

ENGLISH COMPOSITION 1 Pre-College Prep Mondays 11:00-11:50 am

TEACHER	Dominick Thomas Dicus-Collins, M.F.A.
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OFFICE HOURS	Wednesdays, 11:00 – 12:00 pm
Grade Level	11-12
Cost	\$250/semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will read and discuss how to write college level English composition essays. Students will read, discuss, analyze, and write about essays to apply what they have learned.

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

In this course the student will 1) learn how to analyze essays, 2) how to prep an essay, 3) how to write a thesis, 4) how to make an outline, 5) how to organize an essay, 6) how to discuss different views, 7) how to present their opinion, and 8) how to research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Readings

- Bullock, Richard. *The Little Seagull Handbook*, 3rd ed. Norton, 2017.
- Graff, Gerald, Cathy Birkenstein, and Russel Durst. *They Say / I Say with Readings*, 4th ed. Norton, 2018.
- Strunk, William Jr. & E. B. White. *The Elements of Style*, 4th ed. Pearson, 1999.
- A good college dictionary is strongly recommended (*The American Heritage* or *Webster's New World*).
- Reading materials will also be uploaded via google classroom, as well as all documents to be assigned and worked on.

GRADING SCALE

A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	Below 60%
A	94-96%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%		
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%		

GRADING STANDARD

Superior	A	A perceptive and thoughtful paper which may have occasional faults, but is generally well-written, well-organized, detailed, focused, syntactically mature, and responds to all parts of the assignment. Usually has a sense of voice and style as well as depth of thought; may take a more original approach than other papers. Includes all appropriate citations and is in the required format.
Competent	B	A well-handled, responsive paper displaying skill in development, sentence construction and variety, organization, and word choice; may have occasional faults; answers all parts of the assignment. Includes all appropriate citations and is in the proper format.
Average	C	Adequate paper for college level; reasonably developed, detailed, and focused although it may have weaknesses in fundamentals easily corrected with casual editing; may be simplistic in approach (too general or obvious); may ignore or fail to complete all parts of the assignment. Mostly follows proper format but may have some problems with consistency of documentation.
Inadequate	D	Paper fails to develop topic adequately or exhibits serious weaknesses in focus, structure, syntax, diction, or mechanics.
Incompetent	F	Paper is well below college-level standards, lacks focus, direction, coherence, or completion. Paper shows little understanding of the assignment; the quality of writing is unacceptable at the college level.
	0	This score is used only for papers which reflect a misreading of the topic, completely avoid the topic, are not turned in, or are plagiarized.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS SUMMARY

Quizzes 20%

Final Presentation 20%

Short Writing Assignments 20%

Long Writing Assignments 40%

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

1. Quizzes
 - a. Students will receive random quizzes throughout the semester.
2. Final Presentation
 - a. Near the end of each semester, students will participate in a public reading of their work and submit a portfolio of their work.
3. Short Writing Assignments
 - a. Students will receive random writing prompts to promote analysis and discussion.
4. Long Writing Assignments
 - a. Students will receive writing prompts for larger writing assignments to promote in depth contemplation.

PAPER FORMAT

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments you turn in for this class will be typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins in 12 pt. Times New Roman, printed single sided. Whether turned in electronically or as a hard copy, assignments should, at the top of the first page, list your first name, last name, course number, instructor's name, and the assignment name; single-space this information. MLA citation style is the required citation style. Also give your paper an interesting, relevant title (not "English Paper," etc.) All electronic copies of papers must be uploaded as a Microsoft Word document with a .docx extension.

COLLABORATIVE WORK

Academia thrives on the twin pillars of collaboration with colleagues and independent production of ideas. This class will take advantage of both of these through class discussion and group work, you will test and refine your ideas while benefiting from those of your classmates. Unless otherwise noted, however, all work that you turn in should reflect your own ideas, demonstrating your own critical-thinking skills. In other words, you may not work collaboratively on any assignment that will be turned in to your instructor unless you have been given permission to do so, nor may you turn in an assignment that has been submitted for evaluation or assessment for another class.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the use, citation, or paraphrase of someone else's words or ideas without attribution. Plagiarism may result in failure of the class, a disciplinary hearing, expulsion, or some combination of these. If you are uncertain what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, talk to me as ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is no excuse. It is your responsibility to ensure that you do not commit plagiarism, which includes learning how to cite others' words and ideas appropriately and doing so by using citation styles correctly (APA, MLA, CBE, Chicago, etc.). Stealing other people's ideas is wrong, and the consequences are severe.

