**Advanced Composition**

**Mrs. Lisa Muñoz**

**2012-2013 Course Syllabus**

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| Room: A 217  School phone #: 574-295-4700 Ext. 2030  Cell phone #: 574-850-1141 (Please call or text by 9 P.M. or after 5:30 A.M.)  E-mail address: [lmunoz@elkhart.k12.in.us](mailto:lmunoz@elkhart.k12.in.us)  Website: <http://munozblazersenglish.weebly.com/> **NEW!!!** |

**Course Description:** Advanced composition further develops and refines writing skills introduced in other English courses.  This course provides students frequent opportunities to write for different audiences and purposes, using a process that includes:  (1) prewriting, (2) drafting, (3) peer sharing, (4) revising, and (5) editing. Techniques of persuasive writing and formal argument are studied, and increased emphasis is placed on language and style. This type of course encourages students to: (1) take risks as writers, (2) choose some of their own topics for writing, and (3) publish their writing in the most appropriate formats available.  As the title of the course indicates, we will focus on ensuring that you are ready for college level analysis, annotation, and writing. This course is challenging but it will make your life in college much easier. Statistically, approximately “**four out of ten high school graduates are being required to take remedial courses when they start college”** (Complete College America). So, do the work now while you don’t have to pay for the course!

**Materials:** A notebook (pages must be able to be torn out); a folder or binder; writing utensil(s); your student handbook; Sadlier-Oxford vocabulary book level G (units 1-6); *The College Writer*; *Occasions for Writing*.

**Classroom Procedures:** This course requires that you participate and engage in the learning process. In order to accomplish this, you must be here every day to learn. All I ask is that you enter each day with an open mind and a willingness to learn something new or perfect something old.

* Participation points: You get three participation points for each day you are present. If you are tardy or need to borrow a pencil or other material(s), one point is taken away; if you sleep or if I see your head down at all, I will take away all of your points (sleeping is not only disrespectful to me, but it is also disrespectful for the taxpayers of Elkhart County who fund your education); if you are absent, in ISS, or you get a referral, I take away all three points (if your absence is excused, it is YOUR responsibility to bring that to my attention).
* Entering class: First off, please, be on time! You must be in the room making your way to your seat by the time the bell rings. Upon entering, please be sure to check the table for any handouts that will be used during class.
* Leaving class: In order to leave my class to use the restroom, get a drink, go to your locker or another destination, you must have your student handbook or a yellow pass. For the restroom, a drink, or your locker, simply find the date in your student handbook, write where you are going and the time, and then bring it to me to initial. DO NOT abuse this privilege!
* Respect: Include and welcome others; use language that is profanity-free and inoffensive; remain silent when others are presenting ideas; do not bring food to class; do your best… anything less only hurts you!
* Responsibility: Complete tasks on time; bring necessary materials to class; check your grades when they are posted; keep all electronic devices turned off and put away during the school day.
* Safety: Avoid horseplay; stay in your own space; keep all belongings other than class materials put away and under desk; only healthy snacks are allowed in my room, otherwise I should not see any outside food or drinks; during school drills, move quickly and quietly and find me at our meeting spot.
* Bully-Free:
* I will not bully others.
* I will help students who are bullied.
* I will help and include others.
* I will report all bullying.

**Discipline Plan:**

I use a progressive discipline plan within the classroom.

1. Verbal warning
2. Conference with student
3. Phone call home
4. Referral to office

**Plagiarism:** The school guidelines will be enforced regarding plagiarism. Review your student handbook for specifics. You will fail the assignment and possibly the course. Don’t do it! Your original ideas are so much more interesting to me!

**Policies on Homework & Other Assignments:**

* No homework in this class will be assigned simply to keep you busy; it will be relevant to the learning experiences that take place in the classroom. Failure to keep up with work will negatively impact your grade and ability to participate/succeed in class.
* Assignments are due the day that they are due. Late work will not be accepted unless approved by me.
* It is YOUR responsibility to find out what you missed if you are absent. Come see me or ask a fellow classmate what you missed. If it doesn’t make sense, feel free to ask me for clarification! Absences are not an excuse to turn in late work. Assignments are due the day after you return. Do not expect me to ask you for your missing work.
* School policy on absences and make-up work will be followed: review your student handbook for details. There will be NO EXTENSIONS on LONG TERM ASSIGNMENTS.
* Failure to participate in class, complete work, or chronic disruption of the learning environment will result in phone calls home, conferences with parents/guardians, and possible removal from the class.

**Category Breakdown:**

* Participation=10%
* Vocabulary (prep work, quizzes, and tests)=15%
* In-Class Work/Homework=15%
* Essays/Projects=60%

**The Grading Scale:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 100% | A+ | 88 – 89 | B+ | 78 – 79 | C+ | 68 – 69 | D+ |
| 93 - 99 | A | 83 – 87 | B | 73 – 77 | C | 63 – 67 | D |
| 90 – 92 | A- | 80 - 82 | B- | 70 - 72 | C- | 60 - 62 | D- |

**Course Assessments**

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| Assignment |
| Pre-test/Writing Sample |
| Paper 1: Narrative |
| Paper 2: Rhetorical Analysis |
| Paper 3: Annotated Bibliography for Research Project |
| Paper 4: Unfamiliar Genre Project (UGP) |
| Paper 5: Literary Analysis |
| Paper 6: Persuasive Essay |
| Paper 7: This I Believe Essay |
| Final Exam |

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