



Northwest Arkansas Community College ENGL 1013: ENGLISH COMPOSITION I

Fall 2026

Contact Information

Instructor: Ms. Elizabeth Buckeye

Location: BHS 2100

Office hours: MW(F): 8:45-10:32 TTH(F): 7:15-8:45

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Zero A - Pre-AP English II	Zero B - Prep
1st - Prep	5th - Comp I/II
2nd - Comp I/II	6th - Advisory/Flex
3rd - Pre-AP English II	7th - Pre-AP English 2
4th - <i>Off Contract</i>	8th - <i>Off Contract</i>

Course Description

Guiding the student through the process of writing with regular practice and analysis of effective writing, this first course of the composition sequence emphasizes the writing of clear, concise, developed academic prose. Generally, students are expected to follow the rules of Standard American English and formatting conventions, to understand paragraph development, and to write a research assignment involving the integration of sources.

Prerequisites & Corequisites

Minimum placement test scores (see placement test chart in [this course catalog](#)) or completion of or in the process of completing an approved ENGA or ENGC course(s). ACTS Equivalent: ENGL1013 (ACTS) - Composition I.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Read, interpret, and analyze print and digital texts.
- Find, evaluate, integrate, and cite relevant sources.
- Apply writing strategies to draft, revise, and edit major writing tasks.
- Apply and evaluate appropriate syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Apply and evaluate appropriate voice, style, tone, and audience awareness in writing.
- Compose new writing in multiple genres that is focused, coherent, and developed.
- Collaborate with peers to plan, develop, and revise projects.

General Education Outcomes Supported

- Students develop higher order thinking skills.
- Students gain greater awareness of cultural perspectives.
- Students can write a clear, coherent, well-organized documents, which are substantially free of errors.
- Students can read selections at the college level.
- Students develop effective oral communication skills.
- Students can employ a variety of sources to locate, evaluate, and use information.

Topics List

The following topics will be covered in this course:

- Critical reading skills
- Critical writing skills
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation
- Handling source material

Required Text and Materials

No textbook is required for this course. All texts will be provided by the instructor or students will self-direct research and materials, per the assignment directions.

Each day students are expected to have the following materials:

- A composition notebook [college ruled] that will be kept in the classroom
- A writing utensil [pens or pencils]
- Highlighters
- BHS issued and monitored computer
- Any reading materials provided by the instructor necessary for the day

Grading Breakdown

The Canvas gradebook is the official NWACC record for grades, as it will include all assignments. HAC is the official Bentonville record for grades, and will also include all assignments. All of your work will fall into two main categories, both equally important to your final grade:

- **Writing Process Assignments:** These include brainstorming, planning, drafting, peer workshops, revising, editing, discussion boards, and journal entries. These show your growth and effort throughout each unit.
- **Major Paper Assignments:** These are the polished, final drafts of your unit portfolios—the work that demonstrates your learning at key milestones.

Both categories will be averaged to form a significant part of your final grade. If you keep up with the process, the product will follow—and I'll be here to support you at every stage. Each of these categories will account for about 50% of your grade. That does mean though if you miss a major paper assignment, the likelihood of success in this class is greatly reduced.

Each assignment is graded according to a specific rubric, included in the specific assignment in Canvas. I am here to make sure that your grades truly reflect what you've learned and shown in class and through your assignments. It's important that you turn in your own work and give credit to others' work or ideas when you use them in your assignments. We'll have progress assignments that will help you track your progress. The specifics for each writing assignment, including what's expected and how they'll be graded, will be provided as we go along.

The overall grading scale for this course is:

A = 90 to 100 Points
B = 80 to 89 Points
C = 70 to 79 Points
D = 60 to 69 Points
F = 59 Points or fewer

Class Policies

Classroom Expectations

- Respect Yourself
- Respect Others
- Respect the Space

Late Work Policy

Engaged attendance has been shown to improve learning and lead to better course grades directly. To be considered as having attended class, please be present, on time, prepared, and actively participating in course activities—whether in person or online. This means you should:

- Arrive on time and stay for the entire class.
- Come prepared, finishing readings and assigned work in advance.

- Pay attention during discussion and class activities.
- Take notes actively.
- Participate in Q&As, group work, and presentations.

I want you to build time management and planning skills that will serve you long after this course ends. To help strengthen those muscles:

- Late assignments lose 10% per day, and I accept them up to 7 calendar days after the due date to a maximum reduction of 50%. The date recorded for the last submission is the date that I will use to calculate your penalty. After that, the window closes and if nothing is submitted for that assignment you will receive a (Z) in the gradebook that cannot be made up. If something big is going on, reach out before the deadline—we can work together on a plan.
- All major paper deadlines are communicated well in advance, so absences for things like school business will still affect whether your assignment is considered late or on time. If you have a pre-planned absence, please make sure to turn your assignment in before the deadline.
- With this being a college class, the only assignments that will be allowed to be turned in late are multi-day/week assignments that are worth 20 points or more. Less than 20 points OR one day assignments will not be able to be turned in late at all outside of excused absences that will be made up during the next available flex. It is the responsibility of the student to sign up for that flex and communicate with the teacher if there is an issue.

