

UNIVERSITY NOW SYLLABUS
COMPOSITION
Fall 2022

Instructor: Professor Karen Seehaus (Writing)
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Class Time and Location: Wednesdays, 1:45-3:15pm, Rohr Hall (Sociology), Room 112

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)

Diagnostic Exam (30 Points)

5 Skill-building Essays (200 Points) Essays using specific essay structures

Portfolio of Revised Essays - All 5 Skill-building Essays Revised (50 Points)

Weekly Composition Book Entries (70 Points)

Final Exam (50 Points) Brief in-class essay

Attendance and Class Participation (100 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

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. (We don't have one this semester, but we will in the spring.)

Other Supplies You Will Need

*Composition Book or similar for your journal

*Various office supplies (highlighters, pens, stapler, Scotch tape, paper for notes)

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 manner 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 8, 2022:

Based on the current surge occurring in the Western U.S. and the reunion of our community population beginning **August 26th**, the university **will require face coverings for all individuals indoors in large community settings including classrooms, chapel, and shared spaces where larger groups gather during the first two weeks of the semester.**

We will be closely monitoring the regional situation and our local community data and **anticipate lifting the masking requirement on Monday, Sep 12, 2022**. PLNU will continue to support and encourage campus community members to wear masks when they feel ill or exhibit any symptoms of a respiratory infection. The campus ventilation system that was upgraded to MERV-13 filtration or better during the pandemic has also been serviced prior to the start of classes.

UNow Schedule:

Note: The UNow Retreat typically occurs on a Friday early in the semester. Save for the UNow Retreat. Details will be shared in class.

WEEK 1: 8/31/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Brief Overview of Two Semesters of UNow Writing
Tech Support for Students with Tech Needs
Diagnostic Exam

WEEK 2: 9/7/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Retreat Update
Tech Support if Needed
Review Admission Requirements for CSU
Review Admission Requirements for UC

WEEK 3: 9/14/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Strength-finders Games
Overview of 8 Personal Insight Questions for UC System
Assign Skill-building Essay #1 (Personal Insight Question Choice 1)

WEEK 4: 9/21/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
!!Campus Tour!!

Submit by Wednesday by 11:59pm:
Skill-building Essay #1 (Personal Insight Question Choice 1)

WEEK 5: 9/28/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Workshop

WEEK 6: 10/5/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Time Management

Submit by Wednesday by 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #2 (Personal Insight Question Choice 2)

WEEK 7: 10/12/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Workshop

WEEK 8: 10/19/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry

!!Presentation about Study Abroad Opportunities by Study Abroad Representatives!!

Submit by Wednesday by 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #3 (Personal Insight Question Choice 3)

WEEK 9: 10/26/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Workshop

WEEK 10: 11/2/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry

!!Presentation about Financial Aid by Associate Director of Financial Aid @PLNU!!

Submit by Wednesday by 11:59pm:

Skill-building Essay #4 (Personal Insight Question Choice 4)

WEEK 11: 11/9/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Workshop

WEEK 12: 11/16/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Portfolio Preparation

Submit by Wednesday by 11:59pm:
Skill-building Essay #5 (Letter of Reference)

WEEK 13: 11/23/2022

**Note: Wednesday, 11/23/2022 and Friday, 11/25/2022 is Thanksgiving Recess– No Class!!!
Happy Thanksgiving!!!**

WEEK 14: 11/30/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Portfolio Preparation

Submit by Wednesday by 11:59pm:
Skill-building Essay #5 (Letter of Reference)

WEEK 15: 12/7/2022

Weekly Composition Book Entry
Workshop

WEEK 16: 12/14/2022 – FINAL EXAM

Mandatory Attendance:
Wednesday, 12/14/2022 – **Portfolio Due in Class (All Skill-building Essays Revised)**
Final Exam