

Course: Composition II	ENGL 1302.720
Instructor: Dr. Dean Bowers	Spring 2013
Office: Wilkerson 200	Phone: (432) 260-1778
Classroom: Wilkerson 205	Email: dbowers@odessa.edu
Office Hours: M 10-12, T 4-6, W 10-12 and 1-3, TH 12:30-2:30	

- ☞ I will be available in Wilkerson 200 and on Blackboard Collaborate for all of these times except the W 1-3 and those will only be on Blackboard Collaborate.
- ☞ If you need to meet with me at a different time, please call, text, or email, and we can set up a meeting.

### Course Description

ENGL 1302: Composition II (23.1301.5112) (3-0) 3 hours

This course involves an intensive study of and practice in the strategies and techniques for developing research-based expository and persuasive texts. There will be an emphasis on effective and ethical rhetorical inquiry, including primary and secondary research methods; critical reading of verbal, visual, and multimedia texts; systematic evaluation, synthesis, and documentation of information sources; and critical thinking about evidence and conclusions. (ICOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) Prerequisite: ENGL 1301.

### Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of individual and collaborative research processes.
- Develop ideas and synthesize primary and secondary sources within focused academic arguments, including one or more research-based essays.
- Analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence.
- Write in a style that clearly communicates meaning, builds credibility, and inspires belief or action.
- Apply the conventions of style manuals for specific academic disciplines (e.g., APA, CMS, MLA, etc.)

### Required Materials

- ⌋ Masterpieces: Best Science Fiction of the Twentieth Century by Orson Scott Card
- ⌋ *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams
- ⌋ Access to a computer (see Computer Access section)
- ⌋ A computer file storage device (preferably a USB drive)
- ⌋ Folder or notebook (recommended)
- ⌋ Thesaurus and dictionary (recommended)

## Course Assignments

- |                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| • Three Research Essays     | 24% |
| • Use of Documentation      | 24% |
| • Analytical/Creative Essay | 14% |
| • Quizzes                   | 10% |
| • Tests (2)                 | 16% |
| • Final                     | 12% |

## Encouragement

My overall philosophy is that you can succeed in this class, and that you can get and will get the grade that you are willing to work for. I will maintain rigorous standards, but I will help you in any way that I can to be successful because I do want all of you to do well. My goal is to help you develop your analytical reading skills, your critical thinking skills, and to continue to develop your ability to clearly articulate your ideas. These are skills that will serve you well in other classes, in job situations, and in your own personal development. I also hope that you enjoy the reading and find some authors and works that you like. I encourage you to talk to me if you have questions, concerns, or problems in the class. If you cannot come to my scheduled office hours, other meeting times can be arranged. I can also assist you in arranging the use of other helpful resources. I hope we can have an interesting, productive, and fun semester together!

## Computer Access

You need to have regular access to a computer for this class:

- Internet – You need to have dependable access to the internet.
- Word Processor – All assignments should be typed, saved to your computer, and then **submitted to Blackboard. If you don't have Word**, most computers come with Works already loaded. Make sure to save documents in Rich Text Format. Some alternative word processors are the one on Google Docs or the free word processor available at [www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org).
- Blackboard - You are responsible for any materials that can be found in our Blackboard course: documents, assignments, Powerpoints, linked resources.
- Odessa College email – When I send messages and reminders, they will go to this email. You are responsible for any information sent to your OC email.
- Powerpoint – You can open Powerpoints in Blackboard. Here is a link for a free Powerpoint Viewer:  
<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=048dc840-14e1-467d-8dca-19d2a8fd7485&displaylang=en>.
- Adobe Reader – **If you don't have this already, you can download the reader for free at** <http://www.adobe.com/>.

I am assuming that all students have dependable access to computers (since this is an online class). In any case, not having computer or printer access is not a valid excuse for failing to complete assignments on time.

## Class Behavior

I expect you to be respectful towards other students and myself during class and in any online interactions such as discussion forums or on email. When a person, whether it is me or another student, is speaking, please do not interrupt them or hold conversations about topics that are not relevant to this class. I do want you to make comments, to ask questions, and to raise class concerns, and I will give you opportunities to do so. Also, if I have given you an individual or group assignment in class, I expect you to work on it for the allotted time. We will have periodic group and class discussions, and I expect you to be respectful toward your classmates at all times.

