

**UNIVERSITY NOW SYLLABUS**  
**COMPOSITION**  
**Spring, 2024**

**Instructor:** Professor Karen Seehaus (Writing)  
[kseehaus@pointloma.edu](mailto:kseehaus@pointloma.edu)

**Class Time and Location:** Mondays, 1:45-3:15pm, Ryan Learning Center 106

**History of University Now:** The idea of high school students taking university course work in a cooperative venture between PLNU and San Diego high schools began in 1997, funded by a grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Dr. Darrel Falk, long time PLNU biology professor, founded the program, which was exclusively a science class until 2001, when writing was added to the program. High schools participating in past years include E3, Gompers, Morse, Madison, Lincoln, and Point Loma High School.

**Objectives:**

1. To help students envision themselves as successful university students.
2. To provide a jump-start on acquiring the skills needed to succeed in college.
3. To earn college credits.
4. To build a caring and supportive classroom community.
5. To help prepare students to become leaders in their chosen fields.
6. To encourage students to be generous in sharing their gifts and talents with others.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

**Composition**

By the end of the composition course, students will be able to:

- Construct clear and concise prose
- Construct clear thesis statements supported by focused paragraphs
- Edit their work to conform to the standard conventions of English grammar and usage
- Identify the thesis statements and primary arguments in written texts
- Respond to and work with source material fairly and accurately
- Demonstrate the ability to use the PLNU library

## **Evaluation**

Your composition grade will be comprised of the following components:

### **English (500 Points Total):**

In-Class Exercises (20 Points)

Library Research Assignment (20 Points)

Concept Paper (50 Points)

2 Drafts – Academic Research Project (90 Points)

2 Workshops – Drafts Reviewed in Assigned Groups (40 Points)

2 Presentations to the Class (80 Points)

Academic Research Project Final Draft (125 Points)

Final Exam (75 Points)

The grades you receive for college credit on your college transcript are calculated and recorded as two individual grades, one for writing and one for biology.

## **Cheating**

There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is stealing other people's work and calling it your own. Examples would include plagiarizing material from the internet or another source, copying a homework assignment, a quiz or a laboratory report. It also includes turning an individual homework assignment into a group assignment. **Collaboration is encouraged, but cheating is not tolerated and may result in expulsion from the course.**

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. More than three absences from the course for the semester for any reason will result in an intervention, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

## **Tutoring**

Tutoring groups will be assigned at the beginning of the semester by class professors. Always bring your notebook, your textbook, and all class material with you to the tutoring sessions. Tutoring and quiz sessions will count a total of five percent of your total class grade. Tutors file weekly tutoring reports with professors. Switching of tutoring groups is not allowed.

## **Textbooks**

There will be no textbooks assigned for the writing portion of this course. However, you will be given handouts and readings that you are responsible for printing and maintaining.

## **Canvas**

Canvas is a website that contains material from the class, including assignments, and other class materials. The website for accessing canvas is <https://canvas.pointloma.edu>. Your passwords will be given to you during the first class.

## **Professionalism**

Students are expected to act in a matter appropriate for a university campus setting. Obvious examples would include:

1. No eating in the classroom.
2. No putting your head down or sleeping during lecture.
3. Making certain that you are in your seat on time after the mid-class break.
4. No whispering, talking or fooling around during class.

## **Masking**

In response to the [CDC's latest guidelines](#) and [California Department of Public Health Recommendations](#), **PLNU has updated our policy for masking**. We will continue to monitor the data to inform a change in policy that aligns with [CDC guidance](#).

**UNOW Schedule:**

**WEEK 1: 8 January 2024**

Introduction to Composition  
Research Topic Brainstorm

**WEEK 2: 15 January 2024**

**Note: Monday, 15 January is Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class!!!**

**WEEK 3: 22 January 2024**

Choose Research Topic  
Introduction to MLA

**Submit in Class on Wednesday:**  
Research Topic Exercise (10 Points)

**WEEK 4: 29 January 2024**

How to Develop a Research Question

**Submit in Class on Wednesday:**  
Research Question Exercise (10 Points)

**WEEK 5: 5 February 2024**

Library Research Session 1 with Research Librarians at Ryan Library

**WEEK 6: 12 February 2024**

Library Research Session 2 with Research Librarians at Ryan Library

**Submit in Class on Wednesday:**  
Library Research Assignment (20 Points)

**WEEK 7: 19 February 2024**

**Note: Monday, 19 February is Presidents' Day Weekend – No Class!!!**

Academic Research Project Concept Paper Preparation

**Submit on Canvas by Friday at 11:59pm:**

Concept Paper (50 Points)

**WEEK 8: 26 February 2024**

In-Class Presentations: Academic Research Project Concept (40 Points)

**\*\*\*4 March – 8 March 2024: PLNU Spring Break – No Class!!!\*\*\***

**WEEK 9: 11 March 2024**

In-Class Presentations, Continued

Academic Research Project Draft #1

**Submit on Canvas by Friday at 11:59pm:**

Draft #1 – Academic Research Project (45 Points)

**WEEK 10: 18 March 2024**

Workshop #1 (20 Points)

MLA Workshop #1

**WEEK 11: 25 March 2024**

**Note: Monday, 25 March is e3's First Week of Spring Break – No Class!!!**

**Submit on Canvas by Friday at 11:59pm:**

Draft #2 – Academic Research Project (45 Points)

**\*\*\*1 April – 5 April 2024: SDUSD Spring Break – No Class!!!\*\*\***

**WEEK 12: 8 April 2024**

Workshop #2 (20 Points)

MLA Workshop #2

**WEEK 13: 15 April 2024**

In-Class Presentation: Final Academic Research Project (40 Points)

**WEEK 14: 22 April 2024**

In-Class Presentations, Continued  
Academic Research Project Final Draft

**Submit on Canvas by Friday at 11:59pm:**  
Academic Research Project Final Draft (125 Points)

**WEEK 15: 29 April 2024 – FINAL EXAM**

**Final Exam** (75 Points)