

U350-102: Freshman Composition

Course Format: Online

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Course credits: 3

Prerequisites: None; Appropriate for advanced high school and all college students

Course Description:

Designed to provide a “persuasive edge” for academic and most other kinds of writing, this course focuses on the techniques of persuasion as well as on detecting common writing and documentation problems and learning ways to correct them. For most units, students write a short paper based in the reading assignments. Students also write a slightly longer, resource-based paper. All necessary resource materials for the assignments are available in *The Language of Argument* and (if the student selects the novel option for the final paper) in the critical edition of the optional novel.

Required Course Materials:

- Twain, M., Graff, G., & Phelan, J. (2004). *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: A Case Study in Critical Controversy* (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN-13: 978-0312400293
- Glenn, C., & Gray, L. S. (2013). *The Hodges' Harbrace Handbook* (18th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth. ISBN-13: 978-1111346706
- Burton, L. W., & McDonald, D. (2008). *The Language of Argument* (12th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. ISBN-13:978-0618917556
- Golding, W., Baker, J. R., & Ziegler, A. P. (1983). *William Golding's Lord of the Flies: Text, Notes & Criticism*. New York, NY: Perigee Books. ISBN-13: 978-0399506437

Optional/Recommended Course Materials

- The Hodges' Harbrace Handbook website: https://www.cengage.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&flag=student&product_isbn_issn=9781413010312&discipline_number=300 (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- Unabridged, hardcopy dictionary. A recent edition within the last 10–15 years
- Any thesaurus

Course Learning Objectives:

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Develop a clearly stated, strong thesis statement.
- Create a well-organized, logically organized outline.
- Write an essay that includes a title, introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Utilize different methods for paragraph development while writing an essay.

Course Overview:

UNIT #	Unit Topic	Evaluated Activities
1	Good Writing—What Is It?	Written Assignment
2	What Makes Writing Effective?	Written Assignment
3	Shaping and Developing a Topic	Written Assignment
4	Fact versus Opinion and Argument by Authority	Written Assignment
5	Logical Fallacies and Statistical Manipulation	Written Assignment
6	Semantic Argument	Written Assignment
7A	Persuasive Argumentation	Written Assignment

7B	Preparing to Write the Final Paper	Written Assignment
8	Completing the Final Project	Written Assignment
	About the Final Exam	Final Exam

Evaluation Methods:

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

1. Written Assignments (60%)
2. Final Exam (40%)

Written Assignments (60%)

Written Assignments are assigned for every unit in the course. Topics will vary from unit to unit. You will be assessed on your ability to present your ideas in complete sentences, correct use of the English language, and well-developed paragraphs. The goal of the written assignments is to help you become a more effective and persuasive writer.

Final Exam (40%)

The final examination is a proctored two-hour exam consisting of short- and long-answer essay questions. The exam covers material from the entire course. You will be allowed two attempts on the exam, if you choose to take the second attempt your final score will be calculated by averaging the two attempt scores together.

Exam Method: Online without Proctoring

This course requires all students to complete exams online. Students receive two attempts on each exam. If you elect to take a second attempt, the average score of both exams will be recorded.

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

Grade	Percentage
A	93–100
AB	88–92.9
B	83–87.9
BC	78–82.9
C	70–77.9
D	60–69.9
F	Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.