

# Department of English & Foreign Languages

## English 1301.1WB (Comp I)

### **I. Course and Instructor Information**

**Instructor:** Claudia Philpott

**Office Location:** WH 230 (Wilkerson Hall-second floor)

**Office Phone:** 432-335-6554

**Office Hours:** Monday: 3:30pm-5:30pm; Tuesday/Thursday: 9:30am-11am; 12:30pm-2pm;  
Wednesday: 8:00am-noon; other times by prior appointment only

**Email:** [cphilpott@odessa.edu](mailto:cphilpott@odessa.edu)

**\*NOTE:** Students in all of my courses are provided my home phone number with instructions that they should feel free to call me any evening of the week until 10pm.

**Course Credits:** Three (3) semester hours

### **II. Course Description**

Consists of essentials of correctness and effectiveness in writing skills; emphasizes reading and writing expository prose

### **III. Course Prerequisites**

ENGL 0370 passed with a "C" or better or a satisfactory placement score.

### **IV. SCANS**

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### **V. Required/Optional Course Materials**

**Textbook:** None. A good grammar book is suggested although instructor will provide links in Blackboard to some good grammar websites. All assignments plus reading materials will be in Blackboard.

### **VI. Course Objectives**

- Learn to write thesis driven essays, with clear internal organization governed by a series of controlled paragraph topic sentences;
- Learn to move logically in a body paragraph from the generalization of the topic sentence to more specific clarifications;
- Learn to understand and appropriately apply modes of expression in written

communication;

- Learn to maintain a logical movement through an essay with control of transitions, clarifications, and reasonable conclusions to ideas;
- Learn to analyze an audience to determine the best strategies for effectively communicating with that audience;
- Demonstrate an understanding of some basic research techniques and how to use library resources;
- Demonstrate a knowledge of research documentation including quotation integration, proper citation, and some knowledge of bibliographic form;
- Demonstrate competence in using conventional English;
- Articulate ideas in clearly-written, well-organized, lucid prose that exhibits the application of the aforementioned skills.

## VII. **Grading Policy.**

1. **Due Dates:** Essay assignments, grammar quizzes, etc., have assigned due dates. Daily work (journals, etc.) assignments may not be made up, and daily work not submitted by the assigned times and dates will receive a grade of 0. Late essay assignments will be penalized 5 points per day. It is your responsibility to log into Blackboard and complete all assignments.
2. **Cheating/Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating on tests, assignments, etc., will result in a 0 for the first instance; subsequent behavior may result in an F in the course.
3. **Disruptive/Abusive Behavior:** Disruptive or abusive online behavior will not be tolerated; please refer to Classroom/Online Behavior (below).
4. **Plagiarism:** The first instance of plagiarism will be assigned a grade of zero (0). The second instance will result in an F in the course. If you do not understand the term or have any questions, first refer to the information which follows in this syllabus. If you still have questions, contact me immediately.
5. **Attendance and Grades:** Please refer to General Course Policies for an explanation.

## VIII. **General Course Policies: Attendance, Expectations, etc.**

**OC G-Mail Account:** *You must activate your OC email account! This applies to every one of my students.* Every OC student has a free G-Mail account. During the first week of classes, we will log in together to make sure your account is available and operating correctly. If your account is not working, you will be directed to someone who can fix the problem.

**“Why do I need this OC account? I already have a personal email account. Can’t I just**

## **use that one?"**

No. First, you need to activate the OC email account to receive email notifications about various campus activities you may want to attend. Secondly, when I add an announcement to Blackboard (and all of my students ARE enrolled in a Blackboard class), the system is set to automatically email the announcement to your OC email account. Thirdly, when I need to contact you quickly, I will be emailing your OC account. For example, if you submit an essay assignment in Blackboard and something goes wrong with the submission, I will immediately be emailing your OC account to make you aware of the problem and your options to correct it. My email to you might read something like this: "Jimmy, I can see in Blackboard that you submitted your essay, but when I tried to open and grade it, there is nothing in the file. Please email your essay directly to me by midnight, tomorrow, June 10. If I do not receive your file by that date and time, the grade for the assignment will be a 0."

