



COURSE OUTLINE

<b>Name:</b> English Composition I	<b>Requisites:</b> LM-1002
<b>Course Code:</b> LM-1235	<b>Co-requisites:</b> None
<b>Credits:</b> 3	<b>Type:</b> Plan de Estudios B.A. in English and B.A. and Profesorado in English Teaching
<b>Schedule:</b> Class hours: 3 Out-of-Class hours: 6	<b>Weeks:</b> 16
<b>Level:</b> Second Year	<b>Cycle:</b> I Semester, 2024
	<b>Mode:</b> 100% On - site
<b>Professor:</b> Licda. Daniela Gómez Navarrete	<b>E – mail:</b> <a href="mailto:profesora.danielaucr@gmail.com">profesora.danielaucr@gmail.com</a> <b>HAE:</b> Mondays from 19:00 pm to 20:00 pm and Tuesdays from 13:00 to 14:00 pm.

**I. DESCRIPTION**

This course is the first of six required composition courses for students in the BA in English and BA and “Profesorado” in English Teaching undergraduate programs. It provides hands-on practice on the basic principles of academic writing in English.

In this course, the emphasis will be on the essential elements of a formal academic paragraph to provide a solid basis for the progressive introduction of different genres in future composition and literature courses.

Sample paragraphs will serve as models for the students to construct original, unified, coherent paragraphs, to enrich their vocabulary, and to strengthen their grammatical skills.

**This course will be 100% on-site for I-2024 with a Low virtuality component.**

**II. GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

Write coherent and logical paragraphs through the gradual process of pre-writing, writing, and revising by applying different discourse principles and organizational techniques.

**III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

During this course, the students will

- A. define the audience, purpose, and topic of their compositions.
- B. organize their ideas through a formal outline.
- C. write syntactically correct sentences using a variety of grammatical patterns.
- D. apply grammatical principles related to verb forms, verb tenses, agreement, and

word formation to their writing.

- E. connect ideas in their compositions using appropriate transition words and phrases.
- F. use vocabulary appropriate to the topic, audience, and type of writing tasks
- G. write well-structured one-paragraph compositions using the classification and comparison/contrast.
- H. apply the principles of mechanics (MLA format, spelling, punctuation, capitalization) in their compositions.
- I. develop proofreading and editing skills.

#### **IV. CONTENT**

##### **A. Modern Language Association (MLA) format**

1. Heading
2. Margins
3. Title
4. Type of paper, font

##### **B. Organizing principles**

1. Outlining (writing plans)
2. Writing an appropriate title
3. Writing the topic sentence, supporting sentences (relevant vs. irrelevant ideas), and the concluding sentence
4. Revising ideas
5. Editing the composition

##### **C. Rhetorical modes**

1. Classification
2. Comparison / Contrast

##### **D. Grammar**

Fragments, run-ons, and comma splices

##### **E. Vocabulary**

Conciseness vs. wordiness

##### **F. Punctuation**

Punctuation marks: commas, colons, semicolons

##### **G. Capitalization**

##### **H. Critical thinking skills**

1. Analyzing topics critically
2. Identifying personal bias while expressing ideas
3. Using logical supporting ideas
4. Using logical examples to support opinions
5. Analyzing causes and effects accurately
6. Avoiding generalizations

## 7. Drawing logical conclusions

### V. METHODOLOGY

This course will be face-to-face (on-site) during this semester.

Working individually or in small groups, students will (a) write for fluency, (b) read and analyze authentic/student-written texts, (c) engage in pre-writing, revising, and editing, (d) write compositions, (e) participate in discussions, and (f) do exercises on grammar, mechanics, and writing skills.

Compositions will be assigned on a regular basis both in class and out of class. Emphasis will be placed on autonomous learning; therefore, students will be expected to keep track of their own progress by paying attention to the strengths and weaknesses in their writing, based on feedback from the instructor and from peers.

**Students are expected to do the assigned readings and exercises before class and to have an active participation during face-to-face sessions.**

**Mediación Virtual** will be used as a repository of materials and documents, and, if requested, out-of-class assignments will be uploaded there.

