

UNIVERSITY NOW SYLLABUS
COMPOSITION
Fall 2021

Instructors: Professor Eric Dahms (science) Professor Karen Seehaus (writing)
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Class Time and Location: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:45-3:15pm, Rohr Hall, Room 111

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 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

6. Skill-building Essays (10%) Essays using specific essay structures
7. *The Little Seagull Handbook* Coursework (10%) Readings and quizzes
8. Composition Midterm (10%) Brief in-class essay
9. Final Exam (10%) Brief in-class essay
10. Class Participation (10%)

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.

Homework

Completing homework assignments is one of the foundations for success in the class. Your lowest homework grade for the semester is dropped. If more than three homework assignments are missed, an intervention will occur.

Quizzes

Biology quizzes will be given frequently during the semester covering lecture material, assigned reading, or both. Your lowest quiz grade for the semester is dropped. Quizzes may or may not be announced in the class before.

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

Textbooks will be distributed on the first day of class and will be collected on the last day of class. You may put your name inside the front cover and 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, but you don't have to bring them to class unless instructed.

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 <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](#).

Our updated masking policy effective August 4, 2021:

- Individuals on the Point Loma campus, regardless of vaccination status, must be masked indoors
- Individuals on the Point Loma campus who are unvaccinated should remain masked outdoors when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained
- Individuals on the Point Loma campus who are vaccinated may remain unmasked outdoors