

CCU ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
MISS NORIAN BROWN
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

CCU English Language and Composition is a dual college credit course in which students learn to write various types of essays including evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.

At the heart of an CCU English Language and Composition course is the reading of various texts. Reading facilitates informed citizenship and thus increases students' capacity to enter into consequential conversations with others about meaningful issues. Also contributing to students' informed citizenship is their ability to gather source materials representing particular conversations and then make their own reasonable and informed contributions to those conversations. Students' ability to engage with outside sources in their reading, writing, and research is an important measure of their intellectual growth.

While writing represents a significant component of this course, the core skill required is the ability to read well. In reading another writer's work, students must be able to address four fundamental questions about composition: What is being said? To whom is it being said? How is it being said? Why is it being said? The answers to these questions inform students' own composition processes as they learn to read like writers and write like readers.¹

Grammar will be addressed throughout the course in the form of lectures and is a significant criterion in essays and major projects.

Vocabulary will be studied formally using a textbook as well as informally in conjunction with the reading.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- three-ring binder (at least 2 inches)
- lined paper (college-ruled, 8 ½" x 11")
- access to computer word processing, internet, and printer
- pencils/pens/highlighters
- erasers
- credible dictionary or access to OED online or Merriam-Webster app
- current public library card

TESTS AND QUIZZES

There will be one midterm halfway through each semester and a final exam given at the end of each semester, which will be cumulative of the semester. Final exams are worth 15-20% of the student's final grade.

Quizzes may or may not be preannounced and can take up to 20 minutes to complete. They will be small

in the scope of material that they cover. Vocabulary quizzes will be every Friday.

PROJECTS

Writing assignments will be given regularly and must be typed unless otherwise noted. MLA format will be used for all typed assignments.

Books assigned by the teacher will be read together and independently. Writing assignments and AP-style essays will accompany each of these reading projects.

Two long-term projects will be given this year:

- First semester- a college/career planning project
- Second semester- a research paper

In addition to a hard copy, major writing assignments will be submitted electronically to Turnitin.com.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS

Material/lecture covered in class is sometimes difficult to make up; thus, attendance is mandatory. If the student is aware of a forthcoming absence, notice to the teacher will be given and assignments will be turned in ahead of time for full credit. If the student is absent, he should turn in assignments the day he returns to school or within as many days as he was absent (if more than one). (This does not include previously assigned essays and projects. Essays and projects are due on the assigned dates. Ten points will be deducted for late essays and projects for each day late.)

HOMEWORK

Assignments will be available everyday and will be due the following school day unless otherwise noted.

Assignments will be due at the beginning of the class period. Late assignments (including projects) will NOT be accepted.

Assignments may be emailed as attached files *as a last resort*, but must be received by the beginning of the regular class period.

COMMUNICATION

Grades are updated at least once per week, and students are expected to check grades regularly.

Email is the preferred form of communication. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours. Students should also check their personal email inbox regularly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Student may study together and discuss topics or concepts covered, but any work turned in must be the student's own original work.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Demerits will also be

given, which may result in disciplinary probation or expulsion. Please see the attached pledge page for the definition of plagiarism.

Any collaborative behavior during a test or quiz will result in failure of the test or quiz and demerits.

TEXTS

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*

Miller, Arthur. *The Crucible*

Payne, Lucile. *The Lively Art of Writing: Words, Sentences, Style, and Technique-An Essential Guide to One of Today's Most Necessary Skills*. River Grove, IL: Follett Publishing Company, 1965.

Schmidt, Cary. *Discover Your Destiny*

Shea, Renee H., Lawrence Scanlon, and Robin Dissin Aufses. *The Language of Composition*. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2013.

Swovelin, Barbara V. *CliffNotes AP English Language and Composition*. 4th ed. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2012.

Wiesel, Elie. *Night*. New York: Hill and Wand, 2006.

¹ For more detailed information about this course, go to <https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/digitalServices/pdf/ap/ap-english-language-and-composition-course-description.pdf>