

English Composition I

Instructor: Ching Kang Liu

Office: 6F33 Humanity Hall (02-8674-6633)

Class time: Wednesday: 10:10-12:00

Office Hours: Tuesday: 15:20-17:00; Wednesday: 13:00-15:00

Course description:

The main goal of the course is to help students write unified, coherent paragraphs/essays containing sophisticated transitions in both words and ideas. Students are expected to be able to use various types of writing, such as narrative, descriptive, expository essays, in elaborating their ideas. Students are also expected to be able to use effective definition, description, illustration, classification, comparison, and causal relationship in their writing. More advanced rhetorical skills such as parallelism, repetition of key words, etc. will also be focused.

Textbook:

Anderson, M. (2002). *Keys to Successful Writing*. Longman.

<http://web.ntpu.edu.tw/~language/course/composition/composition1.htm>

Instruction:

The instruction of this course will focus mainly on class activities including

1. discussion of assigned readings,
2. practice on various writing processes and strategies, such as brainstorming, outlining and paraphrasing
3. peer review of essays written by classmates, and
4. in-class writing—This is usually done immediately after the discussion of the readings and is done within a time limit.

Students' regular attendance and full participation are required and **NO EXCUSES OF ANY KIND FOR ABSENCE WILL BE ACCEPTED**. Absence from class is pardoned only for irresistible causes (e.g., hospitalization) on condition that all assignments are done.

Assignment:

Reading assignment: Students should finish the assigned readings before class and share their views on the readings with the rest of the class in class discussion time. **Pop quizzes will be given in the beginning of every class.**

Writing assignment: Students must show that their essays are **carefully drafted, revised and edited with "obvious" efforts**. The first draft will be reviewed by peers in class. The second and final versions of the essay will be evaluated by the instructor, and handed back to the students with comments. All essays must be typed with an outline.

All assignments should be mailed to the address below:

language@mail.ntpu.edu.tw (**subject:** school no name, e.g., 98032211 Joe Wang).

Grading:

Essays	60%	} 100%
Reading assignment and discussion	20%	
Peer Responses and participation	20%	

A tentative class schedule (subject to changes with notice)

- 9/16 Introduction to the course: reading, thinking, and writing for college
(homework: **reading Ch. 1-2**; an autobiography of yours, **due on Sep. 20**)
- 9/23 Section 1: Defining the Essay and the Composing Process
(homework: **reading Ch. 3**)
- 9/30 Section 1 continued: Discovering through Prewriting
(homework: **reading Ch. 4**; completing the 1st draft of essay #1, **due on Oct. 4**)
- 10/7 Section 2: Writing Thesis Statement based on the first draft of *Essay #1*
(homework: **reading Ch. 5**; completing the 2nd draft of essay #1, **due on Oct. 11**)
- 10/14 Section 2 continued: Embedding the thesis statement in an outline on the basis of the second draft of *Essay #1*
(homework: **reading Ch. 6**; completing the 3rd draft of essay #1, **due on Oct. 18**)
- 10/21 Section 2 continued: revise the outlines and essay # 1
(homework: **reading Ch. 6**; completing essay # 1, **due on Oct. 25**)
- 10/28 **Leave of absence (at Wuhan U.)**
- 11/4 Section 3: Effective introduction and conclusion
(homework: **reading Ch. 9**; completing the 1st draft of essay #2, **due on Nov. 8**)
- 11/11 Section 4: Developing body paragraphs with narration and illustration based on the 1st draft of **essay #2**
(homework: completing the 1st draft of essay #2, **due on Nov. 15**)
- 11/18 Section 4 continued: Developing body paragraphs based on the 2nd draft of **essay #2**
(homework: **reading Ch. 9**; completing the 2nd draft of essay #2, **due on Nov. 22**)
- 11/25 Section 4: Writing about events: (with descriptions and illustrations)
(homework: **reading Ch. 10**; completing the final draft of essay #2, **due on Nov. 29**)
- 12/2 Section 5 Defining and describing: Discussion on definition and description
(homework: **reading Ch. 10**; completing the 1st draft of essay #3, **due on Dec. 6**)
- 12/9 Section 5 continued: Discussion on description and definition on the basis of the first draft of **essay #3**
(homework: completing the 2nd draft of essay #3, **due on Dec. 13**)
- 12/16 Section 5: Observing the world and describe it with effective definition and description
(homework: **reading Ch. 8**; completing the final draft of essay #3, **due on Dec. 20**)
- 12/23 Section 6 Write with cited sources: Write with convincing sources in the 1st draft of **essay #4**
(homework: completing the 2nd draft of essay #4, **due on Dec. 27**)
- 12/30 Section 6 continued: Application of all writing techniques learned so far (on the basis of the 2nd draft of **essay #4**)
- 1/6 Concluding and wrapping the covered ideas: An in-class writing demonstration with a topic given (with a time limit of 100 minutes)