

Syllabus: Composition I

Course Description

VSA and WORLD News Group have partnered to bring you the very best Composition curriculum available. Students taking this course will learn to write well-crafted paragraphs, essays, and various forms of fiction and non-fiction. This course is designed to teach students how to write clearly and cogently. Students will learn to write for discovery, analysis, and communication. Review of basic grammar, study of voice, structure, and connection. Our students have a story to tell, and this course will give them the necessary tools to construct that narrative well. Homework will average 3 - 4 hours per week.

Attendance and Participation

Both attendance and participation are vital parts of this course; therefore, students are required to attend class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Students are expected to view archives of any missed classes, and are responsible for obtaining any notes or assignments.

Students will be given quarterly grades for both participation and attendance:

- Fifteen percent of the final grade will be attributed to *relevant class participation*. This includes raising one's hand, commenting regularly via microphone/webcam, regularly uploading homework for in-class discussion, and using the chat box regularly to contribute to the academic conversation.
- Five percent of the final grade will be attributed to *class attendance*. Being present, being on time, and readiness for class are all factors to be considered in the class attendance grade. *Excused* absences will not detrimentally impact attendance grades.

Grading rubrics are located in the Course Documents folder in each course page.

Assignments & Exams

There are weekly reading and assignments in the text and handouts for this course. Assignments include both discussion of concepts and original writing.

Students are responsible to keep up with the homework preceding every class period. Upload of homework before class will be required for some assignments to be discussed in class as a "student sample" or in small groups. Students will also upload selected homework on approximately a monthly basis for a grade.

There are five graded writing assignments. These assignments will be graded using a rubric for structure, content, and mechanics.

There will be midterm and final exam. Each semester exam covers material from that semester in short-answer format which should be completed in one sitting, within a two-hour time limit. Students are not permitted to use any outside resources other than a dictionary or spell-check. Both exams should be taken in one sitting and proctored by an adult. Both exams are due at 11:55 PM ET on the date shown.

Evaluation

The final grade is determined on the following basis:

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| ● Class Attendance | 5% |
| ● Relevant Class Participation | 15% |
| ● Homework | 30% |
| ● Writing Assignments | 30% |
| ● Midterm/Final Assessment | 20% |

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will apply for all assignments and final grades. 100% – 90% = A; 89% - 80% = B; 79% - 70% = C; 69% - 60% = D; 59% - 50% = E; 49% - 40% = F. All grades are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Late Work

If a student fails to submit any assessment by the due date, it is considered “late.”

- Assignments submitted 0-24 hours late will result in a 10 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 24-48 hours late will result in a 20 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments submitted 48-72 hours late will result in a 30 point reduction off earned grade.
- Assignments over 72 hours late will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero.
- Parent may request an extension from their child’s teacher *prior to the due date* or in the case of an emergency.

While we love grace and the opportunity to exercise it, we also desire to instill a sound sense of responsibility in our students, hence these expectations pertaining to late work.

Exam/Test Retakes

Any student may retake a failed assessment (except quizzes), but can score no higher than 70% on the retake. Retakes must be submitted within one week of the returned, failed test. If the retake is not submitted within one week, the original failing grade will stand.

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating on any assignment is considered academic dishonesty. This includes plagiarism in any form. Cheating will be dealt with in the following manner:

- If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a zero on the assignment and will be placed on academic probation for the remainder of the school year.
- If the same student is caught cheating again, he will likely be expelled.
- No refunds will be granted for students who are expelled due to cheating.
- A Disciplinary Action Form will be submitted by the student's teacher for any instance of academic dishonesty.

Textbooks

The book needed for the class can be purchased through Veritas Press. It is extremely important that the student has the correct version/edition of these materials.

Composition I Course Kit (229008)

- Veritas Press Composition I (000880)
- World Magazine for Students (798004)

Course Calendar

See Course Assignment Sheet, located on course page, for class dates, breaks and all assignments and assessments. Class dates and breaks can also be found on the current academic year calendar.