



ENGL 1301 88DC – English Composition I (Online)

Course Syllabus: Fall 2025

“Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed.”

Instructor: Jennifer Sparks

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	9:00-11:00 a.m. 1:30-3:00 p.m.	1:30-3:00 p.m.	9:00-11:00 a.m. 1:30-3:00 p.m.	1:30-4:00 p.m.	By Appointment	By Appointment

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

Course Description:

3 credit hours

Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours of class each week.

Intensive study of 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.

Note: English Composition I is a prerequisite for all 2000-level literature courses.

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

Required Instructional Materials: *Engaging Questions: A Guide to Writing* English 1301 Connect Code Channell

Publisher: McGraw Hill

The textbook is required and provides essential information for successful completion of this course. This text is provided via inclusive access with your paid tuition. A hardcopy can be purchased separately at the NTCC College Store.

Optional Instructional Materials: None

Minimum Technology Requirements: You will need access to a computer to complete the writing assignments for this class. You will be typing your essays and submitting the final draft assignments through Blackboard.

Required Computer Literacy Skills: Blackboard Learning Management System, Microsoft Word processing, average email usage, and access to and knowledge of TEAM application. The Microsoft Office suite of products is available for free as long as you are an active NTCC student.

Course Structure and Overview: This English composition course is designed to help students develop their critical thinking, research and writing skills. The class will also include reading assignments that challenges students to think and effectively respond both in writing and orally to a variety of reading and visual material. Overall, the goal of this course is to help students grow as thinkers and writers. Higher order skills acquired in thinking and writing help students process information in a rapidly changing world and reflects deeper meanings of print and visual media. Students who utilize rhetorical tools and strategies achieve a level of sophistication in writing that invites audiences to join them in examining issues from multiple layers of meaning. In the process, students begin to take a more disciplined approach to writing and develop their voices through everyday and argumentative writing.

Writing Assignments:

Please follow these instructions when writing your papers:

- Writing assignments include a works cited page, must be typed in MLA format
- Use Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- Double-space
- Essay writings are usually two to three pages in length with the exception of the research paper, which is 6-7 pages in length.
- Pay close attention to spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Grading rubrics will be provided.
- Due dates for all reading and writing assignments will be assigned during class and will also be noted in the class calendar.
- Writing assignments will be submitted through a Blackboard Turnitin assignment link before the due date. Assignments sent via email will not be accepted.
- **Late assignment will only be accepted at the instructor's discretion and in emergency situations. Regardless of the reason for being late, papers will not be accepted after three days from the due date and a late penalty of -10 each day will be assessed. After three days, papers will not be accepted for grading.**
- **Students are expected to submit work that has not been previously used in this or any other course. All work must be your original words and not those of another or an artificial intelligence (AI) source. Writing submitted from AI sources will not be considered for grading. If a writing assignment is flagged as having AI generated content, points will be deducted as follows:**
 - 0-20%-No penalty**
 - 21-39%- One half of the percentage in points (30% = 15 point deduction)**
 - 40%-Grade of 0 and a new essay must be submitted for the final draft**

Discussion Assignments:

Students are expected to read all assigned materials before coming to class. You will be required to respond in writing to an assigned discussion topic for each module. You are expected to meet the minimum of 300 word count requirement and 150 word count requirement for three peer responses. Discussion responses should demonstrate your understanding of the related chapters and apply the concepts of such chapters to the topic discussion. Correct grammar and punctuation should be used. Late submissions are not accepted for discussion post. Submissions that are incomplete as of the due date will receive partial credit. All work should be original. **Follow the posted assignment calendar for due dates for initial discussion post and peer response posts. Discussion assignments require both an initial post and three peer responses to be considered complete.**

Communications:

Emails will be returned with 24 hours. Please note that NTCC email is the official form of student communication used by the college. **Emails sent from other accounts will not be answered.**

Attendance and Participation Policy:

An online writing class requires consistent engagement. You should plan to log on every day. Failure to participate in course activities, complete required readings, and turn in work will lower your course grade. If you do not log in regularly and meet deadlines, you may not receive credit for this course. **You are to check your NTCC email account daily, which will be the official form of communication for this course.** Your email address is your first initial + your last name + the last three digits of your SSN. Your password is your birthday in the form of mmddyyyy (Ex: May 8, 1992 would be 05081992). You have the option to change your password once you have logged in.

Once you log in to the course and submit your syllabus acknowledgment, you are considered in attendance, and the instructor will certify that you are part of the class. If you decide that you cannot complete the course, it is your responsibility to drop or withdraw with the registrar's office. Failure to do so will result in receiving a poor performance grade, usually a grade of "F."

You may **drop** the class prior to the official reporting day (twelfth day - regular semester; fourth day - summer term). In this case, the class will not appear anywhere on your transcript. You can **withdraw** from the class after the official reporting date and before the last posted date of withdrawal, and a "W" will be recorded on your transcript. The instructor will not drop or withdraw you from this course, even if you are not actively participating or logging in regularly. It is your responsibility to drop a course or withdraw from the college.

Institutional/Course Policy:

To complete this course successfully, you should:

- Read all of the textbook assignments
- Participate actively and meaningfully in all group discussions
- Prepare and submit all assignments on time

Always remember it is your responsibility to make sure you have adequate internet access and an electronic device to meet the requirements of the course.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Your assignments will be evaluated using the following point values:

Three final draft essay assignments	30%
Four peer review and essay rough draft assignments	20%
Discussions	15%
Smart Book assignments, Topic and thesis assignment	10%
Syllabus acknowledgement, end or course evaluation	5%
Final research essay	20%

Assignments will be graded within two week of receipt or before your next assignment is due. Your essays will be graded holistically based on a scoring rubric.

Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC's website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special populations page on the NTCC website.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.