

English Grammar and Composition Syllabus

Course Title: Grammar and Composition

Course Information: Day, time, Online Classroom TBD

Moderator: Kara Heyne

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Course Description:

English Grammar and Composition is a comprehensive, one-year (two semester) English course for 8th through 12th graders. All 8th grade and high school-level students, from proficient writers to those who have never taken an English course before, can use practice in grammar, punctuation, sentence writing, and paragraph building.

The course will start with the book The McGraw-Hill *Handbook of English Grammar and Usage*, working through a chapter a week. The book begins with a comprehensive lesson on parts of speech and how different word types (nouns, adjectives, verbs, etc.) work together to form a complete, correct sentence. After the sentence basics, we will be moving on to punctuation and word usage so that students are writing clear, correct, complete, informative sentences. These lessons will be supplemented with “vocabulary building” exercises and a thorough work-through approach to each concept as we progress, with test and quizzes at regular intervals to keep students on-task. Once the book is finished, students will be introduced to the skillset for turning their perfect new sentences into well-formed paragraphs and eventually into great essays, with an emphasis on the importance of the outline-topic sentence-thesis combination approach.

Grades will be based on participation (chiefly through in class games and activities), short answer homework assignments, and 4 exams plus a 5 paragraph essay.

Required Readings and Resources:

Main Course Text: The McGraw-Hill *Handbook of English Grammar and Usage* by Mark Lester and Larry Beason

Evaluation: Participation: 25%, Homework: 25%, Tests/Essay: 50% (10% per each test and essay)

Grading Scale: 94-100 A, 90-93 A-, 87-89 B+, 84-86 B, 80-83 B-, 77-79 C+, 74-76 C, 70-73 C-, 60-69 D, 59 and below F. Incomplete = I.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism by definition is taking someone else's words or thoughts and claiming, or implying (by failure to credit the author), that they are yours. The good news is, we will be talking A LOT about that in this course and our other writing courses. The bad news is, this means that you should not use the "copy/paste" functions on your computer without understanding how to properly cite your sources. Plagiarism and all other forms of academic dishonesty will result in removal from the course. If you are in doubt about whether something is wrong, just ask!

Course Schedule: 30 live, online classes, beginning the first week of September and ending in mid-May.

Weeks 1-6 Grammar 101

Week 1: Introduction to English Grammar and Composition; Parts of Speech

Week 2: Basic Phrases

Week 3: Sentences and Clauses

Week 4: Verb Forms

Week 5: Verbals

Week 6: In Class Exam

Weeks 7-20 How to Find and Correct Mistakes

Week 7: Writing Complete Sentences

Week 8: Subject-Verb Agreement

Week 9: Pronoun Problems

Week 10: Verb Problems

Week 11: Modification

Week 12: Commas

Week 13: In Class Exam

Week 14: Apostrophes

Week 15: Semicolons and Colons

Week 16: Quotation Marks

Week 17: Capitalization

Week 18: Parallelism

Week 19: Grammar Etiquette for Digital Communication

Week 20: In Class Exam

Weeks 21-30 Building a Paragraph, Crafting an Essay

Week 21: Building a Paragraph: Topic Sentence

Week 22: Building a Paragraph: Support I

Week 23: Building a Paragraph: Support II

Week 24: Crafting an Essay: Thesis Statement

Week 25: Crafting and Essay: Outline

Week 26: Crafting an Essay: Introduction

Week 27: Crafting and Essay: Conclusion

Week 28: Putting the Pieces Together: Bones of the Essay and Essay Unity

Week 29: Revision, Editing, Proofreading

Week 30: Last In-Class Essay