

**ENGL 1302.06: Composition II – TR 9:35-10:55 AM**  
**Fall 2017 Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Mel Ervin

**Office, Hours, and Phone:** Typically, I teach online; therefore, I do not maintain an office on the campus. If necessary, I will be happy to arrange a meeting via telephone, videoconference, or in person.

**Email:** [mcervin@lamar.edu](mailto:mcervin@lamar.edu)

**Required Textbooks**

Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing. 13th ed. Kennedy and Gioia. ISBN: 978-0-13-458646-5 (**L**)

The Little, Brown Handbook. 13th ed. Fowler and Aaron.  
ISBN: 978-0-13-458633-5 (**LBH**)

**Recommended**

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 8th ed. Gibaldi. ISBN: 9781603292627  
A college level dictionary.

The American Heritage Dictionary

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

Dictionary.com (online reference) (<http://dictionary.reference.com/>)

**Course Aims**

ENGL 1302: Composition II is the second course in Lamar University's Freshman English Requirement and is intended to advance your precision in reading comprehension and expression of critical thought. We will read, discuss, and analyze works of poetry and prose; additionally, the course will involve you in literature as a way of knowing and defining experience.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

You will:

- 1) compose expository essays/papers with a clear thesis and support.
- 2) compose clear and fluent sentences.
- 3) demonstrate knowledge of Standard English grammar and punctuation.
- 4) develop precision in reading comprehension and expression of thought.
- 5) demonstrate skill in research and documentation of a variety of sources, including electronic sources.

**Assessment**

Formal writing assignments, quizzes, homework, exams, and participation in discussions and collaborative activities are the means whereby you will be assessed.

### **Course Requirements:**

Daily reading assignments.

One (1) essay – analyzing a work of poetry.

Essay must be three (3) to four (4) **full** pages in length – plus works cited page.

One (1) research paper – analyzing a work of prose.

The paper must be four (4) to six (6) **full** pages in length – plus works cited page.

Homework assignments designed to prompt and guide your analysis of specific works of literature.

Two (2) exams –each designed to evaluate your grasp of material/issues related to the interpretation of literature, and specific matters relevant to poetry and prose.

Quizzes covering the assigned readings and lecture material will be administered regularly. (I may not announce the quiz ahead of time.)

### **A note about assignments:**

All assignments are due on the dates designated in the course schedule (See Course Schedule and Late Work Policy.)

All assignments must be word-processed and must conform to the most recent MLA guidelines for manuscript submission and documentation. (I will post a sample in the “Resources” section on Blackboard.)

The required font and point size for all assignments is: Times New Roman 12pt.

The essays and research paper must be submitted via the correct assignment section within Blackboard. This procedure will enable me to return a graded copy for your reference and observe the department’s policy of retaining essays for up to one year.

I encourage you to bookmark Blackboard so that you may access the site - without routing through Banner/myLAMAR. Here is the web address for Blackboard:

<https://luonline.blackboard.com>

Unless you and I make arrangements – prior to the due date - I will **not** accept **any** assignment submitted via email. It is your responsibility to ensure that your assignments are properly submitted.

### **Grading:**

Your final grade will consist of:

25% - Discussion/Class Participation

20% - Quizzes/Homework

15% - Poetry Essay

20% - Prose Research Paper

20% - Exams

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

You must submit all formal writing assignments (essays and research paper) in order to pass the course!

**Note!** Your attempts to participate in class and interact in a meaningful way will prove beneficial during the semester and influence borderline final-grade decisions.

**Attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory! You are allowed three (3) absences. For each additional absence, I will deduct – from your final grade – 10% of your Discussion/Class Participation grade. If you exhaust your discussion grade, I will deduct any additional points directly from your final course grade.

If you accumulate six (6) absences, you will fail the course.

If you miss class (for any reason) you are still responsible for all material covered during your absence. You are also responsible for all assignments due and/or given during your absence. If you miss class, contact a classmate to find out what you missed. Do not rely on contacting me. I may not be able to respond quickly enough for you to complete the work on time.

