

Teacher: Kristin Nelson
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Composition Syllabus **2011-2012**

Welcome to Composition. In this class, you'll be reading fiction, essays, poetry, plays, and graphic novels. You'll strengthen your skills as a persuasive, analytical, and descriptive writer, developing your own style in a variety of genres. You'll learn to think critically about writing through careful reading and revision. And you'll learn the importance of the terrible, terrible first draft. I'm looking forward to an excellent year with you all.

Please read this syllabus carefully and keep it in your files for reference.

Main texts (subject to change)

The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger

Coraline – Neil Gaiman

Romeo and Juliet – William Shakespeare

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

Persepolis – Marjane Satrapi

We'll also read an assortment of poetry, short stories, and essays.

Things to bring to class

The book we're reading

A pen or pencil you enjoy writing with

A binder with lots of paper and enough room to organize your handouts and writing

Your planner

A hard copy of your homework (I do not accept homework by email except in case of illness – see my late work policy on the reverse for further details)

Grade breakdown (by semester)

50% regular writing and in-class work

Weekly writing, reading notes, essay drafts, in-class projects and performances, and other ongoing efforts.

35% formal essays and major projects

The biggies: final drafts of your essays, as well as end-of-term exams, presentations and portfolios.

15% quizzes

Vocabulary, grammar and pop quizzes as my whim dictates.

Late work policy

It's important to take responsibility for your own work in Comp. This is a fast-paced class, and you will quickly fall behind if you start missing assignments. Please pay close attention to the following policy.

Late work: Late work will be penalized by a full letter grade (10%) every class day past the deadline. For instance, a paper that would have gotten an A on Monday will get a B on Tuesday, a C on Wednesday, and so on. The grade is capped after a 50% loss. Remember that getting an F is a better choice than getting a zero – partial credit is better than none.

Absences: If you're absent, it's your responsibility to find out what you've missed. Contact me or talk to a classmate. If you miss a quiz, contact me to arrange a time to take it.

Contact details

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions about Intermediate Composition. My email address is **kristinn@maybeckhs.org**.