

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & FOREIGN LANGUAGES

ENGLISH 1301.WB4 (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

***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

1, 2, 9

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

Please remember that I do not teach a self-paced class, either online or in the traditional classroom setting.

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. If you're absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you've missed and come to the next class prepared. It is also your responsibility to log into Blackboard and complete any assignments, quizzes, etc., that were assigned in class.
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 behavior will not be tolerated; the first instance will result in a grade of 0 on any assignment due at that time, and the student will be counted absent from class for that particular day, which will also result in a loss of course grade points. Please refer to **Classroom/Online Behavior** for more information.
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 the **Classroom Attendance Policy** and **Blackboard Attendance Policy** for more information.

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.

“I’m sitting in your classroom three days a week. Why do I need this email account?” You will be using Blackboard to complete your assignments, and if there is an issue with a submission, I want to be able to notify you immediately to give you a chance to fix the problem quickly. For example, if you submit an essay assignment on Monday and are expecting to see a graded paper on Wednesday, you may be disappointed because I could not grade the assignment.

NOTE: I welcome email from all students, and I will respond to your emails within 24 hours. However, because we have an aggressive campus spam filter, if you do not receive my reply within 24 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!

Cell Phones/Texting: Use of cell phone or texting during class is strictly prohibited. Please turn off your cell phone and put it out of sight while you are in the classroom. If you have some kind of family emergency, and your cell phone **MUST** remain on, let me know before class begins. In that case, set the phone to vibrate and please do not disrupt the class as you leave to answer it.

Attendance: Please plan to attend every class to gain the knowledge you will need to complete your homework and writing assignments. Attendance is never *optional* in any of my classes. Additionally, some in-class work, participation in discussions, grammar quizzes, etc., must be completed by you “in person and in class.”

However, if absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you’ve missed and come to the next class prepared. It is also your responsibility to log into Blackboard and complete any assignments, quizzes, etc., that were assigned in class. See grading policy above.

A. Classroom Attendance Policy: For students in web-enhanced or hybrid courses

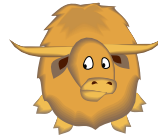
Classroom attendance is a key element in any college course, and my English classes are no exception. If you miss class, you are missing vital information and classroom participation which may directly impact your ability to pass the course with the grade you want to achieve. My goal is for every student to complete my courses with an A, but that does require a lot of effort on your part.

However, you do have one absence with no questions asked. Think of it as “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off”—but get the assigned work done!

Please plan to arrive on time for class and be prepared to stay for the entire class period. Students who are consistently more than 20 minutes late for class will be verbally warned; if the behavior persists, the student will be counted absent and will receive a 0 for any activities due that day.

Please be aware that unexcused absences will mean points off your final course grade.

Why? If you’re not in class, you can’t participate in classroom discussions, quizzes, journaling assignments, etc. I know that most students would rather be tied to two yaks running full-speed



in opposite directions than attend a college writing class, and I know that all your friends told you that college students don’t HAVE to attend class unless they want to. They’ve also told you that instructors don’t care whether you come or not.

NOTE: If you are a student in a classroom-based course with an online component in Blackboard, and, even if you complete the online assignments on time, you will be penalized points for not being present in class on that particular day because you were not in class to participate.

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 providing official documentation no later than the second class day after your return to prevent such absences from impacting your final course grade.

BE PREPARED TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ALL CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES!! I am a firm believer in group participation, and, at various times during the semester, you will be divided into small groups to work on various writing/grammar issues. Obviously, if you are not in class, you are not participating in these learning opportunities.

Please read **Blackboard Attendance Policy** (below).

Save a copy of all of your work somewhere other than the classroom computers. Anyone can access your work and copy or delete it. I suggest you buy a very inexpensive thumb drive or some other storage device. If all else fails, email your work to yourself.

B. Blackboard Attendance Policy: For students with online Blackboard component or full Web

Each week, you will be responsible for completing assigned grammar or writing topics in Blackboard. Failure to complete those exercises by the assigned due dates will result in a 0.

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

If you miss the in-person portion of a class, you are still responsible for logging into Blackboard and completing any online assignments due that week. However, you will still lose points for being absent from the classroom (see **Classroom Attendance Policy**).

C: Fully online Students:

Each Monday morning at 6am, that week's work will be available in Blackboard. 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.

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/
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 leaving it in the computer at the end of class. It's your work, and you don't want to lose it.

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.

Here are some helpful hints from an expert:

1. Identify passages that you like as well as passages you dislike. Explain why you think the passage is effective or ineffective. A writer's successes are potentially as instructive as his or her failures.

2. Avoid comments such as "I like this!" Instead, be specific: "I like the way your words paint a vivid picture!"

3. Avoid writing "I don't understand this sentence!" Instead, try to be as specific as possible about the cause of your confusion: "In this sentence, I can't tell who the word is referring to."

4. If you dislike a passage, ask questions or offer the writer suggestions as to how you think it might be changed: "Could this paragraph offer evidence to support your recommendation?" or "I think it might help if this paragraph described the machine a bit before telling us how to operate it."

5. Avoid you-assertions such as "You've lost me here." Instead, offer I-assertions such as "I'm confused here." You-assertions accuse the writer, whereas I-assertions describe the reader's ability to interpret and appreciate the writing.

6. Direct positive comments to the writer and negative comments to the writing. For example, avoid writing "This is a clear explanation!" Instead, focus on the writer's success: "I think you've done a terrific job of explaining this difficult idea." Similarly, avoid comments such as "I think you need to include more examples." Instead, focus on the failure of the writing: "I think this passage would be easier for me to understand if it included more examples."

(from Gong, Gwendolyn, Dragga. *A Writer's Repertoire*. New York: HarperCollins, 1995)

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

- Resume: 5%
- Five written essays: 13-15% each
- Two rough drafts: 1% each
- Grammar, preliminary writing activities, group work, journaling and miscellaneous work: 10%
- 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: Constructing a Resume (5%)

Focus on basic resume construction, including formatting, information to include—and exclude. Students will use their own information to construct an effective resume.

Unit Two: Descriptive/Narrative Essay Assignment (Draft = 1%; Essay = 13%)

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.

Typically, each essay requires approximately two-three weeks to complete from start to finish, though there are variances depending on the needs of the class and the complexity of the

assignment. Specific due dates will be announced at the beginning of each unit and will be available in Blackboard.

Unit Three: Classification (Learning Style Indicator) Essay Assignment (Draft = 1%; 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 Four: Compare/Contrast 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 Five: Literary Analysis Essay Assignment

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 and a library tour. Students will construct an essay which will include a works cited page and incorporate parenthetical documentation.

Unit Six: Argumentative Essay Assignment

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](#), 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.

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](#).