

Composition

ENG353

1 credit

Class Guidelines and Procedures

Mrs. Firzlaff

Course Description: This course builds on the development of writing skills from English 1-2 and English 3-4. Major emphasis is placed on the writing process which stresses the steps of pre-writing, composing, revising, and proofreading. The course will cover a variety of structured writing experiences including persuasive, research, exposition, and literary analysis.

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” –Aristotle

We are committed to providing your student with a well-rounded/diverse educational experience, involving a wide variety of topics and relevant social issues encountered in our pluralistic society. In our classrooms, all opinions are valued and critical thinking is expected. The focus of instruction is centered on both the Dubuque Community School District and Iowa State Standards.

Parents and/or guardians are welcome/encouraged to read, view, and discuss material with their student.

Alignment to the Iowa Core Curriculum: Instruction, learning, and assessing are built on a selection of the 11-12th grade band expectations from the Iowa Core Writing, Listening and Speaking, and Language Strands.

Iowa Core Standards:

Standard 3: Writing (12.1-12.8, 12.10)

Students will routinely write to learn and to communicate for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Standard 4: Speaking and Listening (12.2-12.4, 12.6, 12IA.5, 12IA.7)

Students will participate effectively in a range of rich, structured conversations, collaborations, and presentations.

Standard 5: Language (12.1-12.3, 12.6)

Students will apply knowledge of the English language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Assessments:

Formative/Summative Assessments will be used, and may include but are not limited to:

- Formal & Informal Writing
- Reflective Responses
- Short Essay & Extended Writing Activities
- Projects & Presentations

Grading Scale:

A 93-100%	B 83-86%	C 73-77%	D 63-66%
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%
B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F 59%

Content:

Essays, narrative, research papers, expository, compare/contrast, descriptive and multi-genre.

Instructional Strategies:

- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Direct Instruction
- Standards-Based Targets
- Guided & Independent Practice
- Peer Sharing & Editing
- Grammar Activities

Materials:

Students are responsible for all materials used in class including paper, writing utensils, binder, flash drive, agenda and class work.

Late Work:

Formative Assessments are not accepted after the Summative Assessment has been finalized.

Make-up Work:

Make-up work is the responsibility of the student. Discuss the specifics of any missing work with classmates and me. You may not complete make-up work beyond Summative Assessments.

Tests & Quizzes:

If tests or quizzes are utilized, they will be taken on the day they are scheduled. If a student is absent the day of the test the student will complete the test the day they return. If a test is scheduled for Tuesday and the student is absent Monday, the test will still be taken Tuesday.

Expectations & Behavior: Specifics will be discussed the first day of class

- High Expectations=Low Tolerance
- Mature & appropriate discussions
- Attendance is crucial
- The tardy policy is strictly enforced
- Food & beverage are NOT allowed in class
- Cell phones & other electronic devices are NOT allowed in class without my permission
- Per District expectation, students are required to wear their student id at school at all times

Academic Dishonesty

Cheating is forbidden. This includes plagiarism, blatant copying, 'borrowing' work, and submitting identical work for two or more different courses. Students involved will be given a zero for the assignment with no option of revision, a parent/guardian contact will be made, and other disciplinary action may be taken. In addition, loss of credit and a failing grade may result as well. Use of a cell phone or other electronic devices, including earbuds, will be considered as cheating during tests, quizzes, and other formal assessments.

Communication Plan:

- tfirzlauff@dbqschools.org
- Senior High School ext. 5549
- Before or after school
- Power School for comments on specific grade entries