CALENDAR KEY

TSIS (*They Say/I Say*)

ES (*The Elements of Style*)

LS (*The Little Seagull Handbook*)

SA (Short Assignments)

LA (Long Assignments)

Green (Due)

POTENTIAL CALENDAR: Fall Semester (14 Weeks)

Date	Topic	Work
Week 1		
09/06/21	Introduction	Syllabus
Week 2		
09/13/21	Entering Academic Conversations	TSIS Ch 12, Preface, Intro, Ch 1 LS W-1, 2
Week 3		
09/20/21	Learning to Summarize	TSIS Ch 2, "The Other Side is Not..." LS W-3, 4
Week 4		
09/27/21	The Art of Quoting	TSIS Ch 3, "Should Everyone Go..." LS W-5, 6
Week 5		
10/04/21	How to Respond	TSIS Ch 4, "The New Liberal Arts" LS W-7, 8 SA
Week 6		
10/11/21	Clarification	TSIS Ch 5, "Are Too Many People..." LS W-9, 10
Week 7		
10/18/21	Counterarguments	TSIS Ch 6, "Two Years Are Better..." LS W-11, 12
Week 8		
10/25/21	So What?	TSIS Ch 7, "Hidden Intellectualism" LS W-13, 14
Week 9		
11/01/21	Flow	TSIS Ch 8, "Blue-Collar Brilliance" LS W-15, 16 SA
Week 10		
11/09/21	Voice	TSIS Ch 9, "Shut Up about Harvard" LS R-1, 2
Week 11		
11/15/21	Metacommentary	TSIS Ch 10, "On the Front Lines..." LS R-3 ES Section 1
Thanksgiving Break		
11/22/21	<i>No Class</i>	
Week 12		
11/29/21	Templates	TSIS Ch 11, "Howard University..." ES Section 2-3
Week 13		
12/06/21	Motivation	TSIS Ch 14 ES Section 4-5 LA
Week 14		
12/13/21	Final Presentations	

POTENTIAL CALENDAR: Spring Semester (14 Weeks)

Date	Topic	Work
Week 1		
01/10/22	Introduction	Syllabus
Week 2		
01/17/22	Entering Academic Conversations	TSIS Ch 12, Preface, Intro, Ch 1 LS W-1, 2
Week 3		
01/24/22	Learning to Summarize	TSIS Ch 2, "The Other Side is Not..." LS W-3, 4
Week		
01/31/22	The Art of Quoting	TSIS Ch 3, "Should Everyone Go..." LS W-5, 6
Week 5		
02/07/22	How to Respond	TSIS Ch 4, "The New Liberal Arts" LS W-7, 8 SA
Week 6		
02/14/22	Clarification	TSIS Ch 5, "Are Too Many People..." LS W-9, 10
Week 7		
02/21/22	Counterarguments	TSIS Ch 6, "Two Years Are Better..." LS W-11, 12
Week 8		
02/28/22	So What?	TSIS Ch 7, "Hidden Intellectualism" LS W-13, 14
Week 9		
03/07/22	Flow	TSIS Ch 8, "Blue-Collar Brilliance" LS W-15, 16 SA
Week 10		
03/14/22	Voice	TSIS Ch 9, "Shut Up about Harvard" LS R-1, 2
Week 11		
03/21/22	Metacommentary	TSIS Ch 10, "On the Front Lines..." LS R-3 ES Section 1
Week 12		
03/28/22	Templates	TSIS Ch 11, "Howard University..." ES Section 2-3
Week 13		
04/04/22	Motivation	TSIS Ch 14 ES Section 4-5, LA
Easter Break		
04/11-04/18	<i>No Class</i>	
Week 14		
04/25/22	Final Presentations	