

Course Syllabus: English 1301.WC9

Faculty Information

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Office: WH (Wilkerson Hall) 230

Office Hours

Mon/Wed/Fri: 8-9am

Mon/Wed: 11-noon; 3:00-5:00pm

Tues/Thurs: 11-noon

Online Office Hours: Tues/Thurs: 11-noon

About Your Instructor

I was an OC student myself! Prior to returning to college for my BA and MA degrees, I worked in the oil business for 25.5 years. I was formerly a librarian at UTPB, and I have taught at Odessa College for the past 15 years.

Preferred Method of Communication:

My primary means of contact is via email (see address above).

However, please feel free to call my office during my office hours (again, see above). If I am not in my office, please leave your name, number and a brief message, and I will contact you asap.

Expectations for Engagement for Instructor:

As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will

- provide my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
- respond to all messages within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday, and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; and,
- notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of during the time I am unavailable.

As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will

- provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and

- communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.

As an instructor, I understand that I need to provide regular, timely feedback to students about their performance in the course. To keep students informed about their progress, I will

- post grades for discussion postings within one week of the discussion thread closing.
- provide grades for major assignments within 2 weeks of the due date or at least 3 days before the next major assignment is due, whichever comes first.

Textbook Information and Required Hardware/Software

Textbook(s): No textbook is required for the course.

Hardware: Students will need access to a computer with speakers.

Software:

Students will need to have Microsoft Office Word loaded on their personal computers to complete the major writing assignments. If you do not have Word, you can use Open Office by Apache. It is free software and is much like Word. Here is the link to their site: <http://www.openoffice.org/download/>

If you do not already have a copy of Microsoft PowerPoint on your personal computer, you will need to download the free reader if you want to view class PowerPoint presentations at home.

Websites:

This course relies heavily on use of the Internet.

If your computer does not have a minimum of PowerPoint 2000 loaded, please go to this MicroSoft site and download the free viewer: <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=13>.

You will need the Free Adobe Reader to open .PDF files) <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Information About the Course

Course Description

Intensive study of and 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.

Course Prerequisites:

ENGL 0370 passed with a "C" or better or a satisfactory placement score. (See page 145 of the Campus 2013-2014 Course Catalog.

Course Topics:

Various expository academic essays with a focus on presentation, essay organization, appropriate language, and various grammar topics.

Grading:

<i>Type of Assignment</i>	<i>Percentage/Points</i>
Module One	10%
Module Two	15%
Module Three	15%
Module Four	20%
Participation/Daily Work	20%
Final Exam	20%
100%	

Grading Scale:

“A” = 90-100

“B” = 80-89

“C” = 70-79

“D” = 60-69

“F” = 0-59

Essay Grading Rubric

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

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, minimal detail, thought, or analysis

Other Grading Policies:

Please remember that this course is not self-paced. Every assignment has an assigned due date.

Due Dates: Essay assignments, grammar quizzes, etc., have assigned due dates. Daily work (journals, etc.) assignments not submitted by the assigned times and dates will receive a grade of 0. Late essay assignments will be penalized 5 points per day and will not be accepted after five days.

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.

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.

Student Course Participation

As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will

- identify alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet service is unavailable;
- recognize that the college provides free Wi-Fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
- understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to

- getting “kicked off” of the system during tests or quizzes;
- having trouble submitting assignments; and
- dealing with a traumatic personal event.

As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will

- seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
- ask questions if I don’t understand; and
- access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.

Course Policies

Disclaimer

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change in any part at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be in accordance with Odessa College policies. Students will be notified of changes, if any, in timely manner.

Digital Protocol

The electronic recording of the time on Blackboard will be considered the time of assignment submission. Take necessary steps to ensure that your assignments are submitted on “Blackboard” time.

If there is a loss of server connection with Odessa College due to maintenance, then an email will be sent to student with pertinent information and status reports.

Assignments submitted electronically need to be rich text (.rtf) or WORD documents only (.doc or .docx).

General Course Requirements

Attend class regularly; complete all assignments; read assigned materials.
Contribute and cooperate with civility.

Submit assignments on time. Late work will be penalized. Medical and/or family circumstances that warrant an extension on assignments need to be presented to the instructor immediately. Extensions will be allowed at the instructor’s discretion.

Incomplete Policy

An ‘Incomplete’ grade may be given only if:

The student has passed all completed work

If he/she has completed a minimum of 75% of the required coursework. A grade of an "I" will only be assigned when the conditions for completions have been discussed and agreed upon by the instructor and the student.