**"How often do I need to check my OC email?"** DAILY. Make it a habit to log into your OC email account every day at the same time. As a student, you wouldn't appreciate it much if I waited 4-6 days before I responded to your email messages. Obviously, if I send you an email like the one in the paragraph above and you wait five days to respond, then it is too late to save that assignment grade. It is especially imperative that fully online students check email daily since my primary form of communication with you.

**NOTE:** I welcome email from all students, and I will respond to your emails within 48 hours. However, because we have an aggressive campus spam filter, if you do not receive my reply within 48 hours, please assume that I did not receive your message and resend it—or call me at home or work.

**Add the course name and number in your subject line:** I have no easy way of identifying you from your OC username, which is a string of numbers with a few letters attached. I don't like wasting your time—and mine—emailing you back to determine which class you're in before I can respond to you. You deserve an answer the first time!

### **Attendance in Fully Online Classes**

Each Monday morning at 6am, a new week's work will be available in Blackboard. However, please plan to log into Blackboard several times per week. Sometimes, when I hear from several online students having the same problem, I post announcements.

You are responsible for completing weekly work, such as discussion boards, journal entries, various written and grammar assignments, etc. by the assigned due date which is always posted in Blackboard. In my classes, assigned weekly work is set to close and no longer be available when the due date has passed.

Although this is an online course, it is not self-paced. Assignments have specific due dates which are posted in Blackboard and it is your responsibility to log in on a regular basis (at least 2-3 times per week) and complete any assignments, quizzes, etc, which are due. See grading policy above.

Exceptions to this rule are a serious illness/hospital stay, a death in the family, or an immediate emergency, such as being involved in a car wreck on the way to class. The final exception is for

athletes who must miss class to participate in an athletic event. However, athletes must plan to submit their work early since they know ahead of time what classes they will miss.

In any of these cases, you are responsible for notifying me and, if asked, providing official documentation to prevent unexcused absences from impacting your final course grade.

Save a copy of all of your work in more than just one location. I suggest you buy a very inexpensive thumb drive or some other storage device. If all else fails, email your work to yourself. The last thing you want to have to do is recreate an assignment which has somehow been jumbled in transmission or if your computer crashes unexpectedly.

Keep your Blackboard username and password in a safe place and keep them private. NEVER give anyone else access to your Blackboard login information.

### **To successfully complete this course, students will need:**

1. **Regular access to a computer.** You should have access to an alternate computer in case the primary computer crashes. A computer crash is NOT an excuse for late assignments. The Student Success Center has open access computers which are available for student use when the campus is open. Check their website for the hours: [www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/](http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/)
2. **Regular access to the Internet.** Also in the Student Success Center—if necessary!
3. **A working OC student email account**
4. **A word processing program of some type** (Word, WordPerfect, Works, etc.)
5. **Some type of storage device to save your work.** Always save a copy of your essays, etc. on your computer hard drive, but it is also a good idea to put everything on a thumb drive as a backup. If you have a computer crash, you don't want to lose all your work.

### **Helpful Hints:**

1. Become familiar with the course at the very beginning of the semester. Spend some time clicking all the buttons to see how everything works in the Blackboard component. You will not break anything. If you don't understand how something works, let me know. I will be happy to answer all your questions. If necessary, you and I can arrange to work together over the phone or in person.

2. Keep up with the assignments by budgeting your time wisely. Set aside some distraction-free time to devote your full attention to the material.

3. Interact with the course materials; don't just read handouts, assignments, etc. on the computer screen or misplace the handouts which I provide for you. If a handout is in Blackboard, I suggest you make a copy of it to use as a reference as you write.

4. **Remember: There are NO stupid questions! If you don't understand something, please ask. Because we are not always working together in a classroom environment and I cannot see the puzzled look flash across your face, I rely on you to let me know when you need help.** However, don't wait until the end of the semester to let me know you need help. By then, it may be much too late to salvage that "A."

**5. Stay in contact with me and don't just disappear from the course without a word of explanation.** There may be some way that you and I can work through the problem, whatever it is. However, if you make the decision to stop attending class, please remember that it is your responsibility to drop the course to avoid an F at the end of the semester.

