TEXARKANA COLLEGE

Mrs. Maggio's ENGL1302 Comp II Syllabus   **Spring II 2026**

Course Meeting Time/ Place: 2H2 HYB: TR 12:30-1:50 pm
Professor: Amanda Ritter-Maggio
Office: Stilwell Humanities 212 or videochat on Teams (videochat by appointment only)
Phone: 903-823-3227 (campus landline; leave voicemail or send an email if no answer)
Email (preferred contact): amanda.rittermaggio@texarkanacollege.edu
- Use your TC email; non-TC addresses may go to junk.
- Include your name and class section in your message.
- Please do not message via Moodle, MyTC, or Teams. I do not check these platforms for messages.
- Replies within 24 hours (not between 7:30 pm–7:30 am).
- Attempt to find your own answer FIRST. Check syllabus, calendar, assignment guidelines, and classmates before emailing me.

Office Hours: MW 9:30-1:30; TR 7:30-9:30; F and other times by appointment

Please be aware that this course is presented in a hybrid, 8-week compressed format. A hybrid course, as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, is a "a distance education course in which more than 50 percent but less than 100 percent of instructional activity takes place when the student(s) and instructor(s) are in separate physical locations." You are expected to spend time outside of class interacting with course material on Moodle/ TCOnline (this may include but is not limited to watching lecture videos or other informational videos related to course content and completing online assignments).

Because of the nature of a hybrid course and the compressed course format, in-person attendance is required and is extremely important for this course. **If you cannot regularly attend class, you should drop this course and enroll in a fully online course. This course does NOT meet on Teams.**

Course Description
Intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. Emphasis 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. **Prerequisite:** Satisfactory completion of ENGL 1301.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.
2. Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.
3. Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for ethical and logical uses of evidence.
4. Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.
5. Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)

What to Expect for This Class
This course builds on Composition I, moving from foundational writing skills to reading, interpreting, and analyzing literature—primarily short stories. Since this is a Composition course, expect substantial writing: you will complete three major essays along with quizzes, discussions, and classwork.

In addition to analyzing literature, you will continue practicing how to evaluate sources, use them responsibly, and cite

them correctly to avoid plagiarism.

Class time is devoted to instruction, practice, and discussion (not for sleeping, gaming, handicrafts, personal homework). If the only time you spend working on assignments or thinking about class is during class time, you will not pass.

Time commitment: This is a three-credit hour course. In a 16-week semester, that equals approx. 9–12 clock hours of work per week (3 hours in class + 6–9 hours outside of class). In our eight-week format, expect to spend 18–24 clock hours per week on this course.

How to succeed:
- Come to class and be on time
- Be coachable; put down the sword
- Arrive prepared to discuss, take notes, and apply concepts in your essays
- Work a little on assignments every day
- Read/view all materials—sometimes more than once
- Meet deadlines ("due dates" ≠ "do dates")
- Check TC email 2–3 times/week
- Use your assignment calendar (not Moodle reminders)
- Make school a top priority, at least for the short term
- Show me that you care about this class
- Ask for help if you need it

About the Required Reading

In this course, you will read literature from a variety of authors, time periods, and perspectives. Some works contain adult language, violence, racial slurs, or outdated views (racist, sexist, homophobic, or xenophobic). Reading these works does not mean we endorse those views. Instead, literature gives us the chance to analyze, question, and reflect on why authors include such content and what it reveals about human experience.

This class is a space for honest and respectful conversation about history, human nature, and the power of language. Literature helps us step into others' shoes, understand context, and build empathy.

Some readings may feel difficult or challenging. That's normal. Avoid rushing to outside summaries; trust your own interpretation. (Listening along with free recordings on YouTube can also help.)

You may not enjoy every work, and that's okay. Bring your reactions to class discussions. Finally, keep in mind that all quizzes, discussions, and writing assignments are tied to the readings—so completing them is essential for success in this course.

Required Books and Materials

Textbook: *Perrine's Literature: Structure, Sound & Sense* 13th ed. Greg Johnson & Thomas Arp; ISBN 9781305971035. This textbook is required for the course. Bring it with you to class every day.

Materials:
- Notebook, folder/binder, pens or pencils, highlighter—bring these to class every day.
- Laptop/desktop computer + reliable internet (smartphones, tablets, Chromebooks not sufficient). You can click here to read more about TC's computer requirement policy and system requirements. You are not required to bring a computer to class.
- Basic computer skills (access web sites, navigate in Moodle/ TCOnline and in your chosen word processing software, be able to open and save files, conduct online research, etc.).
- Updated Firefox, Edge, or Chrome (Safari is not reliable with TurnItIn).