Life happens and you have many commitments; I know it's possible that you'll sometimes miss class. Here's how to stay in the loop:

- Connect with a classmate to get notes or updates—peer support is powerful.
- Check Canvas often. I post slides, assignments, and prompts shortly after class—use it!
- Still stuck? Shoot me an email or come by my classroom. I'm happy to explain, brainstorm, or help you catch up.

If you ever feel overwhelmed or behind, let's talk. I'm here to help you figure out a strategy. Missing a day doesn't have to mean missing out on learning. The biggest thing is communication. You can email me or talk to me in person, but I have no idea what's going on unless you tell me and I can't work with you if you're going through something without you telling me.

Attendance Policy

We will follow the BHS attendance policy. More than 10 unexcused absences will result in a FP designation [see failure to participate explanation below]. When absent it is up to the student to sign up for Flex to make up any missing assignments, discussions, or projects. Life happens, so please do not come to class sick and end up being patient 0 and infecting the whole class, but also make sure to make up the class time you missed in order to not fall behind.

Census Date (NP) Administrative Drop Policy

The beginning of the semester sets the tone for the course. To make sure you get off to a good start, complete all the assignments scheduled for the first couple of weeks by September 2nd. Failure to complete these assignments can lead to your being dropped from the class roster.

Withdrawal Deadline

The last day for students to withdraw from the course with a "W" is October 30, 2026.

Failure to Participate

Grades of FP (failure to participate) will be issued to students who fail to participate in class activities and fail to officially withdraw from their course(s). A student will be assigned a grade of "FP" if they do not officially withdraw from the course and fail to participate in course activities through the end of the period. FP is used when, in the opinion of the instructor, completed assignments or course activities, or both, were insufficient to make normal evaluation of academic performance possible (less than 50%) Students who complete the course but fail to achieve the course objectives will be awarded the grade of F (failing).

Grievance Procedure

Please contact me first with questions or concerns about the course. If the question or concern cannot be reasonably discussed or resolved with that step, the second step is to contact the department Chair, followed by the Associate Dean of the School of Communication and Arts and finally, on the unlikely event the matter is not resolved at that level, the Dean of the School of Communication and Arts. Below is contact information for the Department chair, Associate Dean, and Dean, as well as for the Administrative Assistant for Communication & Arts:

- Anne Farmer, English Department Chair; BH 1121, 479-986-6679, afarmer4@nwacc.edu.
- Jonathan Kaan, Associate Dean of the School of Communication & Arts; BH 1123, 479-619-2228; j3kaan@nwacc.edu.
- Daniel Sorenson, Dean of the School of Communication & Arts; BH 1124, 479-619-2221; d3sorenson1@nwacc.edu.
* The Dean may delegate student concerns to the Associate Dean as needed.
- Raquel De Avelar Bilck, Administrative Assistant for Communication & Arts; BH 1118; 479-619-4156, rdeavelarbilck@nwacc.edu.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty means that students do their own work and do not represent others' work as their own. A violation involves misrepresentation, the submission of materials for evaluation that are not the student's own, or completion of an academic exercise that does not result from individual effort or intellectual production.

Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the words or ideas of another as their own. If someone else's words are reproduced without acknowledgment, or their ideas are paraphrased in a way that

leads the reader to believe they originated with the writer, plagiarism has occurred. For more information, consult the Plagiarism subtopic of the [Student Handbook](#).

The college's definitions and policies on academic honesty will be followed in this course. Sanctions for an infraction range from an "F" or zero on the assignment to an "F" for the semester. See Academic Policy for details.

Self-Plagiarism

Submitting work previously offered for credit in another course, without the instructor's specific permission, is an academic honesty violation. If you want to revise or rework a paper from another class, talk to me first and get my express permission.

Use of Generative AI

NWACC's policy on AI in academic work (Policy 3035) applies in this course. The short version: your instructor sets the AI rules, assignment by assignment, and you are responsible for knowing them.

There is no standing permission to use AI tools (ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Claude, and similar) in this course. Each assignment sheet will state whether AI use is allowed and at what level: not at all, for specific tasks like brainstorming or feedback on your own draft, or more broadly. If an assignment doesn't address AI, treat that as no AI use. When you're not sure, ask me before you use the tool, not after you submit.

Submitting AI-generated or AI-substantially-revised text as your own writing is an academic honesty violation on any assignment, whether or not you cite the tool. When AI use is permitted and you use it, disclose it: a brief note at the end of your submission naming the tool and what you used it for. Disclosure is not a confession. It's the same habit as citing a source. And whatever help you had, be ready to explain how you reached the final work.

Two more rules that apply all semester. Do not put another person's work or private information into an AI tool. And keep your drafts and notes for major assignments; if a question about your work ever comes up, your process is your best evidence.

