

English 1301 Syllabus
Mason High School, Rm. 27
Fall 2021

"I would say to young people... remember that the meaning of life is to live life as if it were a work of art. You're not a machine. When you are young, start working on this great work of art called your own existence." – Abraham Joshua Heschel

Instructor Information:

Mr. John Pierce

B.A. Abilene Christian University

M.A. Texas Tech University

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Tutorials: Tuesday-Friday 7:55-8:25 a.m.

Course Description:

English 1301 is the first semester of college level Freshman English. This is a course that is universally required in colleges, as it is designed to prepare students to write successfully on the university level. The course aims to help students to develop skills to write effective prose, to organize essays logically, and to tailor an appropriate message for a specific audience. In addition, students will read and analyze model essays as a tool for improving thinking and writing.

Learning Objectives:

Upon complete English 1301, students should be better prepared to do the following:

1. Use the writing process--prewrite, draft, revise, and edit.
2. Work with others in a team to explore ideas and to improve one another's writing.
3. Adapt to the rhetorical situation in terms of audience, purpose, style, format, and accepted conventions of standard written English.
4. Use appropriate modes of expression in writing assignments-- narrative, descriptive, expository, cause and effect, and persuasive.
5. Employ problem-solving strategies (such as researching and issue, predicting consequences, and analyzing and synthesizing information) to improve decision making and to better know one's own mind.
6. Integrate valid research into an argument in support of a thesis.
7. Demonstrate competency with standard written English, and write clear and sophisticated prose.

Things You Should Bring Each Day:

1. At minimum a 1" three-ring binder
2. Pens or pencils to write with
3. Paper or a notebook on which to write
4. A book or magazine to read

Grading Scale:

The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 0-59%

Grading Policies:

Since this is a dual-credit course, there are, in effect, two grading policies. All work will be grade by the same scale and standards, but the final high school grade and the college grades will be determined by separate weighting systems.

High School Weights:

Summative Assessments (Tests, Research Projects, Essays, Outside Reading, etc.).....	70%
Formative Assessments (In Class Work, AoW, Quizzes, Practice Work, etc.).....	30%

English 1301 Weights:

Essays (Rhetorical Analysis, Expository, Persuasive, Resume, etc.).....	40%
Research Paper.....	25%
Book Reports.....	15%
Daily Work/Quizzes.....	10%
Final Exam.....	10%

Late Work:

The due dates for major assignments will be posted on my board (and, hopefully soon, on my website) before they are due.

1. Please inform me in advance of an absence, if at all possible.
2. You will have one day for every day that you have missed in class to complete any missing work, unless you have made other arrangements with me. Failure to do so may result in a grade of 0.
3. Work that was due on the day of an absence is due on the day when you return to class.
4. If you fail to turn in an assignment on its due date during the class period, you will receive a d-hall in order to complete the assignment. In addition, 15 points will be deducted from the grade when you turn it in the next day. An assignment that is turned in two days or more late will be given a zero.

Reassessment Policy:

Retests will be allowed only occasionally. In general, essays may be rewritten if you make below a C, but exams, book reports, and presentations cannot be made up.

Extra Credit:

Students will be allowed to read some classic works of literature to earn extra credit. There will be a separate form to explain this opportunity. In general, additional reading is the only extra credit that I offer.

Academic Honesty:

Students who cheat or plagiarize on an assignment will receive a ZERO, a referral, and a phone call home.

Classroom Policies:

Tardies: I will follow the school policy on tardies. You must be in the room when the bell rings. You will receive one free tardy per semester, but after that, all instances of tardiness will garner a d-hall.

Food/Drink: No food or drinks are allowed in class, with the sole exception of water.

Cell Phone: I will confiscate cell phones being used during class time and turn them in to the office, unless the student has received express permission from me to use the phone.

Ipad: I pads should not be on your desk or in use at any time during class, unless I've given express permission for them to be there. If an ipad is out without permission, it will garner a d-hall.

Reading Material: You should always have something to read when you come to class. Ideally, it will be the book that you're reading for your book report, but if you've already finished that book, you're responsible for providing yourself with another book or magazine to read in class. Failure to have reading material in class will result in a d-hall.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Respect: I expect that you will respect the classroom community. Show respect for yourself by trying and doing your best. Show respect for your peers by not interrupting their right to learn without distraction. And show respect for your teacher for his sincere efforts to help you to learn and succeed. Of course, differences of opinions are welcome; however, interruptions and rudeness will not be tolerated.
2. Preparation: I expect students to be on time, with all materials and work ready, and be prepared to learn.
3. Participation: I expect students to take part in all activities and discussions in the classroom. Learning requires the humility and courage to "put yourself out there" so that your efforts may be fairly evaluated and improved.
4. Attentiveness: Learning from others requires that you pay respectful attention to what others have to say. We will speak one at a time and give full consideration to what everyone has to contribute.
5. Effort: Humans must take on challenges, must do hard things, in order to grow and to achieve. I won't expect students to always do perfectly on classroom tasks, but I do expect students to have the courage and integrity to put forth full effort.

English 1301 Student Contract

I have read and understand the expectations and policies states in this syllabus. And I commit myself to putting forth every effort to live up to those expectations.

Student Name (Print)

Student Signature

Parent Signature