3236, for further information.

Title IX Statement:

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct.

Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator Office C-114; 979-230-3303;
mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu

Campus Closure Statement:

Brazosport College is committed to the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty and adheres to all federal and state guidelines. The College intends to stay open for the duration of the semester and provide access to classes and support services on campus in the safest way possible. The College will also comply with lawful orders given by applicable authorities, including the Governor of Texas, up to and including campus closure. It is possible that on-campus activities may be moved online and/or postponed if such orders are given.

Covid-19 Statement:

At Brazosport College, all of us, including faculty, staff and students, share a common goal this fall semester, to keep our classes running in the safest manner possible and avoid any disruption to your progress in achieving your educational and career goals. To that end, we ask and encourage you to conduct yourself in the following manner while on campus this semester:

- Every day, perform a self-health check prior to coming to campus and stay home if sick.
- To the greatest extent possible, maintain your distance between you and other students, faculty, and staff while on campus.
- Wear a properly fitted face covering over your mouth and nose while indoors on campus. If you do not have a mask, they will be available to you in all classrooms this fall.
- Practice good hygiene, washing your hands regularly and/or using hand sanitizer. vaccination. The vaccine is readily available and at no cost to you. Vaccine information and availability can be found at <https://brazosport.edu/coronavirus/vaccine/>.

If at any time this semester you begin to experience Covid symptoms, or if you are exposed to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, please take the following steps:

- Stay home if you're feeling sick and minimize your contact with others.
- Alert the College by completing the Covid-19 Exposure Report Form online at <https://brazosport.edu/coronavirus/report/>. Be sure to provide accurate contact information, including a working phone number that you will answer.
- After submitting the report, you will be promptly contacted by a member of our Rapid Response Team, who will ask you some specific questions about your situation and provide you with guidance moving forward.

- If it is determined that you should not come to class, your instructor will be notified. Please know that your instructor will consider course adjustments and potential make-up work only if your case has been reported to Brazosport College, and they've been notified by our response team. Your instructor will work with you to determine how to manage any make-up work.

The Community Health Network (CHN) Clinic at Brazosport College (located in BC Central B-Wing) is scheduled to be open from 8 AM to 6 PM Tuesday through Thursday during the Fall 2021 semester. While walk-ins are available, your visit will be easier if you pre-register by creating an account at www.mychn.org. In addition to providing health and behavioral services, CHN also provides COVID vaccinations and testing. All insurance is accepted and healthcare is provided on a sliding scale including no cost for those who need it.

Throughout the semester, please regularly check the College's Covid-19 information page at <https://brazosport.edu/coronavirus/>, where the latest updates and guidelines will be posted. As members of the BC community, all of us share a responsibility to each other to be as safe as possible.

Student Conduct Statement:

Students are expected to be aware of and follow the Brazosport College Student Code of Conduct. Students have violated the Code if they "fail to comply with any lawful directions, verbal or written, of any official at BC." Lawful directions include precautions and requirements taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at Brazosport College. Students who do not follow safety requirements, including the wearing of a mask, may be removed from class by their instructor and referred to the Dean of Student Services.

STUDENT SUPPORT:

If you are in need of technical or academic support, use the links provided to the right on the My Home page (this is the area you first see after you log into the Virtual Campus) and to the left on the Course Home page (this is the area you see after you enter your course).

If you experience technical issues, please contact the Help Desk right away so they can be resolved as quickly as possible.

Text chat with a Help Desk representative

Email: helpdesk@brazosport.edu

979-230-3366

Campus Location: E.200

GRADING PROCEDURE AND GRADING RUBRIC:

I grade your work on performance only, not effort or anything else. Please note that you must wait twenty-four hours before asking questions about your grade. During this

time, you should review my feedback. Assigned grades are final; I will change them only if a mistake is evident. You should have specific questions about your grade. If you have questions before an assignment is due, seek help well in advance.

Grading Rubric

A: An essay or discussion graded A excels in both content and style. It goes beyond the requirements of the assignment. It presents a clear central thesis, which is well-developed throughout the paper. It has exciting and original ideas, which have a logical structure. Paragraphs are unified, coherent, and well developed. An A essay relies on support that is sufficient, appropriate, and effective. Transitions within and between paragraphs are fluent and guide the reader along a clear line of reasoning. Sentences are varied in structure and consistently correct. Vocabulary is well-chosen, specific, and precise. The A essay has few if any errors in form, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

B: An essay or discussion graded B responds to the topic with engaging and exciting ideas. It has a strong thesis and logical structure but may reveal minor lapses in development. All paragraphs relate to the paper's main idea; however, transitions between ideas may be less fluent and supportive evidence less effective than in an A paper. The B essay uses words accurately and effectively and has few errors in the mechanics of writing. Occasionally an essay that excels in other areas but has some sentence-level errors may receive a B grade.