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.**

3. **Blackboard User Name and Password.** If you are new to Blackboard, begin at this URL: <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/it/web/blackboard.htm>

4. **A working OC student email account.** For activation instructions, click on this URL: <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/it/web/blackboard.htm> <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>

5. **A word processing program of some type.** (Word, WordPerfect, Works, etc.)

***Please note that .pages (iPad format word processor) is not an acceptable format.** If you use your iPad, save your document as .rtf (rich text) only.

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. 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; major assignments will be posted on the Course Calendar as well.

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.

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.

Course Schedule

⚡ (Tentative and Subject to Change)

Date	Instructional Approach	Topic	Assignment	Assignment Submission
Module One: Aug. 26- Sept. 26	Traditional including AVID strategies	Essay One/Grammar	Various assignments/quizzes/culminates in essay	All assignments are due in Blackboard unless specifically directed elsewhere by instructor. All essays, including the final exam, will be 3-5 pages, double spaced, MLA formatted.
Module Two: Sept. 26- Oct. 17	Traditional including AVID strategies	Essay Two/Grammar	Various assignments/quizzes/culminates in essay	
Module Three: Oct. 17- Nov. 14	Traditional including AVID strategies	Essay Three/ Grammar	Various assignments/quizzes/culminates in essay	
Module Four: Nov. 14- Dec. 5	Traditional including AVID strategies	Essay Four/ Grammar	Various assignments/quizzes/culminates in essay	
Final Exam: Due midnight Dec. 10	Traditional including AVID strategies	Final Exam Essay Topic	3-5 page, typed, double-spaced, MLA formatted essay	

Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs)

Description of Institutional Core Objectives (ICO's)

Given the rapid evolution of necessary knowledge and skills and the need to take into account global, national, state, and local cultures, the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Therefore, with the assistance of the Undergraduate Education Advisory Committee, the Coordinating Board has approved guidelines for a core curriculum for all undergraduate students in Texas.

Through the application and assessment of objectives within the institution's core curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world; develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world; and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Appropriate Odessa College faculty periodically evaluates all of the courses listed in the descriptions on the following pages of this catalog and keys them to Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs), as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013*, page 73)

Odessa College's Institutional Core Objectives (ICOs):

- *Critical Thinking Skills* - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- *Communication Skills* - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- *Empirical and Quantitative Skills* - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- *Teamwork* - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- *Personal Responsibility* - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- *Social Responsibility* - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome	ICO
1,2	<i>Critical Thinking Skills</i> - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
1,5	<i>Communication Skills</i> - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
*	<i>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</i> - to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
1	<i>Teamwork</i> - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
1,2	<i>Personal Responsibility</i> - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
*	<i>Social Responsibility</i> - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

* not required

Odessa College Policies

Academic Policies

Note that the OC Student Handbook states (page 32) that “[i]n cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to impose appropriate scholastic penalties. Complaints or appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be filed in accordance with the college due process procedure. Copies of the college due process procedure are available in the office of The Director of Student Life (CC104).”

For more information on your rights and responsibilities as a student at Odessa College, please refer to the following: *The 411 of OC: Student Handbook 2012-2013; Student Rights & Responsibilities* <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/studenthandbook/handbook.pdf>

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty shall constitute a violation of these rules and regulations and is punishable as prescribed by board policies. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism and collusion.

"Cheating on a test" shall include:

- Copying from another student's test paper
- Using test materials not authorized by the person administering the test.
- Collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test without permission from the test administrator.
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing or soliciting, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
- The unauthorized transporting or removal, in whole or in part, of the contents of the unadministered test.
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for one's self, to take a test.
- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- "Plagiarism" shall be defined as the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work.
- "Collusion" shall be defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. (Source: *Odessa College Student Handbook 2012-2013, page 29-30*)

Special Populations/Disability Services/Learning Assistance

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.

Odessa College affirms that it will provide access to programs, services and activities to qualified individuals with known disabilities as required by **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**, unless doing so poses an undue hardship or fundamentally alters the nature of the program or activity. Disabilities may include hearing, mobility or visual impairments as well as hidden disabilities such as chronic medical conditions (arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disorders, lupus, seizure disorders, etc.), learning disabilities or psychiatric or emotional disabilities. A student who comes to Odessa College with diagnosed disabilities which may interfere with learning may receive accommodations when the student requests them and submits proper documentation of the diagnosis. A Request for Accommodations form and guidelines for beginning the request process are available in the OC Help Center or on the Odessa College web site at <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/counseling/disabilities/index.htm>. The college strives to provide a complete and appropriate range of services for students with disabilities such as assistance with testing, registration, information on adaptive and assistive equipment, tutoring, assistance with access and accommodations for the classroom where appropriate. For

information regarding services, students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services in the OC Help Center located in Room 204 of the Student Union Building or call 432-335-6433. (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013*, page 52)