One caution. AI tools produce confident text that is sometimes wrong, including invented sources. You are responsible for the accuracy of everything you submit. And these tools cannot do the thing this course is designed to teach, which is your own thinking on the page. Used well, they can sharpen that thinking. Used as a substitute, they hollow it out, and you're the one who pays for it.

Remember, **you** are responsible for the accuracy of every claim and source, and you should be able to explain and defend the final work without the tool in the room. If the AI did the thinking, the assignment didn't do its job.

Resources

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Any student with a disability or medical concern which may impact access to or progress in this course is encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC works with students and faculty collaboratively to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations for students. Once registration with the DRC is complete, eligible students are given tools and guidance on how to use their individualized academic accommodations appropriately. This includes the student taking the responsibility to contact each instructor privately to discuss his/her DRC Accommodation Letter. For more information, please see our [introductory video](#). For an appointment or to speak to DR Staff, email (preferred) disability@nwacc.edu or call (479) 986-4076. For students who are able to visit our Bentonville campus, the DRC is located in Room 114 on the first floor of the Student Center.

NWACC Resources

Should you need, you can find:

- the NWACC academic calendar [here](#)
- You can find a copy of the NWACC student handbook [here](#)
- You can access “MYNWACC” [here](#)
- You can access WORKDAY [here](#)
- You can access NWACC current students link [here](#)
- You can access NWACC’s student health and well-being page [here](#)
- You can access Canvas [here](#)

WRITING AND RESEARCH RESOURCES

I want you to succeed in this class, so please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I will also provide tutoring during Flex Time throughout the semester. For further assistance the following resources are available to you as a ECE NWACC student:

- Writing and Academic Literacy Center—We have an outstanding team of tutors ready to assist students through F2F, virtual, and email consultations this semester. Check the [Writing Center website](#) for schedules.
- E-mail / Virtual Consultation—Go to [this link](#), click the “Submit Your Work” box, complete the form, and attach your draft for feedback from a consultant.
- Campus Library—[NWACC’s Pauline Whitaker Library](#) in Burns Hall is the college’s information center. Academic Literacy Skills workshops are held by a team of talented librarians weekly, and library staff is available via chat on their website. This should be your first stop for research

EMAIL AND PASSWORD HELP

NWACC email is the official method of communication for the college, and Workday is the platform where students manage registration, financial aid, and other account-related tasks.

- Need to activate your student account? Follow the instructions at the [New Student Account Activation Help page](#).
- Having NWACC username, password or email issues? NWACC's Information Technology Services provides service and support to keep you connected. To reach an IT specialist, contact the college's IT Help Desk by calling 479-619-4357 or emailing techsupport@nwacc.edu. At least once during the semester, you will be prompted to change your password. Check your NWACC email regularly to maintain access.

CANVAS HELP

If you run into problems with Canvas or need help with your setup, contact the Distance Learning team at dl@nwacc.edu. They're here to help! You may access Canvas directly at:

<https://nwacc.instructure.com>. For the best experience with Canvas:

- Use a laptop or desktop computer (Mac or Windows).
- Chromebooks can work but may have limitations—especially if your course requires specific software.
- Google Chrome is the recommended browser. Keep it updated and clear your cache regularly.
- Canvas does have an Apple and Android compatible app that can help you check assignments, announcements, and grades on the go. Phones, iPads, and other tablets do not reliably support the full functionality of Canvas or other course tools. Please avoid relying on them as your primary device.

FREE MICROSOFT 365 ACCESS

As an NWACC student, you have free access to Microsoft 365, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and other essential tools—just log in with your NWACC email and password:

<https://m365.cloud.microsoft/>

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

3 Hours of CSL (1.5 HRS PER SEMESTER) Students will receive 1.5 hours of Community Service learning per semester, for a total of 3 hours in the school year. In Comp I, a research advocacy in-class writing assignment, along with a Public Service Announcement, will fulfill the 1.5 hours of community service.

All other standard course policies [are available via the Student Resources Canvas course](#).

SCHEDULE OF MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS (may vary based on weather, extenuating circumstances, etc.) Can and will be added to/more detail given as the semester progresses

Comp. 1 Fall, 2026 Course Plan	
Week 0 (Aug 10-14)	Bonus Week: Syllabus review, class expectations, writing notebooks, and first assignment
Week 1-6 (Aug 17 -	Project 1: "A Moment in Time" – Writing Notebooks - Notebook, Reading Responses, Personal Multi-Media Essay

Sept 25)	
Week 7-10 (Sept 28 - Oct 23)	Project 2: Media Analysis – Choose media, write a close analysis. Small Group questions and discussions
Week 11-15 (Oct 26 - Dec. 4)	Project 3: Problem/Solution: Research and Presentation - Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Formal Essay, Present Pitch [Essay will be due BEFORE Thanksgiving break. Week 15 will be spent making edits/revisions based on instructor feedback]
Week 16 (Dec 7 - Dec 11)	Final: Critical Reflection on Student Writing (In-Class Writing Response)