

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, including 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:

Wyrick, J. (2010). *Steps to writing well* (11th Ed.). Boston, MA: Thomson Wadsworth.
Materials at <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 (on the syllabus) 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 class if time permits.**

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 uploaded to the E-learning Center with your name and school number at the upper right corner of the first page.

Grading:

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

A tentative class schedule (subject to changes with notice)

- 9/15 Introduction to the course and a pretest
(homework: **reading Ch. 1, pp. 3-30**; an autobiography of yours, *due on Sep. 19*)
- 9/22 Moon Festival (**Holiday**)
- 9/29 Prewriting
(homework: **reading Ch. 2, pp. 31-46**)
- 10/6 The thesis statement
(homework: The 1st draft of essay #1, *due on Oct. 10*, focusing on the thesis statement)
- 10/13 Discussion on the thesis statement based on the first draft of *Essay #1*
(homework: **reading Ch. 3, pp. 47-80**; the 2nd draft of *essay #1*, *due on Oct. 17*, with the thesis statement revised)
- 10/20 The body paragraphs
(homework: Expand the 2rd draft of *essay #1*, *due on Oct. 24*, with a good structure of body paragraphs)
- 10/27 Discussion on body paragraphs based on the 3rd draft of *essay #1*
(homework: **reading Ch. 4, pp. 81-94**; completing *essay #1*, *due on Oct. 31*)
- 11/3 Beginning and endings
(homework: **Reading Ch. 5-8, pp. 95-192**; The 1st draft of *essay #2*, *due on Nov. 7*)
- 11/10 **TBA**
- 11/17 Discussion on beginning and conclusion and exploring how to revise an essay with effective sentences and diction based on the 1st draft of *essay #2*
(homework: completing the 2nd draft of *essay #2*, *due on Nov. 21*)
- 11/24 Discussion on how to revise an essay with effective sentences and diction based on the 2nd draft of *essay #2*
(homework: **reading Ch. 11, pp. 323-341**; completing the 3rd draft of *essay #2*, *due on Nov. 28*)
- 12/1 Description: Writing about events: (with descriptions and illustrations)
(homework: The 1st draft of *essay #3*, *due on Dec. 5*)
- 12/8 Discussion on description based on the 1st draft of *essay #3*
(homework: **reading Ch. 12, pp. 343-355** completing the 2nd draft of *essay #3*, *due on Dec. 12*)
- 12/15 Narration
(homework: The 1st draft of *essay #4*, *due on Dec. 19*)
- 12/22 Discussion on narrative essays on the basis of the 1st draft of *essay #4*
(homework: **reading Ch. 13, pp. 357-368**; completing the 2nd draft of *essay #4*, *due on Dec. 26*)
- 12/29 Application of all writing techniques learned so far (on the basis of the 2nd draft of *essay #4*)
- 1/5 Concluding and wrapping the covered ideas; activities: to be arranged
- 1/12 **Final exam**