C: An essay or discussion graded C displays a satisfactory response to the assignment; a C is not a penalty grade. The C essay may present the central idea in general terms, depending on platitudes or clichés to develop its points. While it usually shows some organizational pattern, transitions from point to point may be less fluent than in an A or B paper. Support may be in the form of generalizations or examples that are not relevant. Sentence structure may be repetitive and word choice imprecise. The C essay may contain mechanical errors, but these should not be numerous or hinder the communication of ideas. An essay that has few errors but relies on superficial reasoning or broad generalizations will receive a C.

D: An essay or discussion may get a D for a variety of reasons. It may not respond appropriately to the topic or not present a clear thesis. It may have an illogical organization with few internal transitions between ideas. Paragraphs may not relate to the central idea, lack development, or rely solely on repetition and generalization. The D essay may have sentences that lack variety and may often show inappropriate or limited word choice. An essay graded D usually has frequent errors in sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

F: An essay or discussion may get an F for one or more of the following reasons. It may lack a thesis or a logical pattern. Development may be simple, repetitive, or unduly brief. Paragraphs may be absent, undeveloped, or disorganized. Mechanical errors may impede the communication of ideas. An essay may earn an F because it does not respond to the assignment.

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR BEING SUCCESSFUL IN THIS CLASS:

Do not get behind. Improvement counts, so if you make a weak start and a strong finish, I will weigh that into my considerations. Read instructions. Students who study our readings and author papers that fulfill my assignments should have no problem making a decent grade. I will be available for any questions about your subject material. Students who wait until the last weeks of class to turn in late work can expect lower grades.

OBJECTIONABLE MATERIAL WARNING and ACADEMIC FREEDOM:

In a college course, you should know that anything is fair game. College classrooms are unique places in society where ideas, opinions, and perspectives are welcome but must be shared with respect. Additionally, college professors and students have academic freedom to discuss anything they want related to studying English within common decency and good taste. Readings, lectures, and discussions will ask you to grapple with new and uncomfortable ideas. Additionally, you must critically think about course material, considering what it means to you and others while reaching meaningful understandings.

DISCLAIMER and FINAL WORDS:

I reserve the right to change the course requirements, policies, deadlines, content, etc. You must keep track of all changes as I announce them. No extra credit is available. If you expect any difficulty meeting course requirements or deadlines, you should contact me well in advance. If an emergency occurs, I may need documentation, but I will be happy to help you complete ENGL1302 successfully.

BASICS OF WRITING FOR THIS CLASS:

1. Format: All essays must be in MLA (Modern Language Association) format; see the PURDUE OWL website. Type essays, exams, and discussions in Microsoft Word (not Works), and use size twelve Times New Roman font. For essays, use one-inch margins on all four sides and double-space everything. Also, have a proper heading. Print your name, my full name, the class title (ENGL1302), and the date on the left side, each on a new line.

2. You may use the following simple structure (3-5 below), but I hope you find a better way for your essay to grow in a way that fits the way your essay wants to grow. You must have a thesis sentence somewhere near the beginning. Your essay must be clear and coherent. Instructions (3-5) are only suggestions unless I give you other specific instructions.

3. Introductory Paragraph(s)/Section: Develop an exact thesis sentence, list three supporting points, and give brief but general background information that fits the assignment. You must have this structure to make an A, but you can write these things in the order that seems best to you, and you can use one, two, or three paragraphs.

4. Body Paragraphs/Sections: Show when another section of your essay starts by writing a strong topic sentence in the first body paragraph of that section. Use as many

paragraphs in a section as you need, but continue to support the paper's assignment and thesis. Omit off-topic words or sentences.

5. Concluding Paragraph/Section: Restate the thesis or write about potential further developments of the ideas you have discussed. This section can also have more than one paragraph.

6. Student Essay Titles: Essays must have original titles. These should be original, creative, and in the same font as the rest of the essay, neither bolded, underlined, italicized, nor in quotation marks. Simply capitalize the main words of your title.

