

# College Composition 1 (ENG 111-17/ENG 111-17D)

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**Course Information:****Classroom:** Duncan 209**Day/Time:** MWF 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m.**Instructor:** Mrs. Patriarca**Office:** Duncan D100**Office Hours:** MW 9-10 & by appointment**Phone:** 540-857-6352**E-mail (preferred):** apatriarca@viriniawestern.edu

## Prerequisites

Successful completion of the writing portion of the COMPASS test and/or ENG 01, ENG 03, or 07 and/or grades above "C" in the last two years of high school English.

## Course Texts

- Kirszner, Laurie G., and Stephen R. Mandell. *Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012. ISBN 978-0-312-67684-1
- Aaron, Jane E. *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook with Exercises, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Boston: Pearson, 2012. ISBN 978-0-205-21751-9
- Additional short readings, available on Blackboard

*The materials provided for this course are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course, and may not be retained or further disseminated.*

## Course Description

College Composition I introduces students to critical thinking and the fundamentals of academic writing. Through the writing process, students refine topics: develop and support ideas; investigate, evaluate, and incorporate appropriate resources; edit for effective style and usage; and determine appropriate approaches for a variety of contexts, audiences, and purposes.

In this course, you will write critically and thoughtfully about familiar places and communities. In doing so, you also prepare yourself to think and write in a thoughtful manner about unfamiliar places and situations.

## Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- Organize and develop their ideas coherently.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of how subject, audience, and purpose influence content, structure, and style.
- Make their prose conform to conventions of usage, punctuation, and sentence structure.
- Demonstrate documentation skills as follows:
- Know the difference between personal knowledge, common knowledge, and sources needing attribution.
- Develop their own arguments and use secondary sources sparingly as support, not allowing those sources to dominate the paper.

- Be familiar with the types of information in the VWCC library and the most common ways to locate, use and document these sources (including electronic sources).
- Recognize and avoid plagiarism in its various forms.
- Create MLA-style internal parenthetical documentation and correlate such references with a correct Works Cited sheet.
- Avoid plagiarism in paraphrasing sources, create accurate paraphrases, and attribute paraphrased information correctly.
- Avoid the most common errors of quotation use: misquoting, dumped quotes, inaccurate punctuation of quotes, and inaccurate attribution.
- Create accurate MLA bibliographic entries (including those for books, periodical articles, reference articles, and the most reliable electronic sources).

## Grading

A = 900-1000 points

B = 800-890 points

C = 700-790 points

D = 600-690 points

F = 0-590 points

## Assignments

Assignment 1 (Literacy Narrative):	100 points
Assignment 2 (Place Observation):	150 points
Assignment 3 (Critical Analysis):	200 points
Assignment 4 (Research Proposal):	75 points
Assignment 5 (Annotated Bibliography):	100 points
Assignment 6 (Research-Based Argument):	225 points
Add'l Assignments & Participation (Including Blogging):	150 points
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

## Assignments 1-6

The length and purpose of your major assignments (1-6) will vary, but they are intended to move you from personal writing to writing for academic purposes. Assignments 4-6 are all connected, and we will discuss how they connect in class. I will also share the grading criteria for each assignment on Blackboard and in class.

Note: you must turn in ALL of the major assignments in order to pass the course.

## Additional Assignments & Participation

Homework, blogging, peer review, and involvement in class activities make up this part of your grade. I will give you specific instructions on each of these activities as we bring them into class.

In addition, you will write several short blog entries/posts on our class blog. These posts will usually relate to the class's major writing assignments or the reading for the week, but sometimes you will have

the opportunity to write free responses instead. We will discuss blogging and how it will be evaluated early in the semester.

### Turning In Assignments

All assignments are due by the beginning of class on the due date. You will turn in your assignments by uploading them to Blackboard unless otherwise directed. You **do not need** to print them out. I respond to drafts and grade work entirely online.

To speed up the response/grading process, you will need to do the following things:

1. Your last name and assignment title need to be in the name of the file. For example, if I was turning in Assignment 1, I would name it "PatriarcaAssignment1."
2. Save the file in Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or even Portable Document Format (.pdf).

These two steps will help ensure that I can download and read your assignment. We will walk through how to rename and save files in different formats in class. If you don't have access to a computer at home, please come see me in my office hours (D100) before class or make alternate arrangements with me.

### Attendance

We do a lot of work in class – prewriting, peer review, etc. – so you need to be here. I expect you to be in class on time and prepared with drafts, readings, or other out-of-class assignments. In the event of an emergency, we will work together to arrange alternative scheduling. Excessive absences, leaving early, and/or coming to class late or unprepared will affect the participation portion of your grade in the following ways:

- If you must be absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from another student or the course's Blackboard site.
- You do not earn credit for any homework/in-class assignments missed or turned in if you are absent.
- If you turn in a major assignment late without developing an alternative schedule with me, you will lose half a letter grade for every class day it is late. For example, if an assignment is due on Friday and you turn it in the following Monday, you automatically lose five percentage points from your grade.
- The college's policy is that if you miss more than 30% of the class meetings, you cannot pass the course. For our course, that means if you miss 13 or more classes, you cannot pass the course. If you are concerned about your absences, please visit me during office hours.

### Withdrawals

Though I would hate to lose you as a member of this class, if you feel that you need to withdraw for any reason, please follow the college guidelines: "Students may drop a class by telephone (857-7827) or online at <https://my.vccs.edu>. Students may also drop in person during the refund/drop period by submitting an add/drop form to the Admissions Office." You don't want to risk losing your grade or your money, so remember the following important dates:

September 10

Last day to drop and receive a refund for a 16-week class

October 27

Last day to withdraw without a grade penalty.

If you need help with your decision or with the proper method for formally withdrawing, call or email me, and I will work with you.

