



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

ENGL 1301.3A1

**INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Daniel J. Valdez Jr., M.A.  
Email: dvaldez1@eagle.lit.edu  
Office Phone: 409-247-5242  
Office Location: TC Room 222  
Office Hours: MWF: 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM / TR: 9:15 AM – 11:15 AM

**CREDIT**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

In-Person

**PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:**

TSI Complete in Reading and Writing.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative writing processes.
2. Develop ideas with appropriate support and attribution.
3. Write in a style appropriate to audience and purpose.
4. Read, reflect, and respond critically to a variety of texts.
5. Use Edited American English in academic essays.

## Core Objectives

1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

An electronic device with access to the Internet. Your readings can be found in the specific week's folder.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is an asynchronous course. Students are not required to attend any online class. However, students are expected to check BlackBoard and their LIT e-mail daily. Students who do not engage with the class daily will fall behind.

## DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

## STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

## COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week One:	<i>Introduction to Composition I</i> Lecture	"English Is Not Normal" by John McWhorter (08/28/24)	Orientation Quiz Professional Introductions Forum "English Is Not Normal" Peer Review (08/30/24)

Week Two:	<i>Nouns and Pronouns</i> Lecture <i>MLA Formatting</i> Lecture <i>Works Cited Page</i> Lecture	Sample MLA Essays (09/02/24)	Nouns and Pronouns Quiz Spot the Difference Assignment MLA Template Due Create a Works Cited Page Assignment (09/06/24)
Week Three:	<i>Verbs</i> Lecture <i>In-Text Citations</i> Lecture <i>Introduction to Rhetorical Analysis</i> Lecture	“Dear Pedants: Your Fave Grammar Rule Is Probably Fake” by Chi Luu “Your Ability to Can Even: A Defense of Internet Linguistics” by Tia Baheri (09/09/24) “What’s the Language of the Future” by Henry Hitchings “What the F***” by Steven Pinker (09/11/24)	Rhetorical Analysis Essay Prewriting (09/11/24) Verb Quiz In-Text Citations Quiz “Your Fave Grammar Rule” Peer Review <b>Rhetorical Analysis Essay outline</b> (09/13/24)
Week Four:	<i>Adjectives and Adverbs</i> Lecture <i>To Infinitive and Beyond</i> Lecture	TBD (09/16/24)	Adjectives and Adverbs Quiz Infinitive Quiz Introductions and Conclusions Quiz <b>Rhetorical Analysis Essay Rough Draft</b> (09/20/24)
Week Five:	<i>Conjunctions and Prepositions</i> Lecture <i>Revising</i> Lecture Rhetorical Analysis Workshop and Tutoring Session	Sample MLA Essays (09/23/24)	<b>Rhetorical Analysis Essay Peer Review</b> (09/25/24) Conjunctions and Prepositions Quiz Spot the Difference Assignment 2 (09/27/24)
Week Six:	<i>The Thesis Statement</i> Lecture <i>The Seven Cs of Good Writing</i> Lecture <i>Constructing Sentences</i> Lecture	TBD (09/30/24)	<b>Rhetorical Analysis Final Draft</b> (10/02/24) Sentences quiz Forum Debate!

			Does Your Paper Sail the Seven Cs? Assignment One (10/04/24)
Week Seven:	<i>How to be Unfazed by Phrases</i> Lecture <i>Fragments of Memories: Common Sentence Errors</i> Lecture <i>How to Persuade and Influence People</i> Lecture	TBD (10/07/24)	Phrases Quiz Persuasive Essay Prewriting (10/11/24)
Week Eight:	<i>Fallacious Reasoning</i> Lecture <i>Punctuation</i> Lecture Persuasive Essay Workshop and Tutoring Session	"Name the Logical Fallacy: COVID-19 Edition" by Charlotte A. Moser (10/14/24)	Punctuation Quiz One Fallacious Reasoning Quiz <b>Persuasive Essay Early Draft</b> (10/18/24)
Week Nine:	<i>Quotations and Apostrophes</i> Lecture <i>Hyphens Dashes Parentheses and Brackets</i> Lecture <i>Capitalization Abbreviation and Numbers</i> Lecture	TBD (10/21/24)	<b>Persuasive Essay Peer Review</b> (10/23/24)
Week Ten:	<i>The Annotated Bibliography</i> Lecture <i>The University Library Presentation</i> Lecture <i>Finding Good Sources</i> Lecture	TBD (10/28/24)	Sources Quiz Does Your Paper Sail the Seven Cs? Assignment Two Research Essay Prewriting <b>Persuasive Essay Final Draft</b> (11/01/24)
Week Eleven:	<i>The Elements of Style</i> Lecture <i>Common Mistakes in Papers and How to Avoid Them</i> Lecture Annotated Bibliography Workshop and Tutoring Session	TBD (11/04/24)	Common Mistakes Quiz Annotated Bibliography Prewriting (11/06/24) <b>Research Persuasive Essay Annotated Bibliography</b> (11/10/24)