**Important note:** When deemed desirable, instructors may use artificial intelligence (AI) for pedagogical purposes. Examples of such use could be analyzing a model to outline it, to add connectors, to structure it differently (e.g., from block to point-by-point organization), to turn it into a draft essay, to insert a missing topic sentence or revise the existing one, etc. Nonetheless, students should be very careful when resorting to AI for graded in-class or out-of-class assignments when the purpose of the evaluation is to assess learners' own ability to write a text. In such cases, the use of AI will not be tolerated, and content will be greatly affected. In this course, the instructor's ultimate goal is to aid the student in becoming a more proficient writer, not to review the work of AIs.

### VI. EVALUATION

Composition 1 (Classification)	20% (V1: 50% - FV: 50%)
Exam 1 (Classification)	30%
Composition 2 (Comparison/Contrast)	20% (V1: 50% - FV: 50%)
Exam 2 (Comparison/Contrast)	30%

**IMPORTANT:** Students with a grade 8.5 or higher will not be required to do a second version. Exemption will be applied to students with a grade of 9 or higher in all assignments.

**All above compositions / exams are written in class.**

### VII. Evaluation Guidelines

1. All compositions assigned outside of class must be typed double-spaced, using Arial font,

size 12 and 1-inch (2.54 cm) margins.

2. In-class compositions must be written legibly on **ruled** 8 ½ X 11" letter size sheets.

3. The compositions should be approximately 175-200 words long.

4. All essays must follow the style of the Modern Language Association (MLA) format, latest version. **If not so, they will not be accepted, and will be graded with a zero (0).**

5. Students must follow the instructions given for both in-class and out-of-class assignments.

6. The compositions assigned outside of class must be signed by the student before being handed in to the professor.

7. All compositions must be **turned in on time**. In unforeseen situations, compositions prepared outside of class may be accepted 10 minutes after the start of the lesson. Other cases may be considered on the basis of the University regulations.

8. Unless instructed by the instructor, students **should not consult** external sources for writing their compositions.

9. When the instructor makes use of additional readings, students may use them in order to: (a) explore the possible areas of a topic that will be critically analyzed by the student in his/her composition, (b) study new vocabulary related to the topic, and (c) incorporate that vocabulary accurately in his/her compositions. The content of these readings should not be partially or totally summarized in the compositions.

10. **Plagiarism** will **not** be tolerated as it constitutes a very serious academic offense. Plagiarized work will receive a **grade of 0** and a serious misdemeanor will be filed in the student's record. For more details, see Article 4 to 9 of the "*Reglamento de Orden y Disciplina de los Estudiantes de la Universidad de Costa Rica*"\*\*\*

**IMPORTANT:** Every student in every course is subject to the evaluation regulations of the University of Costa Rica.

## VIII. REFERENCE

Henry, D. J. *Writing for Life: Paragraphs and Essays*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Pearson, 2016.

### From **REGLAMENTO DE RÉGIMEN ACADÉMICO ESTUDIANTIL**\*\*\*

ARTÍCULO 4. Son faltas muy graves:

- g) Utilizar, con conocimiento de causa, documentos falsificados, para cualquier gestión universitaria administrativa, académica o de cualquier otra índole.
- j) Plagiar, en todo o en parte, obras intelectuales de cualquier tipo.
- k) Presentar como propia una obra intelectual elaborada por otra u otras personas, para cumplir con los requisitos de cursos, trabajos finales de graduación o actividades académicas similares.

ARTÍCULO 5. Son faltas graves:

- c) Copiar de otro estudiante tareas, informes de laboratorio, trabajos de investigación o de cualquier otro tipo de actividad académica.

ARTÍCULO 9. Las faltas serán sancionadas según la magnitud del hecho con las siguientes medidas:

- a) Las faltas muy graves, con suspensión de su condición de estudiante regular no menor de seis meses calendario, hasta por seis años calendario.
- b) Las graves con suspensión de quince días lectivos a seis meses calendario.