Students who are required to attend select official university activities may be afforded the opportunity to “make up” work missed during the absence; however, I must receive official written verification of your required attendance. I must receive this notice prior to the absence. You are responsible for arranging advance notice from the appropriate office. Additionally, you are responsible for contacting me – again, prior to the absence – to make arrangements regarding the work.

**Tardiness:**

If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to see me immediately after class, and I will mark you present (albeit tardy). Your failure to contact me will result in a recorded absence.

If you are more than ten (10) minutes late, you may enter class (if you can do so unobtrusively); however, you will be counted absent.

You are allowed two (2) incidents of tardiness. For each subsequent incident, I will deduct – from your final grade – 10% of your Discussion/Class participation grade. If you exhaust your discussion grade, I will deduct any additional points directly from your final grade.

**Late Work:**

All assigned work is expected to be completed and submitted by the specified due date.

If you experience special circumstances (and they must be extraordinarily "special") preventing you from submitting an assignment on time, contact me **before** the assignment is due. Your discussing the matter with me **prior** to the due date will enable us to explore a full range of possibilities. **Otherwise, late assignments will receive a grade of zero (0).**

With regard to the major assignments, I recognize that late work is better than no work; therefore, I will accept two major assignments (poetry essay, drama essay) for **one week** - from the original due date. Your grade, however, will be reduced **5%** for **every calendar day** the assignment is late. Due to the university's schedule for finals and submission of course grades, **I cannot accept the prose research paper after the due date.**

You will not be given the opportunity to make up (take after the fact) homework or quizzes.

You will be allowed to make up an exam if (and only if) you meet these conditions:

- 1) You miss the exam due to extreme hardship.
- 2) You can provide documentation adequate to substantiate the hardship.
- 3) Circumstances rendered you incapable of taking the exam early.
- 4) The exam in question is not the final exam.

No other exceptions will be made for make-up exams!

**Class Decorum:**

Although very little instruction should be required regarding appropriate classroom behavior, I want to minimize confusion by clarifying a few non-negotiable requirements.

1. Mutual courtesy and consideration requires that no distracting or disruptive behavior be allowed. Such behavior includes – but is not limited to:

- use of cell phones (they should be turned OFF)
- use of other electronic devices (i.e., iPads, laptops, etc.)
- texting
- sleeping
- any talking that is not germane to class discussion, etc.
- eating, use of tobacco (in any form), etc.

2. I will address distracting/disruptive behavior (as mentioned above) in the following manner:

- 1<sup>st</sup> incident – I will remind you that the behavior is unacceptable (which may well mean that I confront you during the class period).
- Any additional incidents – I will ask you to leave the class...for the remainder of the class period...and you will be counted absent for the day.
- To simplify: please turn your cell phone(s) OFF, pay attention, and participate.

3. You are expected to come to class prepared to stay for the entire period.  
If you need to leave early – do not come to class that day. Your leaving early will disrupt the class; therefore, if you cannot attend the entire class period – take one of your three (3) “free” absences.

If you leave before class is over – regardless of how close we may be to the end of the period – you will be counted absent for the day.

4. You are expected to come to class prepared to participate. Thus, you are required to:  
have read all assigned material.  
bring the text(s) required for each class period.  
bring materials with (and upon) which to write.

**Where to go if you need additional help with your writing:**

Visit the Writing Center in the John and Mary Gray Library (409) 880-8571.

<http://artssciences.lamar.edu/writing-center/>

The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>

The MLA Handbook site [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org)

**Students with Disabilities:**

Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communications building room 105. Office staff collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. To the degree possible, I am happy to comply with accommodations prescribed by the DRC.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at [409-880-8347](tel:409-880-8347) or [drc@lamar.edu](mailto:drc@lamar.edu) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with the DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please speak with me as soon as possible – preferably by the end of the first class period.