Week Twelve:	<i>Spelling Tips and Tricks</i> Lecture <i>How to Avoid Bias in Writing</i> Lecture Research Persuasive Essay Workshop and Tutoring Session	“7 Tips on How to Avoid Bias in Your Writing” by Beth Anne Freely Rauch (11/11/24)	<b>Research Persuasive Essay Early Draft</b> (11/15/24)
Week Thirteen:	In-Class Exercise: Research Essay Topic Discussions In-Class Exercise: Revising a Research Essay Together Research Essay Workshop and Tutoring Sessions		Does Your Paper Sail the Seven Cs? Assignment Three <b>Research Persuasive Essay Peer Review</b> (11/20/24)
Week Fourteen:	<i>Grammar Review: The Least You Need to Know</i> Lecture In-Class Exercise: Research Essay Topic Discussions Research Essay Workshop and Tutoring Sessions	None.	<b>Research Persuasive Essay Final Draft</b> (11/22/24)
Week Fifteen:	<i>The American Scholar: What You Can Do as a Writer and a Reader</i> Lecture Final Exam Workshop and Tutoring Sessions	Read or listen to “The American Scholar” by Ralph Waldo Emerson (12/02/24)	<b>Final Exam: “The American Scholar”</b> (12/09/24)
Week Sixteen:	TBA	TBA	TBA

### COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Essay #1 10%
- Essay #2 15%
- Persuasive Research Essay--Common Assignment 20%
- Short Writing Assignments 15%
- Daily Grades 15%
- Participation/Attendance 10%
- Final Examination Essay 15%
- Total 100%
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## **GRADING SCALE**

90-100 A

80-89 B

70-79 C

60-69 D

0 – 59 F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution's Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

## **DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles' Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT STATEMENT**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

## **STARFISH**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

### **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT**

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses.

**Due dates are subject to change.**

**I do not allow students to retake assignments.**

**I do not accept late work. Contact me if you are unable to turn something in due to a medical or family emergency.**

**Communication:** I will respond to e-mails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekend. Typically, I will only respond to e-mails during my office hours.

**Special Populations:** If a student requires accommodations while on LIT campus, they must contact Jarmarcus Corks in the Special Populations office in Student Services. If a dual credit student has accommodations through their school's special populations office, they must still contact LIT's Special Populations office at [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu).

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** Academic Dishonesty is a crime that Lamar Institute of Technology and I take seriously. Most colleges expel cheating students. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

Directly copying a source into an essay without citing the original source.

Paraphrasing a source without citing the original source.

Paying someone to complete an assignment, having a friend or family member complete an assignment, or using Artificial Intelligence to write a paper. If a paper has a student's name on it, I expect to see that student's work.

Making minor changes to an original source while still retaining up to 75% of the structure of the sentence.

Taking a quiz or test with another student, giving the answers to a quiz or test to another student, or **Googling the answers to the quiz or test**. My quizzes are not open-book quizzes. Students are only allowed the notes they have taken over an assignment during a quiz.

If I receive a paper that requires a works cited page and in-text citations but does not feature either of those criteria, **I will give the paper a zero.**

**How to Know If Something Is Not Plagiarism:** Generally, plagiarism only covers things that are not general knowledge. If a student makes the claim that the sky is blue, then they do not have to cite where they got that information, because it is something that 90% of the world already knows. However, if a student describes *why* the sky is blue, they have to cite their source, since that is not common knowledge.

**How to Avoid Plagiarism:** First, students should practice good paraphrasing and rewrite sentences *in their own words*. Part of the course will be discussions, assignments, and videos over good paraphrasing. Also, when students turn in their assignments, they should get a visible score from SafeAssign. SafeAssign is not perfect, and I have found plagiarism in papers with as low as a 10% score. If a paper flags anything in SafeAssign, a student must rewrite and resubmit the paper until the percentage is at zero.

**Late Work: If a student turns in their work late, they will get a zero. Once an assignment is turned in late, it cannot be redone or resubmitted.** It is important that students not get behind in a class. Typically, if a student gets in the habit of turning in all assignments within the first three weeks, they can build that habit for the rest of the class.

**Make-Up Work:** I can make accommodations on deadlines for extenuating circumstances (family emergencies, sickness, mental health, chronic health issues, etc.) However, communication is necessary in these circumstances. **I need to know at least 24 hours before a deadline if a student cannot complete an assignment on time. The new deadline will be a day after the original deadline.** If a student asks for more time on an assignment the day before or the day it is due, I will not respond to their e-mail.

**Diversity and Inclusion:** LIT wishes to create a safe and understanding environment for students of all genders, ethnicities, religions, sexualities, and backgrounds. Literature in particular is a landscape full of authors with various personalities and cultures. I personally embrace diversity of thought and opinions. In class discussions, I want to be sure that everyone



has the chance to voice their thoughts on a matter without unnecessary judgment. However, slurs or jokes pointed at minority groups are unacceptable, even if the student is a member of that group. I expect all students to treat each other and themselves with respect in my classroom. Students will read works that are challenging and controversial in this class. Please ensure classroom conversation remains civil.

**COVID-19 Requirements:** LIT no longer requires masks in the classroom. However, you are still allowed to wear a mask if it makes you feel comfortable. If you receive a positive COVID test, please do not come to class. Instead, send me an e-mail/phone call/text, and I will do what I can to ensure you have access to daily lectures and assignments.