7. Assigned Essay Titles: The name of an assigned essay or poem, except for the book, *The House on Mango Street*, must in quotation marks, neither italicized nor underlined. Capitalize and write it exactly like the original: here is an example, "The Death of a Moth."

8. Present Tense for Literature: Write about literature in the present tense. Thus, when discussing a fifty-year-old essay, if a woman runs across a street in that essay, you should write, "The woman runs across the street" in the present tense. However, when an event in an essay occurs fifty years before that essay's current events, use the past tense. For example, "A woman, whose brother a car killed fifty years ago, runs across the busy street." Using the past tense is also proper when discussing the history of the essay itself; for example, "Staples wrote this essay thirty years ago."

9. Rules for Using Names: When you first mention someone, use the full name (never with a title such as Dr., Mrs., or Rev.). After that, use only the last name. Then, in each new paragraph, the first time you mention someone, use the last name, not a pronoun. When you mention places or things with names or times, use the name at least the first time; this will give your reader a definite sense of place and time.

10. Writing Numbers: When you write a number, write the words if you can write the number in one or two words: write four hundred, not 400. If you need three words, write the numbers: write 365, not three hundred sixty-five.

11. Emphasizing a Word: Do not use quotation marks, bolded fonts, or capital letters to emphasize a word. Just use a stronger word.

12. Spelling and diction: Use your spell checker to avoid spelling errors. Use none of the following or similar words: so, very, really, awesome, wonderful, great. Use a less commonplace word. Regarding pronouns, be sure that readers will know to whom your pronoun refers. You can use contractions. You can use slang, but only sparingly and if it fits perfectly.

13. In-line Citations and Works Cited page: MLA uses in-line citations, such as this: "She walks through the tall pines" (Heart 223).

Use citations for quotations and when you write about knowledge that is not common knowledge; when in doubt, cite.

If you doubt whether what you are writing is plagiarism, that is perfectly normal; sometimes, it is hard to know. Ask.

Make the last complete page of each essay the Works Cited page. See the PURDUE OWL website to find out how a Works Cited page should look.

14. Mechanics: Pay careful attention to periods, commas, semicolons, colons, dashes, apostrophes. Be extra careful. Student writings often have run-on sentences, sentence fragments, misused apostrophes. Your sentences should not be over two or three full lines long.

Use the Purdue OWL, the Writing Center, and other resources for help.

Put punctuation inside the quotation marks at the end of a quotation unless a citation follows the quotation marks. Then, put the punctuation after the citation, as in the earlier example (13, above).

Semester Readings and Literary Terms:

We will first build up a small group of readings (poetry and prose) and numerous literary terms, so discussing abstract terms such as “plot-driven” will be easier because we can refer to concrete examples from readings we know. This course is cumulative. Every work we study will tie in with every other work we study; every week, I will reference works and terms we have already learned. You must do your readings and keep up with classwork, or you may fall behind.

List of terms (will expand as we go)

Plot and structure, characterization, dialogue, setting and scenery, point of view, narrator, condensed language, rhyme, poetry, prose, stereotypes, deconstruction, writings as organic wholes, literature with a small “l” or a large “L,” plot-driven writings, character-driven writings, conflict, pace, flat and round characters, fiction and non-fiction, names of writings (and the approximate date of their publication) and authors, ambiguity, dark humor, multi-layered writings, satire, drama, varying lengths of writings (from multi-book series to flash fiction), principles of modern and older fiction, irony, socio-economic analysis, hidden meanings, unreliable narrators, theme, symbol, allegory, fantasy, genre, prose styles, style, denotation, connotation, humor, novel.

Partial List of Readings

“A Story about the Body,” by Robert Hass

“If,” by Rudyard Kipling

“The Most Dangerous Game,” by Richard Connell

“Hunters in the Snow,” by Tobias Wolff

“The Story of an Hour,” by Kate Chopin

“The Lottery,” by Shirley Jackson and “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas,” by Ursula K. Le Guin

“There Will Come Soft Rains,” by Ray Bradbury, and “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Three poems by Billy Collins (listed in “Contents”)

Three poems by Robert Frost (listed in “Contents”)

Three poems by Emily Dickinson (listed in “Contents”)

“The A&P,” by John Updike—modern characters and places in short stories

The House on Mango Street – a short novel by Sandra Cisneros that you’ll need to obtain