**Academic Honesty:**

Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The Lamar University Student Handbook states: “Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Punishable offenses include, but are not limited to, cheating on an examination or academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials” (81). One aspect of the handbook’s definition of cheating is, “purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm” (82). Plagiarism is defined as, “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or ideas into one’s own offered for

credit” (82). Students seeking to avoid plagiarism should consult with the course instructor, recent handbooks like *The Little, Brown, Handbook* and the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, or consultants in the Writing Center. Faculty members in the Department of English and Modern Languages investigate all cases of suspected plagiarism. ***Students who cheat or submit plagiarized work in ENGL-1302 will fail the course. You are encouraged to carefully read chapter 44 of The Little Brown Handbook to assist you in avoiding plagiarism. Additionally, I encourage you to consult with me prior to submitting your work if you have any question regarding the legitimacy of that work.***

The Texas State University System has established the following Disciplinary Procedures for Academic Dishonesty:

- (1) Academic Process. All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean, and eventually, to the vice president for academic affairs (whose decision shall be final) before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, and opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. After completion of the academic process, the academic officer making final disposition of the case shall refer the matter to the chief student affairs officer for any additional discipline that may be appropriate.
- (2) Disciplinary Process. In the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the chief student affairs officer may take such additional disciplinary action as he/she deems appropriate. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received procedural due process under *Subsection 5.6* and following exception as provided under *Subsection 5.15*.

### **English Department Policy Regarding Grade Prerequisite(s)**

The English Department, Developmental Studies, The College of Arts and Sciences, STARS, ACES, and Lamar University's Curriculum Council have noticed that students more quickly complete their composition courses and core curriculum courses if they earn at least a C in English 1301 before enrolling in English 1302. Therefore, the English Department, STARS, Developmental Studies, ACES, and many majors RECOMMEND that students earn a C in English 1301 before enrolling in English 1302. Likewise, as of Fall 2008, Lamar University's Curriculum Council REQUIRES that a student earn a C in 1301 before progressing to 1302. Some colleges and departments in the university require a C to receive credit for 1301, and some colleges and departments require a C to receive credit for both 1301 and 1302. Students should see their departmental or college advisors for specific requirements.

### **Dropping a class:**

Instructions for dropping and withdrawing are included in the *Lamar University Class Schedule* for each semester. You can drop and withdraw by visiting [www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu). If you choose to drop a class, you must initiate and follow through with the proper procedures to have your name removed from the class roll.

The last day to drop/withdraw without academic penalty is October 6.

The last day to drop/withdraw with academic penalty is November 10.

### **Emergency Procedures**

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at:

<http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html>.

#### **Severe Weather**

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
- Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

#### **Violence/Active Shooter (CADD)**

- **CALL** - 8-3-1-1 from a campus phone (880-8311 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 9-1-1 from either a campus phone or cell phone will contact Beaumont City Police Dispatch rather than University Police.
- **AVOID**- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY**- Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.
- **DEFEND**- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

#### **Academic Continuity**

In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to login to Lamar University's website's homepage ([www.Lamar.edu](http://www.Lamar.edu)) for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

**See Course Schedule below...**

**Course Schedule:**

This schedule reflects our return to the campus.  
All readings must be completed prior to the assigned class period.  
I will adjust the schedule as necessary.

**September**

- 12 – Introduction to ENGL 1302
  
- 14 – Critical Approaches to Literature (L: 1889-1919)
  
- 19 – Critical Approaches to Literature (L: 1889-1919)
  
- 21 – Reading a Poem (L: 640-654)
  - “Out, Out” (L: 647)
  - “Design” (L: 987)
  - “One Art” (L: 935)
  - “On Elizabeth Bishop’s ‘One Art’” (L: 1893)
  
- 26 – Words (L: 680-689)
  - “Grass” (L: 686)
  - “Fire and Ice” (L: 988)
  - “Motives and Thoughts” (Blackboard)
  