6. Keep track of all due dates. These will be clearly posted on assignments as well as in Blackboard.

a. Classroom Students: You will ALWAYS be notified of due dates/testing dates well in advance. The only exception to this rule is "pop quizzes," and I reserve the right to give them at any time in the course.

b. Online Students: I always include a flexible testing schedule (tests remain open several days) to allow you to fit the assignments/quizzes into your busy home, school and work schedules without creating unnecessary stress.

HINT: I suggest that you create a master semester calendar for all your college classes. On it, mark all the due dates for all tests, projects, speeches, essays, etc., for each class. I suggest using a different color ink for each class. After you finish recording all the information on the master calendar, you can tell at a glance where the "hot spots" are going to be in the semester and begin to budget your time appropriately.

7. Keep a copy of the essays which you submit to be graded either on the hard drive of your computer or on a movable device of some type: disk, CD, thumb drive, etc.

HINT: Plan to attach your thumb drive to something, such as your keychain or a necklace of some type, to avoid losing it. I speak from experience because I've misplaced them myself.

**Classroom/Online Behavior:** You will be participating in traditional and/or computer-based class discussions this semester.

Please remember that you are always free to express your opinion on any subject, but you are not free to:

1. Be disrespectful of another person's opinion or attack someone else on personal grounds, even as a joke.
2. Be disrespectful of any religion, race, gender, age group, sexual orientation, or political position, even as a joke.
3. Use language which may be classified as obscene or profane.
4. Do NOT use texting "language" in anything you write for this class.
5. Treat others in the class as you would like to be treated yourself.

**Grading Rubric: College level courses**

**A** = Excellent / outstanding / fluent / thought-provoking/original

Follows all instructions, addresses question(s) asked, carefully organized, contains an effective

thesis, fluent style, clear and concise writing, few—if any—mechanical errors, shows thought and analysis, presents original insights independent of the teacher/text, in-depth and detailed, goes well beyond what was expected

**B** = Good / above average / clear well-organized

Follows all instructions, addresses question asked, contains a thesis, mechanical errors are not distracting to the reader, contains some detail, shows little thought or analysis independent of information supplied by teacher/text

**C** = Average / adequate / competent / fair /unoriginal

Follows most of the instructions, addresses most of the questions asked, weak thesis, lacks clarity, mechanical errors are obvious but do not interfere with reader's understanding of the work; little if no detail, thought or analysis; THIS IS AVERAGE WORK FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS

**D** = Below average / inadequate / ineffective / unclear / under-developed

Follows only the most basic assignment requirements, addresses questions on a very general level, shows insufficient understanding of the material, significant mechanical errors make communication of ideas ineffective, no thesis, lacks organization, gross spelling errors

**F** = Failure / blocked communication / plagiarism or cheating / major errors / illiteracy / directions not followed / badly underdeveloped

Instructions were not followed, question was not addressed, no thesis, no organization, mechanical errors make work unreadable and/or incapable of being understood, some or all of the content was plagiarized, fails to address the given topic, no detail, thought, or analysis

## **IX. Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of another person's work or ideas as your own without citing the source. Mistakenly, many students believe that by shuffling word order, changing or omitting a few words, or rewriting using their own words, they have not committed plagiarism, which is not the case. Any source you quote (words, numbers, charts, etc.) directly (book, journal article, Internet, etc.) MUST be enclosed within quotation marks. Additionally, if you borrow thoughts or ideas, you must still give credit to the original source.

Use ellipsis marks (...) to indicate where you have omitted something from the original; use square brackets ([ ]) to indicate changes or additions you have made in a quotation.

Take pains to identify the author of any quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Credit by name the originator of any fact or quotation you use no matter where it comes from. Please refer to **Plagiarism and the Internet** below.

Make sure you indicate where another writer's ideas stop and where yours begin using transition words: According to Jim Knox, author of Blowing Your Own Horn, "-----." However, in my own view, ----- . (Notice that Knox's words are in quotations while your words are not.)

If, at any place, your written version looks close to the exact words of the original, carefully rewrite it in your own words.

