

**ENGLISH 1101**  
**Composition I**  
**Mrs. Dana Dillard**  
**Fall 2021**

**Instructor's email:** ddillard@southlandacademy.org

**Text:** *Everything's an Argument with readings* by Lunsford, Ruskiewicz, and Walters

**Useful websites:** [www.galileo.usg.edu](http://www.galileo.usg.edu), <https://owl.english.purdue.edu>,

**Other Materials Needed:** pencils, pens (various colors), paper, 3-ring binder, flash drive

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Description:** English 1101 is a composition course focusing on skills required for effective writing in a variety of contexts, with emphasis on exposition, analysis, and argumentation, and also including introductory use of a variety of research skills. Students will develop analytical and evaluative skills by reading and writing expository and/or argumentative essays.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students should be able to use rhetoric as a tool for the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.
2. Students should be able to read texts critically with attention to a text's rhetorical purpose, quality of argumentation, and quality of evidence.
3. Students should be able to give feedback **to** their peers and act on feedback **from** their peers and instructor.
4. Students should be able to compose with multiple drafts and significant revision and also reflect on their composition processes.
5. Students should be able to edit their compositions to conform to the conventions of standard written English.

**Instructor's Expectations:**

1. Have your book and necessary materials when you enter class.
2. Read all assignments thoroughly and take notes as you read for use in class discussions.
3. Compose drafts of your assignments in handwritten form. Do not compose solely on the computer. I must see evidence of actual revision in your handwritten pieces.
4. Offer and accept constructive criticism graciously.
5. Turn in all assignments and papers ON TIME.

## **Assignments and Grading:**

**Participation: 10%** ..... This includes short writing activities, quizzes, rhetorical terms identifications, or any other class in-class activity or assignment.

**Rhetorical Analysis Paper: 20%** ..... MLA format, 500 word minimum (about two typed pages)

**Literacy Paper (Critical Narrative): 20%** ..... MLA format, 750 word minimum (about three typed pages)

**Critical Analysis of a Source: 20%** ..... MLA format, 750 word minimum (about three typed pages)

**Research-Based Argument (Synthesis): 20%** ..... MLA format, 1500 word minimum (about five typed pages)

**Final Exam (Reflective Essay): 10%** ..... MLA format, 500 word minimum (about two typed pages)

**You will be given much more detailed instruction, information, and materials prior to each composition assignment.**

The following scale will be used as a guideline for assigning grades:

**90-100.... A**  
**80- 89..... B**  
**70-79.....C**  
**60-69.....D**  
**below 60...F**

## **Grading of Writing:**

Although individual instructors may call some of the elements of composition by different names, students can expect their writing to be assigned grades based on their performance on the following kinds of criteria:

- **Ideas**, including elements that might be called *subject, purpose, main/central idea, focus, thesis, and audience awareness.*
- **Development**, including elements that might be called *details, examples, points, reasons, evidence, arguments, critical/logical thinking, and tone.*
- **Research**, including elements that might be called *(annotated) bibliography, note-taking, primary and/or secondary sources, and print/nonprint/online sources.*
- **Documentation and Format**, including such elements as *citing and listing sources (in a list of works cited) according to Modern Language Association (MLA) style.*
- **Organization**, including elements that might be called *structure, paragraphing, coherence, unity, plan, and transitions.*

- **Style**, including elements that might be called *sentence structure*, *word choice*, *diction*, and *vocabulary*.
- **Grammar**, including elements that might be called *usage*, *mechanics*, *editing*, *punctuation*, *spelling*, *conventions*, and *Standard English*.

The grade given writing is not a subjective impression, but a summary of a student's performance on the above criteria. General descriptions of each grade follow. Instructors may provide students with requirements and criteria specific to an assignment, the fulfillment of which is essential for a passing grade.

- Writing that earns an **A** is distinguished by clear, thoughtful, and significant ideas expressed with an awareness of audience; logical, detailed, and relevant development; incorporation of thorough and appropriate research; correct documentation; coherent and effective organization that supports the development; sophisticated style (varied, readable, and skillfully constructed sentences, as well as diction that is fresh, precise, economical, and idiomatic); and correct grammar.
- Writing that earns a **B** is distinguished by most of the qualities listed above. However, it may be characterized by somewhat less insightful ideas; occasionally less pertinent and detailed development for an audience; less thorough and appropriate research; only minor mistakes in documentation; some paragraphing and transitions that may not aid the audience as they might; style that is competent but not distinctive; and generally correct grammar.
- Writing that earns a **C** is characterized by generally clear but conventional ideas; overly general development; research that is not always thorough and appropriate; documentation that is marked by occasional errors in content or form; clear but mechanical organization; unremarkable style (restricted vocabulary and sentences that lack variety); and occasional problems in grammar that hinder the writer's purpose.
- Writing that earns a **D** is characterized by ideas that are sometimes unfocused and confused; development that is sometimes irrelevant or altogether lacking; research that is often not thorough or appropriate; documentation that shows little knowledge of correct content or form; organization that sometimes lacks order or paragraphing; sometimes incoherent sentence structure and inappropriate word choice; and grammatical mistakes that often distract the audience and undercut credibility.
- Writing that earns an **F** is characterized by unfocused ideas expressed with seemingly no concern for the audience; little or no development; little or no research or inappropriate research; little or no regard for correct documentation; little or no organization; frequent incoherent sentence structure and inappropriate word choice; and frequent grammatical errors that make the writer's purpose impossible to achieve.

### **Final Grades:**

To fulfill successfully the composition requirements of Area A in the core curriculum, students must achieve a final grade of C or better in ENGL 1101. Students who earn an F or a D as a final grade in the course must repeat it and make a C or better before they can enroll in any of the sophomore world literature courses: ENGL 2111, 2112, or 2113; ENGL 1102 is the prerequisite for each of these courses.

Because ENGL 1101 and 1102 are primarily writing courses, final grades are largely determined by the quality of students' work on writing assignments. Students, then, must earn at least a D average on their essays in order to receive a final grade of C or better. Although other grades earned during a semester, such as those made on tests, daily assignments, and class discussion, will not pass students who have not achieved a C average on writing assignments, these grades may either raise or lower the final grade of a student who has an average of C or better on essays.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Dishonest work is treated as a serious offense by the faculty and administration of both Southland Academy and Georgia Southwestern State University. At the discretion of the instructor, a student may be given a zero for an assignment in which he plagiarized or provided someone else's work as his own, or he may be required to rewrite the assignment within a given time period.