

# UNIVERSITY NOW SYLLABUS

## ACADEMIC WRITING

### Spring 2020

**Instructors:** Prof. Karen Seehaus (writing) [kseehaus@pointloma.edu](mailto:kseehaus@pointloma.edu) Dr. Mike Dorrell (science) [mdorrell@pointloma.edu](mailto:mdorrell@pointloma.edu)

**Textbooks:** Course Reader for English (Available on Canvas)  
Bullock, Richard, Michal Brody, and Francine Weinberg. *The Little Seagull Handbook*. Norton, 2017.

**Class meetings:** MWF 1:30 – 3:00 PM

**History of University Now:** The idea of high school students taking university course work in a cooperative venture between PLNU and San Diego City 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.

#### **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.

#### **College Composition Course Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete a College Composition course will be able to do the following:

1. Apply the conventions of the English language in various forms of nonfiction writing genres.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the stages of the writing process in writing: planning, drafting, organizing, composing, revising, and editing.
3. Evaluate and utilize rhetorical modes of organization to create written compositions.
4. Apply documentation formats to properly cite research in written compositions.
5. Analyze written compositions to determine point-of-view, differing perspectives, tone, purpose, audience, and theme.

#### **\*\*Evaluation:**

For purposes of reporting progress in UNow to PLHS, the biology and writing portions of the course are graded separately, but are weighted equally, and the grade you receive for the class is an average of the two portions of the class. For the spring, the lab grade will be incorporated directly into your science grade and will be ~15% of your total grade.

**However, please note that laboratory participation is a big part of learning to think like a scientist, and therefore, you must pass the lab with >60% of the lab points in order to**

**pass the course.** You must pass both biology and writing in order to pass the class. Your grade will be comprised of the following components:

Biology portion (53% total):

Biology homework assignments (~15%)

Biology lab work (~15%)

Biology Examinations (~23%)

Writing portion (43% total):

Skill-building Essays; Academic Research Paper Draft; Works Cited Draft (~15%)

Annotations of Canvas Reader (~5%)

In-class Assignments; Participation (~8%)

Annotated Bibliography (~5%)

Final Academic Research Paper (~10%)

Attendance, participation, and attitude in class, lab, and tutoring (4%)

The grades you receive for college credit on your college transcript may be calculated and recorded as two individual grades, one for writing and one for biology. Everyone in UNow will receive a PLNU college course grade in Bio101, and those who pass Bio101 will receive four semester units of college credit. However, only those who are writing at College Composition end-of-course proficiency level will receive three semester units of credit in Writing115.

**\*\*Homework:** Completing homework assignments is one of the foundations for success in the class. These homework assignments are designed to help you understand the material and are therefore critical for your success in the course. Completion of these assignments can help your grade as well, but 0's on the homework will greatly hurt your overall grade and make it difficult to pass the course. If more than two homework assignments are missed, an intervention will occur.

**Cheating:** There is zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is stealing other people's work and calling it your own. Examples 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 UNow program. If you work together, make sure the final product is your own.**

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. More than three absences 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 sessions will count a total of five percent of your total class grade and will be determined by your tutors. Tutors file weekly tutoring reports with professors. Switching of tutoring groups is not allowed.

**\*\*Textbooks:** Textbooks are distributed on the first day of class and are **collected on the last day of class**. You are responsible for taking good care of the textbook throughout the semester as they will be used for future classes. Always bring your textbook for tutoring sessions.

**Canvas:** Canvas is a website that contains material from the class, including assignments, copies of the biology power point lectures, and other class materials. The website for accessing Canvas is: [canvas.pointloma.edu](http://canvas.pointloma.edu). Your password was given to you during the first class.

**Professionalism:** Students are expected to act in a manner appropriate for a university campus setting.

**\*\* Textbook and studying guidelines:** In order to best succeed in class, you should **read the text prior to coming to class** that week so that you are familiar with terms and concepts. Even if you don't fully understand what you read, this will make it easier for you to comprehend the material as we go through it in class. Then, **following class, you should re-read the text and go through your notes** to solidify the material in your mind and find out what you don't yet understand. **Bring those questions to class and/ tutoring.**

**Successful students usually conduct their own weekly review of concepts and skills rather than waiting for a quiz or exam to stimulate such behavior.**

## ENGLISH COURSE OUTLINE

\*\*You are taking a college course for college credit; therefore, I will address college-level issues and subject matter. You are responsible to come to class having a) read the assigned material, and b) completed any writing assignments due that day. I reserve the right to change the syllabus as needed to facilitate achieving the course's goals. You will receive notification of these changes either via Canvas or in class and will be responsible for the required material.\*\*

\*\*Remember, for the English portion, copies of your essays are due IN PAPER at the beginning of class. If you can't make class, email me your essay BEFORE class begins. Then bring me a paper copy the next class period.\*\*

*CR denotes Course Reader*

**Week 1**

**15 January** Syllabus  
**17 January** CR: Canvas Annotation 1

**Week 2**

**22 January** Academic Writing 1  
**24 January** CR: Canvas Annotation 2

**Week 3**

**29 January** **DUE:** Skill-building Essay #1  
**31 January** CR: Canvas Annotation 3

**Week 4**

**5 February** CR: Canvas Annotation 4  
**7 February** **BIOLOGY EXAM 1** (1 hour of class time)  
 Academic Writing 2

**Week 5**

**12 February** **DUE:** Skill-building Essay #2  
**14 February** **NO CLASS**

**Week 6**

**19 February** CR: Canvas Annotation 5  
**21 February** Academic Writing 3

**Week 7**

**26 February** CR: Canvas Annotation 6  
**28 February** Academic Writing 4

**Week 8**

**4 March** **DUE:** Skill-building Essay #3  
**6 March** CR: Canvas Annotation 7

**9 – 13 March** **PLNU SPRING BREAK**

<b>Week 9</b>	
<b>18 March</b>	<b>DUE:</b> Annotated Bibliography
<b>20 March</b>	<i>CR:</i> Canvas Annotation 8
<b>Week 10</b>	
<b>25 March</b>	<i>CR:</i> Canvas Annotation 9
<b>27 March</b>	<b>BIOLOGY EXAM 2</b> (1 hour of class time) Academic Writing 5
<b>30 March – 3 April</b>	<b>SDUSD SPRING BREAK</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	
<b>8 April</b>	<b>DUE:</b> Academic Research Paper Draft
<b>10 April</b>	<b>NO CLASS: EASTER BREAK</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	
<b>15 April</b>	Workshop: Academic Research Paper
<b>17 April</b>	Workshop: Academic Research Paper
<b>Week 13</b>	
<b>22 April</b>	Incorporating Feedback
<b>24 April</b>	<b>DUE:</b> Works Cited Draft
<b>Week 14</b>	
<b>29 April</b>	Workshop: Works Cited Draft
<b>1 May</b>	Finalizing Your Research Paper
<b>Week 15</b>	
<b>6 May</b>	<b>FINALS WEEK</b>
<b>8 May</b>	<b>BIOLOGY FINAL EXAM??</b> <b>CLASS CELEBRATION!!!</b> <b>DUE:</b> Final Academic Research Paper