- Word processing software (Word, Google Docs, Pages, etc.—Word free via TC OneDrive). Do not use your high school Google account to type or save files.
- Backup plan for computer/internet failure (public wifi, campus lab, library, etc.). Computer or internet failure is NOT an excuse for missing coursework.
- Access to MyTC and TC student email (check several times weekly).

Class Policies

- You have enrolled in a hybrid class, so I assume that means you prefer to attend in-person and learn in a classroom with face-to-face interaction with other humans. If that is not true, you should enroll in a fully-online section of this course. Because our class time together is so precious, please observe the following guidelines for class behavior:
-
- **Early is on-time; on-time is LATE!** Quizzes begin promptly; late students wait until quiz ends. No late/makeup quizzes (lowest grade dropped). If you cannot regularly attend class or stay for the duration of each class meeting, it is best that you enroll in an online section of this course.
- **Leaving class:** Only for medical emergencies. Stepping out to answer a phone call or go to the vending machine is not a medical emergency. More than 15 minutes late or out = absence.
- **Phones/ laptops/ tablets/ headphones/ earbuds:** Please silence and put away devices before class begins.
- **Photos/recordings:** Only with accommodations or permission.
- **Visitors:** Not allowed (including children).
- **Food/drinks:** Permitted if non-disruptive; clean up after yourself. Do not arrive ten minutes late to class with fast food bags or drinks in hand.
- **Smoking/vaping/tobacco:** Not permitted anywhere on campus.
- **Participation:** Required. Listen actively, give constructive feedback, and stay focused. Be mentally present during class time.
- I reserve the right to remove disruptive or disrespectful students from the class for the day and/or record them as absent. If there is someone who is interfering with your ability to learn in this course, please let me know ASAP. A student with persistent behavior that disrupts the classroom environment will be reported to Robert Jones, Dean of Students. Students may be dropped from the course for persistent inappropriate classroom behavior.

Grades

The number one reason people fail this class is that they do not turn in their writing assignments. All assignments are worth points and are important. You will see your grade drop DRASTICALLY if you miss a writing assignment. Use your course calendar to keep up with all due dates. Do not procrastinate, especially on large writing assignments.

Start working NOW toward the grade that you want. Don't wait until the end of the semester and ask how you can get an A, B, or whatever grade—by then, it will be too late. Your average is determined in the following way:

Formal Writing	75%
- Essay 1: Character Analysis (100 points) - Essay 2: Literary Criticism Review (150 points) - Annotated Bibliography (50 points) - Essay 3: Literary Research Paper (200 points; NOT late-pass eligible) - Final Exam (90 points; NOT late-pass eligible) Policies for formal writing assignments: - Submit all essays in Moodle/TCOnline (no printed or emailed work accepted). - All submissions run through TurnItIn for plagiarism/AI detection (used as a grading tool, not the sole basis of your grade). - Use MLA 9th edition formatting (resources available in Moodle/TCOnline). - One rewrite is allowed for Essay 1 or Essay 2 after grading (see Moodle/TCOnline for details).	

• No re-used essays (yours or others') from this or any other class. Violations earn a zero with no option for resubmission. This applies to everyone, including those who may be repeating the class. • Save copies of all written work (consider using TC OneDrive to access and save all your documents)	
Classwork and Homework • In-class assignments and quizzes (point values vary; may or may not be announced ahead of time; cannot be made up if you are absent or tardy and miss one) • Pre-Assessment (in Moodle/ TCOnline; 20-point completion grade) • Seven discussion posts and replies (worth 30 points each) • Three essay topic/ outline submissions (worth 20 points each) • Three essay peer reviews (worth 30 points each; NOT late-pass eligible) • Literary criticism presentation (50 points; NOT late-pass eligible) In-class assignments such as quizzes, discussions, and group work may not be made up because of absence or tardiness. However, I will drop everyone's lowest classwork grade at the end of the semester.	**25%**

Late Work: Falling behind makes it hard to catch up. Make things easier on yourself: work ahead as much as possible and do not get into the habit of completing work at the last minute. Because life often gets in the way and emergencies do happen, everyone has **three no-questions-asked late passes** for the semester. Each pass gives you a **three-day extension** on any assignment *except those excluded on the calendar.*

To use a late pass:
1. Email me **before the assignment's due date** with "Late Pass" in the subject line. (No explanation needed other than the name of the assignment for which you need the late pass.)
2. No need to wait for a reply; all requests will be granted as long as you have late passes remaining to use.
3. Submit the assignment in Moodle/TCOnline within three calendar days.
4. Only one pass may be used per assignment.

Once you've used all three passes, or if you forget to request one, no late work can be accepted. Use your passes wisely.

