

English Composition II

Last Updated: Wed, 08/06/2025

Course prefix: ENGL

Course number: 1102

Section: M1

CRN (you may add up to five):
89246

Instructor First Name: Megan

Instructor Last Name: Fontenot

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

Mycological networks offer remarkable examples of communication within and across species. Through complex chemical exchanges, mycelia “talk” to each other and other organisms, creating vast networks of knowledge-sharing that exist in a variety of modes. These networks allow mycelia to ward off disease, negotiate with life-partners, attract pollinators, and much more. Alongside texts like *The Mushroom at the End of the World* (Tsing) and *Entangled Life* (Sheldrake), we will explore what these entanglements can show us about our own communication practices, habits, and assumptions. Projects are likely to include a research paper, a poster, and a physical media representation of fungal communication networks.

Course learning outcomes:

Rhetoric: Students will communicate effectively in writing, demonstrating clear organization and structure, using appropriate grammar and writing conventions.

Citation: Students will appropriately acknowledge the use of materials from original sources.

Audience Awareness: Students will adapt their written communications to purpose and audience.

Critical Thinking: Students will analyze and draw informed inferences from written texts.

Required course materials:

1. *Writer/Designer*, available through The Bedford Bookshelf

2. WOVENText Open Educational Resources, available for free at woventext.lmc.gatech.edu
3. *The Mushroom at the End of the World*, by Anna Tsing. ISBN: 9780691220550
4. *Entangled Life*, illustrated edition, by Merlin Sheldrake. ISBN: 9780593729984

Grading policy:

Assignments in this course are graded using a modified labor-based grading system. Here's what that means:

1. All process work, in-class writing, and minor assignments are graded on a complete/incomplete scale. Final drafts of projects receive a letter grade that represents your grade for the whole unit. Thus, assignments other than final drafts are marked as not counting toward the final grade in Canvas. This is not because they are unimportant, but because they contribute to the unit grade, which then contributes to the final grade.
2. To be "complete," an assignment must: a) be submitted by the deadline or within your official extension period; b) fulfill the requirements of the prompt/instructions; and c) show evidence of engagement with course learning outcomes. If an assignment does not fulfill one or more of those qualifications, it will be marked incomplete.
3. Completing a predetermined amount of work (labor) in each unit guarantees you a B for that unit. Work that is essential to earning a B is marked by an asterisk (*) in assignment titles on Canvas.
4. To earn an A, you must fulfill B-level requirements and then complete more work (labor). In each unit, you will choose from a selection of A-level assignments listed at the end of the project prompt. Completing the number of activities indicated by the prompt qualifies you for an A in that unit, assuming that your B-level requirements are fulfilled.
5. Attendance, participation, and engagement will be evaluated every class period by the instructor. You will complete a short reflection once a unit that includes giving yourself a participation rating. These ratings will be averaged with those of the instructor. AP&E will represent 30% of the final grade.
6. Final grades are calculated based on weighted **unit** grades using GT's GPA scheme. Therefore, an A = 4, B = 3, etc. Totals will extend to two decimal points and then be rounded up (.50 and above) or down (.49 and below). There are no other percentage, numeric, or +/- grades in this course.

Attendance policy:

Attendance and participation are essential to success in courses in the Writing and Communication Program. Because of this, you are expected to attend class. Not attending a scheduled class session in-person results in an absence. Please let me know in advance (if possible) if you have to miss so that I can plan group activities accordingly.

There may be times when you cannot or should not attend class, such as if you are not feeling well, have an interview, or have family responsibilities. Exceptions are allowed for Institute-approved absences (for example, those documented by the Registrar) and situations such as illness, hospitalization, or family emergencies (documentation by the Office of the Dean of Students required).

You have three “free” absences that you can use at any time for any reason. Beginning with the fourth absence, your final grade will be impacted by -3% per absence. Up to two absences can be made up and their points regained by completing make-up work assigned by the instructor.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Writing area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students’ broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question: How do I write effectively in different contexts?