- 28 – Saying and Suggesting (L: 702-705, 710-712)  
Symbol (L: 855-857)
  - “The Parable of the Good Seed” (L: 847)
  - “Anecdote of the Jar” (L: 854)
  - “P.O.W.” (Blackboard)

**October**

- 3 – Imagery (L: 713-714, 725-731)
  - “In a Station of the Metro” (L: 713, 1896)
  - Imagism (L: 1895)
  - “The Piercing Chill I Feel” (L: 713)
  - “The Fish” (L: 716)
  - “The Death of The Ball Turret Gunner” (L: 1058)
- Figures of Speech (L: 732-735, 741-743, 747-749)
  - “To see a world in a grain of sand” (L: 737)
  - “Metaphors” (L: 737)
  
- 5 – Rhythm (L: 786-797)
  - Gwendolyn Brooks on Writing (L: 800-801)
  - “We Real Cool” (L: 790)
  - “Resume” (L: 791)
  - “What Teachers Make” (Blackboard)

- 10 – Myth and Narrative (L: 876-881)  
    “Father’s Day” (Blackboard)  
    “To This Day” (Blackboard)
- 12 – Writing About Literature (L: 1769-1790)  
    Writing About a Poem (L: 1816-1837; LBH)  
    MLA Documentation (L: 1874-1879 , LBH: 634-682)
- 17 – Catch Up!
- 19 – Poetry Essay is due!**  
    Exam Review
- 24 – Exam**
- 26 – Reading a Story (L: 5-6)  
    Plot (L: 14-16)  
        “A&P” (L: 17)  
        “A Rose for Emily” (L: 1911)  
        “An Eskimo ‘A Rose for Emily’”(L: 1911)  
    Writing Effectively (L: 22-25)
- 31 – Point of View (L: 26-29)  
    “Sonny’s Blues” (L: 49)  
    “Lightness and Darkness in ‘Sonny’s Blues’” (L: 1891)  
    “The Tell-Tale Heart” (L: 308)  
    “The Father Figure in ‘The Tell-Tale Heart’” (L: 1900)  
    Writing Effectively (L: 70-72)

## **November**

- 2 – Setting (L: 117-119)  
    “The Storm” (L: 120)  
    “The Source for Alcee Laballiere in ‘The Storm’” (L: 1894)  
    “To Build a Fire” (L: 124)  
    Writing Effectively (L: 162-164)
- 7 – Character (L: 74-76)  
    “How to Talk to Girls at Parties” (L: 94)  
    “Cathedral” (L: 103)  
    Writing Effectively (L: 114-116)
- 9 – Theme (L: 204-206)  
    “Parable of the Prodigal Son” (L: 224)  
    “Harrison Bergeron” (L: 226)  
    Writing Effectively (L: 231-233)

- 14 – Symbol (L: 234-236)  
    “The Chrysanthemums” (L: 237)  
    “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” (L: 249)  
    Writing Effectively (L: 260-265)
- 16 – “The Rocking Horse Winner” (L: 1906)  
    “Money and Labor in ‘The Rocking Horse Winner’” (L: 1906)  
    “Barn Burning” (L: 172)  
    “Myth in Faulkner’s ‘Barn Burning’” (L: 1903)
- 21 – Writing About a Story (L: 1791-1815; LBH)  
    Writing a Research Paper (L: 1849-1873; LBH)
- 23 – No Class – Thanksgiving
- 28 – No Class – Research Day
- 30 – No Class – Research Day

### **December**

- 5 – Charlotte Perkins Gilman (L: 467)  
    “The Yellow Wallpaper” (L: 468)  
    Charlotte Perkins Gilman on Writing (L: 479)  
    Critics on the “Yellow Wallpaper” (L: 481)  
    “Gender and Pathology in ‘The Yellow Wallpaper’” (L: 481)  
    “Imprisonment and Escape: The Psychology of Confinement” (L: 483)
- 7 – **Research Paper is due!**  
    Final Exam Review
- 12 – **Final Exam**  
    **Regular class time (9:35-10:55 AM)**