Gradebook: I update grades and attendance in MyTC several times per week, so please monitor your grades and let me know if you see anything that looks incorrect. Please be aware that no grade or attendance information is kept in Moodle/ TCOnline. Please also be aware that any assignment not submitted for a grade (or not submitted after using a late pass) will count as a zero in the gradebook.

Extra credit: I do not offer extra credit or bonus assignments. Students who are concerned about their course average should meet with me during office hours so that we can discuss their class performance and ways to improve their grades.

Grading scale: A = 89.5-100%; B = 79.5-89%; C = 69.5-79%; D = 59.5-69%; F = 0-59.4%

Return of graded work: I know that it is important for you to know your grades and how you are doing in class. I promise to provide feedback and return all work in a timely fashion. I will return all work promptly with feedback. Assignment details and grading timelines are posted under **"Assignment Guidelines"** in Moodle/TCOnline.
- **Quizzes and classwork**: generally returned at the next class meeting.
- **Essays**: generally returned within one week of the due date.
- **Early submissions**: always welcome, but I do not grade anything until after the due date.

Attendance
Attendance is absolutely required and vital to your success, and TC has a strict attendance policy. Attendance in a hybrid class means that you are attending class in-person AND completing assignments in Moodle/ TCOnline each week. I take attendance at the beginning of class, and Moodle/ TCOnline keeps a detailed log of all your activity in the course.

- More than three absences OR one or more week of no online work submitted = dropped from course (may affect financial aid).
- Only excused absences (college policy): military duty, official TC functions, religious holy days.
- Please notify me ahead of time if you know you'll miss. Get notes/assignments from a classmate.

If something is happening in your life that is causing you to miss assignments or keeping you from logging in to class, please reach out to me as soon as possible so that we can come up with a game plan.

I am required to enter all attendance information in MyTC. Please note that if you miss class, you will receive attendance alert emails from Mrs. Melva Flowers in the Office of Student Retention. These are automatically generated in MyTC and **do not mean you have been dropped from the class**; however, these messages serve as a warning for the number of times you have missed class.

Calendar

I have prepared a course calendar (linked in Moodle) with all assignments and due dates noted. Please use the course calendar to keep up with coursework (don't rely on Moodle to alert you when an assignment is due) and work ahead as much as possible. I do not plan to make any changes, but if circumstances arise, I will announce any changes to the course calendar in class and over email.

Inclement Weather Policy

From the college catalog: "College instructors are obligated to meet all scheduled classes in order to meet instructional requirements for awarding credit hours. If severe weather makes it necessary to cancel classes or to meet virtually, Texarkana College will utilize the RAVE emergency notification system to send text messages and emails to students, faculty and staff regarding the change in schedule. Texarkana College will also post updates and information regarding closures and schedule changes on the institution's website located at www.texarkanacollege.edu and social media.

In addition, College authorities will make every effort to provide information to local media stations and social media outlets as a supplemental source of communication. However, authorized information and determinations on closures and schedule changes will be officially announced via institutional resources (TC RAVE emergency notification system utilizing texts and emails, and the institution's website and social media sites). If College authorities cancel classes, then all work is delayed until the next class meeting or until a date determined by the instructor. If a student is in an area which experiences severe weather and the College has not officially closed, then it is that student's responsibility to decide whether or not to attend class. The student must then contact the instructor for information concerning make-up of work missed."

Other Important Policies and Information

Academic dishonesty policy/academic integrity statement from the college catalog: *Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an "F". This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at https://catalog.texarkanacollege.edu/academic-guidelines/academic-dishonesty-policy/*

This course emphasizes proper source use and documentation using MLA (9th edition) documentation. Always cite borrowed words or ideas with in-text and Works Cited citations. I must see a true representation of your own writing to provide meaningful feedback.

> **Academic dishonesty includes** (but is not limited to) copying another student's work, using sources without citation, reusing work from another class, paying or using someone else to complete assignments, copy-pasting AI-generated text (unless specifically permitted in the assignment guidelines), and copy-pasting from the web without proper citation.
>
> Any instance of plagiarism or dishonesty will result in a **zero** on the assignment or exam (with no option for resubmission) and referral to the Dean of Students.

I use TurnItIn, Respondus LockDown Browser, plagiarism/AI detectors, and draft comparison to ensure authenticity.

- **A note about AI:** I strongly discourage you from using AI to write content for your discussion boards, quizzes, and essay assignments for this course. Our assignments require close reading and interpretation of short stories, which is something AI often struggles with. It frequently invents ("hallucinates") characters, events, and dialogue, and gets key plot and character details wrong. Using AI will likely result in inaccurate and off-topic work that doesn't meet the assignment requirements.

  Instead, there are many acceptable ways to use AI: help proofread and edit your written work (instruct your LLM NOT to change your writing), help organize your thoughts, suggest areas where you could elaborate, or generate essay titles.