If behavior occurs that violates this policy, I will ask the student(s) to correct the behavior. If I have to do this more than a couple times during the semester, or if the student refuses to correct the behavior at the time I ask, I will give the student an official warning, ask him or her to leave the class, and he or she will be counted absent and receive a zero for any activities done that day, even if those activities have already been concluded. This warning will be made in class, and I will also send a copy to the student and appropriate administrators.

- If a student interrupts me or another student who is contributing to class discussion
- If students are holding conversations about material that is not relevant to class
- If a student is rude, belligerent, or otherwise disruptive
- If a student has out non-course materials after I have announced the beginning of class
- If a student submits any disruptive, inappropriate, or offensive posts in the online class forums

If a student violates any aspect of the classroom behavior policy again after the warning, or if there is any case of very disruptive or disrespectful behavior, the same penalties will be given (counted absent, grades for the day forfeited), and I will consult the Chair of the English and Foreign Languages Department and possibly the Dean of Arts and Sciences about further disciplinary action.

If you have questions or concerns regarding an issue that concerns the whole class, such as a question about assignment instructions, please ask. If you have questions or concerns regarding an issue that pertains only to you, such as a question about a grade on one of your papers, please discuss that with me during office hours or some other arranged time.

## Non-Course Materials

I ask that you only have course materials out during class time, even if you have completed class work early. Non-course materials include other books (unless we are working with research materials for this class), work/materials for other classes, other publications, planners, puzzles, etc. Electronic devices (computers, phones, games, ipods, etc) should be turned off and put away when class begins. If I have given you time to work on the computers, either writing

or doing research, only programs immediately relevant to the assignment should be open on your computer. If you need a device because of a disability, please bring me the proper documentation (see ADA Policy below). You will be subject to the Class Behavior policy (see above) if you have out non-course materials during class time.

## Assignments

- ⌚ Assignments need to be posted on Blackboard by 11:59 PM on the designated due date in order to be counted on time.
- ⌚ If you have trouble posting the assignment to Blackboard for any reason, contact me immediately and send the assignment to me via email by the deadline so that I can count it on time. You will need to post assignments on Blackboard for them to be graded once the submission problem is resolved.
- ⌚ Make sure to follow specific assignment instructions carefully.
- ⌚ Assignments are due by the end of the day (11:59PM) on the designated date
- ⌚ I would like all assignments submitted in Rich Text Format.
- ⌚ Late assignments will lose 10 points. I will accept late assignments for 48 hours after the due date/time. After that, I will not accept them.
- ⌚ If an assignment does not meet the word minimum, it will lose 10 points (or be subject to the penalty described on the assignment instructions).
- ⌚ If you have a legitimate, documented reason why you need more time on an assignment, please contact me. The documentation must be included with the assignment.

## Attendance

Regular attendance in class is vital to your success, and when you miss class, you will miss getting important information as well as the benefit of participating in-class activities.

- In-class activities cannot be made up.
- Since assignments will be turned in online, being absent is not a valid reason for turning in an assignment late.

Each absence over one will result in 1 point being deducted from your final grade.

The only exceptions to these rules are if you have a serious illness/hospital stay that prevents you from coming to class or a death in the family. In these cases, you must provide official documentation no later than the day that you come back to class.

When you are absent, it is YOUR responsibility to get the information that you missed. Please feel free to contact me directly to ask for information. You can also check Blackboard.

Instances of arriving late to class or leaving early as well as instances of violating the behavior policy will also affect your grade. Each two instances will result in a deduction of one point from

your final grade. My philosophy is that if you are going to be in class, you need to be present for the whole class and need to be involved in class activities.

### Assistance with Assignments/Tutoring

You are always welcome to call me or email me with questions about your assignments. I can help you brainstorm for topics and ideas, help you organize your essay, help you with using quotations, help you edit your essay and/or discuss any other questions. I will also answer these kinds of questions and look at drafts of assignments to provide comments via email. Just please make sure to send me the draft with enough time before it is due to send you feedback.

In addition to my help, any registered Odessa College student can go to the Student Success Center for tutoring and for assistance with different subjects. If you are in Odessa, or nearby, the SSC can be a valuable resource. The Odessa College Student Success Center is located on the first floor of the Learning Resources Center (library). You are welcome to go to the SSC for assistance in this class. The English tutors can help you with the same aspects of the paper as I have listed above. The point to emphasize here is that they will help you; they will not do the assignment for you. Make sure to take a copy of the assignment instructions with you so that the tutor will understand the assignment. To get more information about the SSC, call 432-335-6673 or go to <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/ssc/index.htm>.

