

**ENGL 1313: Composition and Literature I and
ENGL 1323: Composition and Literature II**

Course Descriptions

Course Description for ENGL 1313:

ENGL 1313 is an introduction to the principles of composition and rhetoric accomplished through the study of poetry and prose, and through the practice of persuasive and reflective writing. Students will apply active reading strategies, craft arguments using primary sources, and examine relationships among Christian wisdom, the liberal arts, imaginative literature, and human flourishing.

Course Description for ENGL 1323:

This course continues the study of composition and rhetoric introduced in English 1313: Composition and Literature I. Student will practice literary analysis and argumentation, develop research skills, and practice the effective, ethical incorporation of primary and secondary sources into their own essays. They will also extend their investigation of the relationship between Christian wisdom and the study of language and literature.

Course Outcomes

Course Outcomes for ENGL 1313:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Write coherent, well-organized essays in standard English.
2. Construct logical, persuasive arguments using evidence from primary sources.
3. Reflect on the power of language through the study of poetry and poetic techniques.
4. Engage in active reading strategies.
5. Improve drafts through revision.
6. Analyze texts and identify key ideas and rhetorical elements within them.
7. Evaluate these key ideas intellectually, spiritually, and morally.
8. Examine perspectives on the relationships among Christian wisdom, the liberal arts, imaginative literature, and human flourishing.

Course Outcomes for ENGL 1323:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Write coherent, well-organized essays in English using a standard documentation style.
2. Construct logical, persuasive arguments using evidence from primary and secondary sources.
3. Use critical thinking skills in reading, research, writing, and discussion.
4. Develop rhetorical awareness through the analysis of ideas and literary elements within poetry and prose texts, including short fiction and the novel.
5. Consider others' arguments with intellectual humility, charity, and regard for truth.
6. Examine the value of studying language and literature from a biblically informed perspective.

Relation to Core Curriculum Mission and Outcomes

ENGL 1313: With a biblically infused curriculum including reading assignments on mission-centered topics like loving your neighbor, the inherent dignity of humans made in the image of God, the value of a liberal arts education, virtues, and imaginative literature, ENGL 1313 is closely integrated with the mission and learning outcomes promoted by our core curriculum. There is a strong emphasis on the development and exercise of verbal skills through reading, discussion, and writing assignments. One of the units is devoted to logic, including an introduction to syllogisms, inductive and deductive reasoning, logical fallacies, and cognitive biases.

ENGL 1323: With a biblically infused curriculum including reading assignments on mission-centered topics like truth and justice, friendship, thoughtful engagement with the past, the cultivation of appreciation for beauty in nature and in art, and virtues like magnanimity and humility, ENGL 1323 is closely integrated with the mission and learning outcomes promoted by our core curriculum. There is a strong emphasis on the development and exercise of verbal skills through reading, discussion, ethical research, and writing assignments. One of the units is devoted to rhetoric, including the rhetorical triangle and rhetorical and literary devices.

Course Distinctives:

Several distinctives and values inform our ENGL 1313 and 1323 curriculum design:

- **Jesus Christ, the Word:** We teach English courses from a belief that Jesus Christ is the Word, who participated in the creation of the world and who at the Incarnation was made flesh and lived among us as both God and man (John 1). *Logos* in Greek can mean *speech* or *reason*, and John 1:14 describes the Word, the one and only Son, as “full of grace and truth.” Our study of language and literature is thereby grounded in reverent appreciation of the gifts of reasoning, communication, creativity, and the ability to think, speak, and act in relationship with the triune God and with other humans. We believe awareness of human dignity and interdependence is essential to human flourishing, and through the learning environment we seek to develop virtue and creativity to cultivate habits of service, leadership, and love for others.
- ***Our custom Reader, Persuasion & Poetics:*** The freshman English course sequence at HCU uses a two-volume custom Reader called *Persuasion & Poetics*. This Reader contains topically arranged readings, beginning with a unit on Loving Your Neighbor and concluding with a unit on Humility. Each unit begins with scripture passages that serve as an introduction and a lens from which to view the prose and poetry readings that follow. Readings convey a variety of ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary voices with a view to cultivating Christian wisdom. HCU authors are featured throughout both editions. Volume 1, used in ENGL 1313, has a featured unit on logic, and Volume 2, used in ENGL 1323, has a featured unit on rhetoric. ENGL 1313 focuses on the essentials of literary analysis with a focus on essays, short stories, and lyric poetry, and ENGL 1323 incorporates research skills and introduces the novel.
- ***Moral Formation through Discussion and Writing:*** Learning to write well is supported by practice in reading and discussion. Students are taught to speak (and write) the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Courage, charity, and intellectual humility are emphasized as essential virtues supporting excellent reading, discussing, researching, and writing.
- ***Coherent Experience and Support:*** ENGL 1313 and ENGL 1323 use a seamless sequence of rhetoric handbooks in print format, which can be consulted for writing assignments across their undergraduate courses. ENGL 1313 students use *The Little Seagull Handbook*, which provides the essentials of grammar, writing, and formatting that are given in-depth treatment in ENGL 1303: Basic Grammar and

Composition (which uses *The Norton Field Guide to Writing, with Readings and Handbook*). The print edition includes access to InQuizitive, Norton's digital learning platform, which helps students identify and bridge learning gaps, especially if students place out of the developmental ENGL 1303 course. ENGL 1323 students learn to incorporate research and secondary sources into their writing, and they are supported in this with the print edition of *They Say, I Say*, which also comes with access to InQuizitive and a digitally integrated copy of *The Little Seagull Handbook*.

- **Transferable Research Skills:** Instruction in research writing in ENGL 1323 makes it an ideal course to support student involvement in HCU's annual Piece of the Past essay contest, which invites students to explore, research, and write about an artifact or work of art from one of our history and art museums. Handbooks guide students through a variety of style guides used across multiple disciplines, and research skills covered in ENGL classes are applicable to a wide range of academic and professional tasks.
- **Beauty:** Verbal skills, aesthetic literacy, and attention to ordered arguments are strengthened through instruction in poetic features and through reflective, formational, meditative reading practices. Students read poetry aloud and demonstrate active reading through annotation. Professors lead students through larger writing assignments with scaffolded support, emphasizing the importance of sustained and thoughtful reading, writing, and revising. Students are guided to evaluate and craft compelling arguments and to find and form connections between persuasion and poetics, between logic and rhetoric, between truth and beauty.

Signature Assignments:

ENGL 1313: Biblical Annotation Exercise (supports Biblical Literacy, Christian Wisdom); & Literary Analysis Essay (supports Interdependence)

ENGL 1323: Poetry Annotation / Commentary using Rhetorical Devices (supports Aesthetic Literacy); & Research Essay (may be a "Piece of the Past" essay contest submission; supports Interdependence)