TC email: Students should check their TC Email account on a regular basis (at least twice weekly) to check for general information sent from campus or instructors. Through your TC email, you have access to Microsoft One Drive (including the web-based versions of Word, PowerPoint, and Excel).

Mrs. Maggio's communication policy: If you have concerns, please contact me.
- Email or call me with questions; walk-in or appointment office visits are welcome.
- I reply to emails within 12–24 hrs (not between 7:30 pm-7:30 am). If no reply in 24 hrs, check email address spelling and resend. Remember that personal email may go to spam.
- I do not check email while I am in class or during the 15 minutes prior to class time.
- I check email/Moodle daily except holidays.

Policy on computer access/technology failure: It is the student's responsibility to understand how to use Moodle/ TCOnline and word processing software, maintain access to a working computer, and maintain access to a high-speed internet connection in order to keep up with online class assignments.

If access to a computer or reliable Internet concerns you, please discuss with your instructor or advisor how you might take a proactive approach to your online success. Please be aware that not all course components will work on mobile devices, tablets, Chromebooks, or iPads.

ADA/ disability statement: TC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities, admission or employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Director of Human Resources/Title IX Coordinator, 2500 N. Robison Rd., Texarkana, TX, 75599, (903) 823-3355, human.resources@texarkanacollege.edu

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Tonja Blasé at 903-823-3349, or go by the office of Disability Services located in the Academic Commons (library) for personal assistance.

If a student qualifies for accommodations from the TC Director of Disability Services indicating that he or she has a disability that requires academic accommodations, the director will send an email to the instructor so accommodations can be made. It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

FERPA: The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, commonly known as FERPA, is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Students have specific, protected rights regarding the release of such records and FERPA requires that institutions adhere strictly to these guidelines.

In compliance with the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, Texarkana College is prohibited from providing certain information including grades, bills, financial aid, and other student record information to any third party unless the student gives us written permission. This restriction applies, but is not limited to your parents, guardians, spouse, and your employer. Each student has the right to grant Texarkana College permission to release information about your records to a third party by completing and submitting a FERPA Student Information Release Authorization Form. See the TC website or Office of Admissions for more information.

Student resources: Texarkana College offers a wide range of services to support your success. Visit www.texarkanacollege.edu/current-students for a full list of resources.

- **Basic Needs Support:** If you have difficulty affording food, housing, or other essentials, contact Tonja Blasé, Director of Student Retention, at 903-823-3349. TC also provides a Care Closet with free food and hygiene items; contact Phillip Parrish at phillip.parrish@texarkanacollege.edu or 903-823-3418 for access.

- **Counseling Services:** Free, confidential counseling is available to all TC students with no insurance required. Contact Mrs. Luretha Loudermill, LPC, or visit texarkanacollege.edu/campus-life/counseling-services

- **Pregnant and Parenting Students:** For support and community resources, contact Kippie Hartcraft, Pregnant and Parenting Students Liaison, at kippie.hartcraft@texarkanacollege.edu or 903-823-3462.

- **Tutoring:** Free tutoring is offered on the second floor of the Academic Commons and online via Microsoft Teams. Schedule an appointment at texarkanacollege.libcal.com

- **Student Success Coaching:** The Student Success Office offers career planning, laptop and calculator loans, tutoring, study strategies, and more. Visit texarkanacollege.edu/student-life/student-support/student-success, email success@texarkanacollege.edu, or stop by the office in the Administration Building.

- **Technology Help:** For technical or login issues, contact the TC Service Desk at 903-823-3030, stop by the office located in the Media building, or email support@texarkanacollege.edu

- **Campus Police:** Save the Campus Police number (903-823-3330) in your phone. Call for emergencies or any safety concerns on campus.

Last day to drop: Please consult the academic calendar or course catalog available online: https://www.texarkanacollege.edu/calendar/

Disclaimer: The above guidelines are subject to amendment by the instructor or by mutual agreement between instructor and class at any point during the semester. Students will be notified if any changes occur.

Bottom line and final notes: I promise that no one on this campus wants you to be successful in this course more than I want you to be successful! However, it's up to you to put in the hard work that will be required to make that happen. I will be happy to answer questions and help as much as I can, but you will need to attend class regularly, pay attention, and work diligently. Some of the assignments will be challenging. You need to be willing to put in your time and effort and take constructive criticism to learn and grow as a writer. You will discover that as a college student, natural intelligence or academic talent do not matter as much as hard work and a good work ethic.

This class will be challenging, but you are not alone! I am here to help you be successful. Please talk with me if you are struggling or need assistance. TC also has a wealth of resources available to students, from tutoring to computer labs to counseling. Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. Please take advantage of these resources.

I am looking forward to a wonderful learning experience with each of you this semester!