ARTÍCULO 22. Debe observarse el siguiente procedimiento, en relación con la calificación, entrega e impugnación de los resultados de cualquier prueba de evaluación, salvo disposición expresa en contrario:

- a) El profesor debe entregar a los alumnos las evaluaciones calificadas y todo documento o material sujeto a evaluación, a más tardar diez días hábiles después de haberse efectuado las evaluaciones y haber recibido los documentos.

## IX. Tentative Course Syllabus (may be modified or changed based on circumstances)

WEEK	DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES
<b>Week 1</b> March 11th -15th	Introduction to the course (explain Program and Syllabus) Diagnostic activity and icebreakers Understanding Teacher's Feedback (Evaluation scales) <b>Assignment:</b> Understanding the Paragraph
<b>Week 2</b> March 18th-22nd	Understanding the Paragraph (Topic Sentence, Supporting Ideas, Concluding Sentence) Format for compositions ( <b>MLA</b> ) Outlining <b>Assignment 1:</b> The Classification Paragraph <b>Assignment 2:</b> The Comma Four Basic Uses of Colons and Semicolons

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 3</b>  March 25<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> *  <b>EASTER WEEK (NO CLASS)</b></p>	
<p><b>Week 4</b>  April 1st – 5th</p>	<p>The Classification Paragraph  The Comma  Comma splices  Uses of Colons and Semicolons</p> <p><b>Assignment:</b>  Version 1 on classification: brainstorming, outline, topic sentence, supporting ideas.</p>
<p><b>Week 5</b>  April 8th-12th</p>	<p><b>Version 1: <i>In-class Classification Compo (10%)</i></b></p> <p><b>Assignment:</b>  Run-ons, Fragments, Parallelism</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 6</b>  April 15<sup>th</sup>* (Holiday)-19<sup>th</sup>  <b>HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)</b></p>	
<p><b>Week 7</b>  April 22nd-26th*</p>	<p><b>Parallel activities</b>  Individual Feedback on <b>Version 1 (first half of the class)</b>  Practice on fragments, run-ons, commas, semi colons  <b>Semana U*</b></p>
<p><b>Week 8</b>  April 29-May 3rd</p>	<p><b>Parallel activities</b>  Individual Feedback on <b>Version 1 (first half of the class)</b>  Practice on fragments, run-ons, commas, semi colons  Review and practice on fragments, run-ons, commas, semi colons, and parallelism  <b>Assignment:</b>  Parallelism  Prepare final version of classification composition (second half of the class)  <b>Hand in Final Version (10%)</b></p>
<p><b>Week 9</b>  May 6th- 10th</p>	<p>Feedback on Classification composition  Extra practice on punctuation  General Review for Exam # 1</p>
<p><b>Week 10</b>  May 13th-17th</p>	<p><b><u>Exam #1: The Classification Paragraph (In-class timed composition 30%)</u></b>  <b>Assignment:</b> The Comparison and Contrast Paragraph</p>
<p><b>Week 11</b>  May 20th-24th*</p>	<p>The Comparison and Contrast Paragraph  <b>Assignment:</b> Capitalization</p>
<p><b>Week 12</b>  May 27th-31st</p>	<p><b>Version 1: <i>In-class Comparison and Contrast Composition (10%)</i></b>  <b>Assignment:</b> Capitalization</p>

<b>Week 13</b> June 3rd-7th	The Comparison and Contrast Paragraph (Cont.) Capitalization Feedback of <b>Version 1</b>
<b>Week 14</b> June 10th-14th	<b>Final Version: <i>In-class Comparison and Contrast Composition (10%)</i></b>
<b>Week 15</b> June 17th-21st	Feedback on Comparison and Contrast composition General Review for Exam # 2
<b>Week 16</b> June 24th-28th	<b><u>Exam # 2: The Comparison-Contrast Paragraph (In-class timed composition 30%)</u></b>
<b>Week 17</b> July 1st-5th	<b><u>Final Results</u></b>
<p><b><i>Ampliación Exam: <u>July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 13:00 to 15:50 p.m.</u></i></b></p> <p>For this exam, students will be required to write one composition and its corresponding outline applying the comparison and contrast rhetorical pattern studied during the semester.</p>	