

Dual Credit Composition

Cassie Dingmann

2024

cdingmann@west-fargo.k12.nd.us 701-356-2050

Course Description:

- An introduction to college-level writing as a process of drafting, revising, and editing. This course emphasizes critical reading, writing, thinking, and research skills as students write for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students will receive guided instruction in the writing process as they begin writing based on personal experiences. An introduction to proper crediting of source material and research will occur toward the end of the course.

Course Objectives:

- Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
- Restrict a subject to a manageable size.
- Express a clear main idea.
- Focus, organize, and develop a short piece of writing effectively.
- Apply the editing and revision process to written work.
- Participate actively in self and peer essay evaluations.
- Demonstrate the use of good sentence and paragraph structure, and grammar.
- Recognize and utilize transitional words and phrases in the writing process.
- Demonstrate comprehension in essay readings by recalling discussed elements.
- Practice pre-writing strategies for written assignments.
- Use basic MLA formats for written assignments and crediting of sources.
- Improve writing and critical thinking skills by practice with a variety of genres.
- Use assigned readings as models of composition in writing assignments.

Course Logistics:

- Lesson plans will be in Schoology and most (if not all) assignments will be found and submitted on Schoology
- Use [Schoology messages or email](#) to communicate directly with your teacher

Communication:

- Email or Schoology message:
 - Your teacher will try to answer all messages received between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm on weekdays - If messaging outside of contract time, your teacher will respond as soon as possible the next school day

Late Work/Eligibility

- Students are expected to complete ALL assignments
 - LATE WORK: Daily assignments will be accepted for one week after the due date. After this one week, you will be required to sign up for a WIN session, discuss with Dingmann why you did not complete the assignment on time, and turn it in during that WIN session. This WIN session must occur prior to the end of the unit. Once the end of the unit passes, you will not be able to turn in any work from said unit.
 - Late work will be marked as a zero with the gold 'Missing' mark on PowerSchool. If you have a zero with no gold mark, you cannot submit the assignment for credit.
 - In class assignments are expected to be completed within the class period. If you choose to work on assignments for other courses instead of in-class assignments, it may result in the outside work being confiscated, or partial / complete loss of credit for the English assignment.
- To be eligible, to participate in high school extracurricular activities, learners cannot be failing more than one course and must have zero detention hours. My goal is to always to keep grades updated on a weekly basis.

Larger projects may take longer to grade – please keep due dates and grading time in mind when eligibility is of concern to you.

- Students are expected to work while in class
- You are responsible for keeping track of your progress in PowerSchool

Course/Instructor Expectations

This is your education, your class. I have the privilege and responsibility of guiding you through this curriculum, however, you must take ownership of your learning. Here are a few ways to start you on that path:

- Show up. Show up for yourself by doing all the reading, coming prepared to class, and doing all the work. Show up others by offering support and encouragement to your classmates.
- Take risks. Be willing to go for it even if you might fall flat on your face. That's courage. And that's how you learn.
- Listen to others carefully. Share your ideas. Rumble. Learning takes a community; it isn't always a solo endeavor.
- Be your own advocate. Ask questions. Communicate absences and needs in advance. Take ownership of your learning.

Materials:

- Daily: WFPS issued iPad (and charging accessories), iPad Crayon, books, worksheets, writing utensils

WFHS Food and Drink Policy:

- No food in hallways: this includes Period 1 and Period 2 breakfasts, and all lunches (purchased from school, brought from home, fast food, take-out, etc.)
- Food in classrooms must be provided by teacher(s)
- All drinks must be in a container with non-spill lid
- Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill lid will be directed to be thrown away

WFHS Cellphone Policy:

- Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
- Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
- Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence.
- Failure to comply with the cellphone policy will result in your phone being confiscated and turned into the office
- For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook, or listed at the end of the syllabus.

WFHS Attendance Policy:

- It is expected that you are in class and on time each day. If you arrive to class after the designated start time for class, you will be marked tardy. Excessive tardiness to a class period (20 minutes or more) will result in a UV for the class period.
- Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence and the student will be assigned one hour of detention. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy.
- For extended absences, students are required to submit any work completed during their absence when they return.
- For additional info, see the full policy in the student handbook, or listed at the end of the syllabus.

English Department Cheating Policy:

The cheating policy follows the WFHS student handbook. This includes a zero for the assignment, a log entry, and notification of the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor.

If caught cheating on a critical and/or common assessment, the assessment must be completed to pass the class for the semester. In this case, a zero will be given for the work; however, it must be completed for the teacher to evaluate the student's skills and readiness to move onto the next course. The timeline for successful completion will be arranged between the student and teacher and will be communicated with the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor.

If caught accidentally plagiarizing an assignment (i.e. an essay or research paper), the student will have the opportunity to learn from the mistakes and receive credit for the assessment. Should accidental plagiarism occur, the critical and/or

common assessment will be returned to the student for resubmission. The critical and/or common assessment will not be graded until the student has made the appropriate revisions. The timeline for successfully resubmitting the assessment and demonstrating mastery of the skills will be arranged between the student and teacher and will be communicated with the parent/guardian and administrator/counselor. Failure to successfully resubmit the assignment and demonstrate skill mastery will result in a percentage deduction.

The English department recognizes a difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

- Cheating is the intentional use of someone else's work being presented as one's own work (i.e. submitting another student's essay).
- Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own (i.e. forgetting a work's cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).

With regard to cheating, school policy will be enforced. Remember that cheating is as much a character issue as it is a policy issue.

AI/ChatGPT Policy:

AI (artificial intelligence) is an evolving and growing space as I type this. I recognize the tools available to us right now will evolve as the school year progresses. And, I fully recognize that it's ridiculous for teachers to believe technology like this won't be available to people in the future. Yes, I was once told that I wouldn't have a calculator in my pocket by my math teachers when I was in middle and high school – and look how true *those* threats were.

However, and this is the important part here, the students in my classroom still need to understand the *why* and *how* behind grammatical structures, spelling, sentence variety, and the myriad of other things real writing does. This happens by *doing the work* and getting “messy” with writing, drafting, and revising.

Therefore, the use of AI in my courses will be considered cheating and will result in a log entry, conversation with the administrator, and a 0 for the assignment with a plan to make up the assignment for half credit.

This AI/ChatGPT policy is new territory and is evolving. It may change to align with English Department, WFHS, and/or WFPS policies. Any changes will be announced.