

SAMPLE SYLLABUS. Enrolled students will receive the finalized syllabus prior to the start of the institute.

## English Composition 50 | Writing Summer Institute: Introduction to College Writing Course Syllabus



Meeting dates:       Tuesdays 10 AM – 12:30 PM; 1 PM – 2 PM  
                              Thursdays 10 AM – 12:30 PM

Classroom location:

Office hours:         By appointment

### **Course Description:**

This workshop serves as a basic introduction to critical reading and academic writing. More broadly still, English Composition 50 will help orient you to specific matters of language and communication at the university. It is a bigger task than you might imagine. If you think of it, you'll realize that every comment you make in class and every e-mail you write to an instructor or counselor occurs in a social context that will be new to you as a first-term college student. We'll attend, therefore, to those small bits of class-related communication in addition to in-class exams and formal essay assignments. By the end of the term, you should find that this workshop has prepared you to speak, write, and learn more effectively as you move towards the full college experience.

### **Course Requirements:**

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In addition to doing the assigned reading and viewing, and attending PLF workshops the first three Tuesdays of the term, you will need to complete:

- daily in-class exercises plus three out-of-class journal entries
- one in-class essay
- one brief (3 pages) formal paper/critical analysis (draft and revision required)
- one college application statement (draft only)

In a class like this where you learn actively (that is, by doing), it is essential that you:

- Attend regularly. Attendance needs to be thought of as more than just showing up; it involves being in class on time ready to learn. To *attend* is to arrive prepared and to participate thoughtfully in discussions and activities. If you already know that you must miss one class meeting, talk to your instructor right away. Missing more than one class constitutes a serious problem. Note the section on grading below.
- Keep up with the assigned reading. While the reading list in this course will be fairly brief, you must allow time not only to “get through” a certain number of pages but to understand and engage what you read. Be sure to allow time to read, re-read, annotate and reflect.
- Finish all written work on time. Written work is not only the final drafts of the major assignment, but in-class exercises and preliminary drafts of assignments. Remember that this course focuses on the writing *process*. Late work undercuts that process.

### **Journals**

Journals are informal, though thoughtful and specific, responses to the texts—written, visual, or cinematic—that we’ll be encountering this summer. This exercise is not a test or quiz—just an opportunity to express your ideas freely, without pressure, and to (re)discover the pleasure of writing. I’ll give you specific prompts at the beginning of most class sessions, and you’ll have about 10 minutes to respond.

Take-home prompts will be submitted by email from the instructor and will be submitted via email. (Finish one by 7/15, the other by 7/22—you may complete these in any order you prefer).

### **Course Grading:**

English Composition 50 carries 2 units of college credit. To earn that credit, you must complete the required work and follow the guidelines listed above. Because this workshop aims at helping you prepare for your future college work, final grades will largely be determined by the quality and consistency of your engagement with the course. That is to say, attendance, participation, and the timely submission of all assignments will count heavily toward your final

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grade. The quality of your writing will carry weight, but not so much as it would in a regular university course.

In order to pass the class, you must attend every meeting, unless illness or a family emergency causes the absence.

Our readings will focus on the following intersecting themes: Rites of Passage; Transitioning to College; Embracing Challenges; Living Online; and Acting Purposefully

Please bring to class each day: your journal, your syllabus, and all course readings.

**Course Texts: TBA**

- Reading, which are posted to our course website (**also referred to as BruinLearn**)

**Course Schedule**

**Thurs., July 6 – Rites of Passage**

Before class read and annotate assigned readings

*In-class:*

- Introductions! Course and Students
- Annotation and reading strategies
- Reading discussions
- Writing project overview
- Reading response assignment overview
- Brainstorm college questions

PLF session (1-2 PM): Ask college questions and participate in UCLA tour

**Tues. July 11 – Transitioning to college**

Before class read and annotate assigned readings

*In-class:*

- Analytical paper assignment overview
- Summarizing and Quoting
- Developing Strong Paragraphs

**Thurs., July 13 – Embracing Challenges**

Before class read and annotate assigned readings

*In-class:*

- Thesis and Reported Speech
- Emailing tips

PLF Session (1-2 PM): Groupwork on Project

**Tues., July 18 – Living Online**

Before class read and annotate assigned readings

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*In-class:*

- Cohesion and Clarity
- Prepare for in-class essay
- College Application Essay Assignment overview

**Thurs., July 20 – Reflecting and Moving Forward (commencement speeches)**

Before class read and annotate assigned readings

*In-class:*

- Sign up for conferences
- In-class essay (1 hour, 15 minutes)
- Strategies for revising your writing

PLF session (1-2 PM): Bain group project Task B

**Tues., July 25 – Acting Purposefully**

Before class read and annotate readings

*In-class:*

- Peer review share
- Style Analysis
- Editing tips

**Thurs., July 27 -- Wrap-up & Reflection**

Before class read and annotate readings

*In-class:*

- Group Presentations
- Major course takeaways: Which reading did you connect with most strongly, and why? If you were to select a film for this class, what would you suggest, and why?
- Portfolio letter for the analytical paper

PLF session (1-2PM): Feedback on college application essay