Dropping a Course or Withdrawing from College

Students wishing to drop a non-developmental course may do so online using WebAdvisor, at the Wrangler Express, or Registrar's Office. A student wishing to drop a developmental course or withdraw from college should obtain a drop or withdrawal form from the Wrangler Express or the Registrar's Office. Students are encouraged to consult with instructors prior to dropping a class. Students may not completely withdraw from the college by use of the Web. Students must drop a class or withdraw from college before the official withdrawal date stated in the class schedule. Students who are part of the Armed Forces Reserves may withdraw with a full refund if the withdrawal is due to their being ordered into active duty. A copy of the student's orders must be presented to the Registrar's Office at the time of the withdrawal. For details, please contact the Office of the Registrar. **No longer attending class does not automatically constitute withdrawal from that class, nor does a student's notification to an instructor that the student wishes to be dropped. Failure of a student to complete the drop/withdrawal process will result in a grade of "F."** (Source: *Odessa College Catalog of Courses 2012-2013*, page 36)

Student Support Services and Technical Support

Blackboard Support

I can't log into my Blackboard Course, who do I contact?

Contact the Student Success Center: 432-335-6673 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm. The SSC can provide you with your Blackboard login name. If you are not sure what your password is, they can reset your password.

I'm having a problem in my Blackboard Course, who do I contact?

For any problem that you have in your online course, always contact your Instructor first. Refer to the Instructor's Contact Information area of the Syllabus for their preferred method of contact and the expected response time.

Additional Blackboard Help Resources:

Service	Assistance Provided	Available
Blackboard Help for Students	Website with a searchable list of topics on how to navigate and use Blackboard for online courses.	Online Click here.

Blackboard On Demand Learning Center for Students	This website provides an extensive list of short tutorial videos for student activities performed in Blackboard.	Online Click here.
Blackboard Collaborate: First Time Users	If you have never used Blackboard Collaborate before, this website provides a system requirements check, configuration instructions, and training and resources area.	Online Click here.
Blackboard Collaborate: Essentials for Participants	This website provides essential information for Participants of Collaborate sessions. Any Collaborate user, whether first-time or experienced, would benefit from reviewing the information here.	Online Click here.

How do I set up, access, or update my Odessa College Student E-mail account?

Go to this website and follow the directions on the page: <http://www.odessa.edu/gmail/>.

I can't access my student email! I forgot my password!

Contact the Student Success Center: 432-335-6673 or online at https://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/helpdesk_form.htm. They can provide you with assistance in accessing your student email (created by OC) and can also assist with resetting your student email password. Make sure to have your student ID number available!

Your Blackboard login name is associated with your OC created student email account. All Correspondence for this course will be submitted using your Odessa College student email address.

Student Success Center (SSC) / AVID Center

How do I contact the Student Success Center?

Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins will be served as soon as possible.

Main Number	432-335-6673
Campus Location	1st floor of the Library
Website with Additional Help and Information	http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/
Live Online Assistance / Chat	Click Here (If no one is currently available, please put your email and question(s) in the appropriate areas of the form and hit 'send.' Your question(s) will be addressed as soon as an SSC staff member becomes available.)

Equipment and Services Provided:

The purpose of the Odessa College Student Success Center is to provide assistance to students in meeting their academic and career goals. The SSC strives to continually provide new and updated resources that will empower all Odessa College students to succeed at OC and beyond.

Equipment/Services Available	Used For	Available
Tutoring by CRLA & Avid trained tutors	Understanding course work and motivation	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Student Information Seminars (SIS)	Demo email, Blackboard and SSC resources	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Study Skills	Tools needed to succeed	On Campus and Online

		Click here for more information.
Basic Technology	To navigate classes, email, etc.	On Campus and Online
Plato Web	Practice for TEAS test and basic math, science, etc.	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Project T.I.E.	Practice for GED/COMPASS	On Campus and Online Click here for more information.
Student Orientation/Tour	Show individual students where their classes will be. SIS presentation	On Campus
M.O.R.E. Mentoring Program	Networking, tips to navigate college life successfully	On Campus Click here for more information.
Smart thinking	Online tutoring service. Connect with an e-structor and interact with a live tutor.	Online Click here for more information.