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to give proper credit whenever the following are used:

- Another person's ideas, opinions, or theories
- Facts, statistics, graphs or other drawings or pieces of information that are not common knowledge
- Quotations of another's actual spoken or written words
- Paraphrases of another's spoken or written words

**Plagiarism and the Internet:** Many sources of information on the Internet appear to have no stated or obvious authors. However, this does not mean that the information belongs to the public domain or is general knowledge and not subject to documentation. **If the material you use in your writing is not your own words, thoughts or ideas, the source must be documented.** Since much of the information available on the Internet carries no specific author credit, authorship must be assigned to the organization or individual responsible for constructing and/or maintaining the Internet site on which the information appears.

Please also remember that ignorance does not excuse plagiarism. If you plagiarize an essay once, that assignment will receive a 0; if you plagiarize a second time, then you will be assigned an automatic F in the course.

**If you have any questions about plagiarism, do not hesitate to contact me. .**

## **X. Course Requirements & Course Overview**

The course consists of five major pieces of writing, two rough drafts

- Five written essays: 12-15% each
- Two rough drafts: 2-3% each
- Grammar, preliminary writing activities, group work, journaling and miscellaneous work: 10%
- Journaling activities: 5%
- Final exam: 10% \*

\*Failure to complete the final may result in an F in the course.

NOTE: most grammar in this class is linked to student writing, with larger units of study suggested by deficiencies in student writing as diagnosed by the teacher. Thus, the topics of grammar study are tentative and subject to change, depending on the needs of the particular class.

**Unit One: Descriptive/Narrative Essay Assignment  
(Draft = 3%; Essay = 12%)**

Assigned readings. Focus on basic essay structure, including introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions. Students will participate in preliminary writing activities, including class discussion of assigned readings, various grammar topics and online interaction through Blackboard.

**Unit Two: Classification (Learning Style Indicator) Essay Assignment  
(Draft = 2%; Essay = 13%)**

Assigned readings. Focus on essay structure and various grammar topics with assigned readings and discussion. Students will complete a learning styles indicator inventory and construct an essay which analyzes their particular style, outlines the implications of that style, and provides strategies for using that knowledge to enhance their college education.

**Unit Three: Commercial Essay Assignment (15%)**

Assigned readings. Focus on essay structure and various grammar topics with assigned readings and discussion. Compare/contrast essay strategies will be discussed as well as constructing a basic outline.

**Unit Four: Literary Analysis Essay Assignment (15%)**

Assigned readings. Students will begin to prepare for Comp II by learning to incorporate critical thinking skills to read, journal, discuss, analyze and finally construct a focused essay about an assigned piece of literature. Focus on essay structure and various grammar topics with assigned readings and discussion as well as the introduction of MLA Style. Students will construct an essay which will include incorporating parenthetical documentation.

**Unit Five: Argumentative Essay Research Assignment (15%)**

Assigned readings. Focus on essay structure and various grammar topics with assignment readings and discussion as well as continued use of MLA Style and works cited entries. Students will construct an argumentative essay which incorporates parenthetical documentation as well as a works cited page with multiple citations.

**Final Exam:**

The final requires that students implement the various analytical, revising, editing, and documentation skills that they have learned during the course of the semester.

**XI. Special Needs**

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability services at 432-335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations.

**XII. Learning Resource Center**

The Library, known as the [Learning Resources Center](#), provides research assistance via the [LRC's catalog \(print books, videos, e-books\)](#) and [databases \(journal and magazine articles\)](#). [Research guides](#) covering specific subject areas, [tutorials](#), and the ["Ask a Librarian"](#) service provide

additional help.

### **XIII. Student Email**

Please access your [Odessa College Student E-mail](http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/), by following the link to either set up or update your account: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>. **All correspondence should be through your Odessa College email account.**

### **XIV. Technical Support**

For Blackboard username and password help and for help accessing your online course availability and student email account contact the Student Success Center at 432-335-6878 or online at [https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk\\_form.htm](https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm).

### **XV. Important School Policies**

Information regarding student support services, academic dishonesty, disciplinary actions, special accommodations, etc., can be found in the [Odessa College Student Handbook](#).