The college requires that faculty report and withdraw any students who have not participated in a course by the last day to drop and receive a refund (September 10). Students who stop attending or participating in a course after the withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of "F."

## Technology

Please show respect for your fellow students, instructor, and guest speakers in your use of technology. Phones should be off/set to silent (not vibrate), and you should not make calls, text, check messages, etc. during class. You should not use mp3 players (iPods), e-readers, or laptops in class unless I specifically ask you to do so.

## Contacting Your Instructor

If you need assistance with your writing for this course, have questions about assignments that are not answered by the course's Blackboard site, or must be absent for some reason, please contact me via e-mail (apatriarca@viriniawestern.edu). I check my e-mail daily during the week and at least once during the weekend, so you should receive a response within 24 hours. For more complicated matters, I recommend making an appointment to see me in my office.

**One caveat:** I will not respond to last-minute questions regarding major assignments. Asking me about page requirements at 9 p.m. the night before tells me that you haven't even looked at the assignment sheet. Begin your assignments early, and use the class's resources (Blackboard, your fellow students) wisely.

## Writing Center

You can visit the Writing Center for a one-on-one help session for writing assignments in *any* Virginia Western class. Tutors work with students in 30-45 minute sessions on a walk-in basis. Bring your assignment sheet, a legible draft of your writing, textbook, and any additional documents that you use as sources. As a former tutor, I promise your session goes far more smoothly when you have these items ready!

## Academic Honesty

You are responsible for following Virginia Western's code of academic honesty, which is available in the VWCC Student Handbook, section 5.

Cheating is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating in which writers represent the work of others as their own. Plagiarism can include submitting a paper:

- Written by someone else as your own;
- Written by means of inappropriate collaboration;

- Written by you for another course (without the permission of both instructors);
- Purchased, downloaded, or cut and pasted from the Internet;
- That fails to properly acknowledge its sources through standard citations.

If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero for the assignment. If it occurs a second time, you will receive a zero for the course.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides protection from illegal discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities.

It is the policy of Virginia Western Community College to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with documented disabilities. These disabilities include but are not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities. A student who wishes to request accommodations in this class should notify Student Support Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to a counselor in Student Support Services. For more information, call or visit Student Support Services, in suite 102 Student Center, or call 857-7286 for an appointment.

Once you have met with a counselor in Student Support Services, it is **your responsibility** to meet with me and bring the appropriate forms from Student Support Services to request accommodations. I recommend that you schedule this meeting to take place as early as possible in the semester.

### **Emergency Evacuation and VW Alerts**

An evacuation plan is located on the wall beside the door of each classroom. Please make yourself aware of the exits and discuss any concerns with me at the beginning of the semester. If asked to evacuate, please do so in a calm and orderly manner using the nearest exit. Do not try to use the elevator in case of a fire or other situation that might cause a power outage.

If you have not already done so, you may wish to enroll in the VW ALERT system to receive messages about college closings and other emergency alerts. These alerts may be sent to your phone as text messages or to your home computers. For more information, visit <https://alert.virginiawestern.edu>.

### **Inclement Weather**

In case of severe weather, please consult local news or radio stations to learn when Virginia Western will open. For day classes, the college will usually run on a delayed schedule. When this occurs, our class will meet in our usual room (D209) from 11:30 a.m.-12:10 p.m.

If there is a weather event (snow/ice storm, etc.) that prevents the college from opening several days in a row, please check our course Blackboard site for updates and assignments.

The college's full inclement weather policy can be found here:  
<http://www.virginiawestern.edu/about/inclementweather.php>.

## Class Schedule:

*This schedule may be adjusted as necessary. I will announce any changes in class and on Blackboard.*

*Each week in class, you will also practice grammar, blog, and produce short writing assignments related to the class readings and major assignments. You will receive more specific information about these assignments in class.*

Week 1 (8/22-8/24):	Introductions to the course, critical reading strategies
Week 2 (8/27-8/31):	Overview of the writing process, narration, begin A1
Week 3 (9/3-9/7):	Monday = Labor Day (no class), narrative drafting, peer response to A1
Week 4 (9/10-9/14):	Conferences, revising, <b>A1 due</b> , begin A2
<b>** September 10</b>	<b>Last day to drop and receive a refund for a 16-week class**</b>
Week 5 (9/17-9/21):	Description, drafting A2, comparison & contrast
Week 6 (9/24-9/28):	Description continued, drafting and peer response to A2
Week 7 (10/1-10/5):	<b>A2 due</b> , begin A3, rhetorical analysis, using examples
Week 8 (10/8-10/12):	Writing analytically, using images, drafting A3
Week 9 (10-15-10/19):	drafting and peer response to A3, definitions
Week 10 (10/22-10/26):	Conferences, <b>A3 due</b> , introduce A4-A6, research proposals
<b>**Saturday, 10/27:</b>	<b>Last Day to Withdraw Without Grade Penalty**</b>
Week 11 (10/29-11/2):	drafting A4, <b>A4 due</b> , research strategies, begin annotated bibliographies
Week 12 (11/5-11/9):	Summarizing, evaluating sources, avoiding plagiarism, drafting A5
Week 13 (11/12-11/16):	peer response to A5, <b>A5 due</b> , argumentation
Week 14 (11/19-11/23):	integrating sources into argument
<b>**11/21 &amp; 11/23:</b>	<b>No Classes (Thanksgiving Break)**</b>
Week 15 (11/26-11/30):	peer response to A6, argument styles
Week 16 (12/3-12/7):	peer response to A6, learning about presentations, conferences
Week 17 (12/10):	last regular class meeting; <b>A6 Due</b> ; more sample presentations
Final Exam (12/14):	Short, informal presentations of A6 work