English 1302 builds on the writing skills you developed in Composition I. This course will give you intensive practice in sharpening your ability to read critically and to write documented essays about the issues addressed in course readings. The course will develop the fundamental interpretive and communicative skills that you will be using in all your upper-division course work. As was true in Composition I, your writing will develop to the extent that you invest yourself in the work that the course will demand of you.

Course Outcomes:
The following statements describe what we want our students to know, think/value, and do when they finish the First-Year Writing Program and successfully complete 1302 with a "C" or better:

1. The student improves his/her writing by engaging in processes of inventing, drafting, organizing, revising, editing, and presentation.
2. The student writes with a purpose and composes texts in genres appropriate to his/her purpose and audience.
3. The student productively interacts with his/her peers, engaging in small group activities regularly and in which students give one another feedback on their writing.
4. The student thinks critically about his/her position in the context of a larger ongoing conversation about the issue he/she is investigating.
5. The student is aware of the choices that writers have to make and feels confident in his/her ability to use that awareness to engage in a variety of future writing tasks.
6. The student finds, evaluates, and uses appropriate sources for research.
7. The student meaningfully integrates and correctly documents information from sources.
8. The student is aware of the ways technology affects writing.

Required Texts:
(You can survive the course without this text by using online writing sites such as the Purdue OWL. However, you will save much time and energy by owning this book so you can use it as a reference in this class and beyond. I urge you to purchase it if at all possible. It is a worthwhile investment in your education.)

• All the readings for the course will be supplied through blackboard.

Be sure you have access to a good collegiate dictionary such as the American Heritage Dictionary or Webster’s II.

Recommended Text

Required Materials:
1. A packet of 3x5 cards, for vocabulary, or electronic equivalent.
Keep copies of all homework and papers submitted electronically for the portfolio that you will submit at the end of the semester. Also consider buying a 1 inch 3-ring notebook for organizing hard copy of assignments, articles, and other kinds of course work.

Course Requirements & policies:
- You will write one graded paragraph and five papers that vary in genre and length. There will be regular homework assignments. You must turn in all graded paper assignments to pass the class.
- **Papers are due on the day and time posted in the Assignment Schedule.** I will accept one late paper. Beyond that one, papers must be turned in on time. Under no circumstances will I accept a paper that is turned in after the due-date for a subsequent paper. For example, I will not read, or grade, a first paper after the due-date for the 2nd paper.
- In general, I do not accept late homework. The class will be an intensive writing workshop, so you need to have your homework done and be ready to write and to share in class. If you know of an upcoming absence, complete and turn in your work early.
- Be aware that if you have enrolled in this class with a romantic partner, you will not be allowed to sit together—or work together in class. Any sign that the relationship is interrupting the learning environment will result in the couple being required to meet with a representative from the Office of the Dean of Students.
- In you earn lower that a “2” for syntax or mechanics in any of your papers, you will be required to complete your sentence file with a tutor in the writing center. What this entails will be explained when we are peer-editing the first paper.
- **To pass the class, students must:**
  A. Complete all major assignments.
  B. Accumulate no more than four absences. **In other words, you cannot pass the class if you are absent for the equivalent of two weeks of a full-semester class.**

**Participation in Class Discussion:** Much of our classroom time will be devoted to small-group and whole-class discussion. In broad terms, active participation means A. Coming to class on time with your text and with your completed homework. B. Following the prescribed protocol for completing small-group work. C. Listening actively and contributing to whole-class discussion. I assign a “participation grade” at the end of each class. You will earn full credit for participation (4 pts) by complying with “A,” “B,” and “C.” You will earn 0 credit if you are chronically late; don’t have your text; don’t have your reading notes, or are manifestly unengaged in group and whole-class activity. Group/Whole Class Participation counts for 10% of the final grade.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is absolutely essential. Two absences are allowed for the duration of the semester. I will email you after the third absence warning that you are in danger of being dropped. After the forth absence - in accordance with university policy – you will be dropped from the course for excessive absences. If you accumulate more than four absences after you can no longer drop with a “W”, your final grade will not be higher than a “D.” Keep in mind that having a legitimate reason for being absent does not automatically protect you from being dropped after 4 absences.

**Mandatory Course Evaluation:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

Additionally, while this should be understood, please make certain that cell phones are OFF (or on vibrate if you need it on) while in class. Unless needed for a specific class activity, phones, I-PADS, and laptops need to stowed away. If there is some unavoidable and special reason why you must be able to receive a call while in class (including having the ringer on), I \textbf{EXPECT} you to alert me before class begins.
**Grades:** (I reserve the right to make adjustments in the grading scale as the semester unfolds)

Your final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

- Reading Notes & other homework..........................10%
- In-class Participation...........................................10%
- Papers....................................................................80%
  - Graded paragraph................................. 05%
  - Summary-Response Paper...........15%
  - Annotated Bibliography.................15%
  - Inquiry Paper.................................15%
  - Public Document.............................15%
  - Portfolio/Reflective Letter......15%

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

**ATTENDANCE:**
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a
student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

Modification of Syllabus: I reserve the right to modify the syllabus at any time. You are responsible for staying current with the syllabus, even if you did not attend the class during which a modification was announced. Any modification I make will be based on the particular needs of this class.