Odessa College also offers access to Smarthinking, an online student assistance service. You can submit a paper for comments (I think the turnaround time is 24 hours) and you can schedule online meetings with Smarthinking tutors. You can access Smarthinking directly from Blackboard. There is a link in the main menu (on the left side of the page).

### Plagiarism

Simply put, plagiarism is turning in work that you claim to be your own, but that is not yours; in other words, parts of it or all of it comes from another source.

Plagiarism occurs if you do any of the following without giving proper credit to the real author of the material: directly quote from another author's material, paraphrase from another author's material, or even borrow an idea from another author's material.

- ♣ If you are caught plagiarizing material on any assignment (tests, essays, discussion board posts and replies), you will receive a zero on the assignment in question.
- ♣ If you are caught plagiarizing material a second time, you will receive an F for the course. I will also contact the Vice President of Student Services.

When we are doing research assignments, errors on your citations will not be considered plagiarism unless you have not cited any of your sources. However, since using and citing sources are major components of the research assignments, correct citation counts for a significant portion of the grade.

You can do the work; plagiarism is not worth it. If you have questions, please contact me.

### Expectations for Engagement – Face-to-Face Learning

To help make the learning experience fulfilling and rewarding, the following Expectations for Engagement provide the parameters for reasonable engagement between students and instructors for the learning environment. Students and instructors are welcome to exceed these requirements.

#### Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Instructors

1. As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will
  - provided my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
  - respond to all messages in a timely manner through telephone, email, or next classroom contact; 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 emergencies during the time I'm unavailable.**
2. 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.
3. 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
  - return classroom activities and homework within one week of the due date and
  - 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.

#### Reasonable Expectations of Engagement for Students

1. As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will
  - attend the course regularly and line up alternative transportation in case my primary means of transportation is unavailable;

- recognize that the college provides free wi-fi, computer labs, and library resources during regular campus hours to help me with completing my assignments; and,
  - understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my personal computer equipment or internet service is unreliable.
2. 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,
- missing class when a major test is planned or a major assignment is due;
  - having trouble submitting assignments;
  - dealing with a traumatic personal event; and,
  - having my work or childcare schedule changed so that my classroom attendance is affected.
3. 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,**
  - attend class regularly to keep up with assignments and announcements.

### Student Success

The Odessa College Student Success Coaches will help you stay focused and on track to complete your educational goals. If an instructor sees that you might need additional help or success coaching, he or she may submit a Retention Alert or a Starfish Alert. A Student Success Coach will contact you to work toward a solution.

### Ineligible Materials for Assignments

Please abstain from using material (quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise borrowed) from interpretational resources (such as Spark Notes, Cliffs Notes, etc.) or from essay sites (such as 123HelpMe, etc.) as the basis of your discussions in your essays and other assignments. While proving plagiarism can be difficult, it is not so difficult to tell when a student has relied on a supplemental website for assistance instead of on the actual assigned text. While this kind of laziness may not always qualify as plagiarism, it does demonstrate that you are not meeting the class requirements and your grade will reflect that.

- Ⓦ If your discussion relies on these kinds of websites, the highest grade you will be able to get on that assignment will be a 65 (D).

- ⌚ If your discussion uses materials other than those designated for the assignment, the highest possible grade you can get on that particular assignment will be a 75 (C).
- ⌚ As the policy above states, if it can be proven that you have plagiarized from any source, you will incur the stated failing grades.

### ADA Policy

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.

### Student Evaluation of Instruction:

The SEI process for face-to-face and online courses is scheduled for the week of April 28-May 4.

### Withdrawing from Class

April 16 (Tue.) is the last day you will be automatically be **given a 'W' when you withdraw from** a class. In this class, after that deadline, you will receive a grade for the class.

### Schedule Adjustments

I reserve the right to adjust the schedule and policies if necessary. You will be notified of any changes and will be responsible for information that has been emailed and/or posted.

### Learning Resources Center (Library)

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. There is a direct link to the LRC in your Blackboard class.

### Student E-mail

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 for the course will be conducted using your Odessa College email.