

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

Welcome to Intermediate Composition. In this class, you'll be producing increasingly sophisticated formal essays in preparation for next year's Literature course. You'll become a discerning self-editor, and learn the value of the terrible first draft. You'll cement your understanding of research, citation, and MLA formatting. You'll read everything from poetry to comics, honing your skills in critical thinking, literary analysis, and academic discussion. You'll also continue to develop your voice as a creative writer in a variety of genres. 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)**

*Cyrano de Bergerac* – Edmond Rostand  
(translated by Anthony Burgess)  
*Cruddy* – Lynda Barry  
*Twelfth Night* – William Shakespeare  
*The Princess Bride* – William Goldman

*Chicken with Plums* – Marjane Satrapi  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* – Oscar Wilde  
*Giovanni's Room* – James Baldwin  
*The Winter's Tale* – William Shakespeare  
Assorted 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  
Your homework

### **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.*

40% formal essays and major projects  
*The biggies: final drafts of your major essays, as well as end-of-term exams, presentations and portfolios.*

10% quizzes  
*Vocabulary, grammar and pop quizzes as my whim dictates.*

**Late work policy**

It's important to take responsibility for your own work in I-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](mailto:kristinn@maybeckhs.org)**.