

Composition 11 – Outline and Learning Outcomes

Outline

Composition 11 is a course designed to provide students with opportunities to explore various forms of writing and to develop their own writing skills and abilities. In particular, the course focuses on practical types of writing, primarily paragraph and essay composition. Finally, it is expected that through Composition 11, students will develop an understanding of and an ability to successfully engage in the writing *process*.

Throughout the course, students will be introduced to the writings of various authors in the textbook *Models for Writers*. These writings will be studied for effective uses of the important elements of essays. Included in these elements are the thesis statement, paragraphs, introduction, conclusion, organization, unity, diction, and others. Students will learn to master these elements in their own essay writing. Students will also gain an appreciation of the language of essay-writing, as well as the many types of essays, including narrative, descriptive, comparative, argumentative and research essays.

Students will be given ample opportunity to develop and practice their writing skills, and will follow the *writing process* of **pre-writing, drafting, editing and publishing**. They will be taught and encouraged constantly to engage seriously in peer-editing of their work. The technical aspects of students' writing will be analyzed in the editing stage and students will be able to improve upon these areas through exercises in sentence improvement, grammar and usage.

In order to be successful in Composition 11, the following learning outcomes must be met:

- A. Students should derive satisfaction from the process of writing and from their written products.
 - i. students will use speaking and writing, individually and in groups, to share experiences, to encourage creative exploration and to pursue topics of interest and relevance.
 - ii. Students will learn to identify strengths and weaknesses in compositions, recognize self-development and achieve success.
- B. Students will develop a writing process based on : I) pre-writing ii) drafting iii) revising and editing iv) publishing.
- C. Students will develop the ability to use a variety of writing and speaking formats, adapting these to suit different audiences and purposes.
- D. Students will develop the knowledge and understanding to compose effective works of writing
 - i. students will learn to analyze writing and recognize relevant information, fact and opinion, objectivity and bias, inferences, generality and abstraction.
 - ii. students will understand, recognize and apply appropriate uses of tone for various audiences and situations.
 - iii. students will develop vocabulary and incorporate appropriate vocabulary into their writing
 - iv. students will apply appropriate grammar, usage and punctuation
 - v. students will achieve sentence fluency and variety
 - vi. students will understand and effectively apply elements of writing, such as thesis, organization, unity, paragraphs, introduction, conclusion, diction, etc.
 - vii. students will organize writing in various formats: narrative, descriptive, argumentative, persuasive, etc.
- E. Students will engage actively and constructively in individual and group assignments.

Assignments and Compositions

As this is a writing course, you should expect to do a lot of writing! You will be expected to perform a variety of written tasks for the purpose of developing and enhancing your writing abilities. This will involve paragraph writing, essay writing, sentence writing, as well as editing and revising. You will receive feedback from both your teacher and your peers. While most writing assignments will be individual, there will be numerous opportunities for group work and activities.

Most writing will be done *in-class*. You are expected to keep all your writing and essays so that you may monitor your progress throughout the year.

- You will also be expected to keep a **writing journal**, which you will bring with you to class at all times. You will be given 10 minutes approximately once per week at the beginning of class to write freely on a topic selected by the teacher. The journal entries will be checked for completion, but will not be read by the teacher or anyone else, unless you so choose.
- There will be three major writing assignments per term. Please note that much emphasis will be placed on the *process* of writing your essay, not only the final product.
- Vocabulary-building will be an important part of the course. You will be responsible for keeping track of the word of the day and we will have a quiz every month (the first class of each month for the words of the previous month).

Assessment and Evaluation

Essays/Compositions	45%
Quizzes	15%
Assignments	25%
Journals	10%
Participation	5%
(includes attendance, group work, class participation, oral presentations)	
Total	100%