# ‘Advanced English Composition.’

# Dong-A University. Department of English. Spring 2013.

**Professor:** Joseph Andrew Carrier, MA English (cyanocitta@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** By Appointment (A1116)

**Text:** “Great Writing 4: Great Essays” by Keith Folse et al.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to develop advanced English writing skills, and will focus specifically on the short essay. The writing method taught in this course is simple to learn and put into practice. It is a step-by-step approach to essay development with four primary content areas:

* **Organization:** You will learn how to turn an idea into an essay topic, how to turn a personal position on that topic into a thesis statement, how to generate ideas to support your position, and how to frame these ideas in a clear and concise manner through the creation of topic sentences and paragraphs. You will also learn how to write attention-grabbing introductions, thought-provoking conclusions, and basic transitions.
* **Editing:** You will also be shown how to turn a rough first draft into a finely polished finished product. The course will provide you with a review of basic sentence structure, including basic mechanics and punctuation. You will also learn more complex sentence forms, such as sentence combining and embedded construction. Challenging and often misused words and phrases will be reviewed.
* **Rhetoric:** You will learn rhetorical methods to help you make thoughtful arguments and provide compelling examples in your writing.
* **Style:** You will learn elements of style to help you write beautiful and entertaining prose which captures the music and poetry of the English language, including metaphor, sensory detail, and graphic imagery.

**Standard of Assessment:**

* **Assessment:** Grades in the class will be calculated based on a simple 100 point system. Attendance: 20 points (each unexcused absence = -5). Classroom Participation and Homework: 20 points. Examinations: 20 points (cumulative average of all scores). Essays and Writing: 40 points (cumulative average of all scores).
* **Attendance:** You are expected to show up on time, prepared, every day. If you miss a class for any reason you are expected to complete all missed work. If you want an A+ in this class you should have perfect attendance.
* **Participation**: The classroom is a community in which every member must participate. If you have a comment or question, speak up. Your feedback might be exactly what another student needs to hear at that moment. Your question is probably on the mind of several other people anyway. It is *critical* that you help each other as much as possible. A major portion of your classroom participation grade will be based on your interaction with other students.
* **Homework** and in-class writing assignments will be assigned periodically. Homework is designed to reinforce concepts from the class itself so it is important to make sure you understand the material presented in class in order to easily complete the associated homework.
* **Essay Scoring:** It is my goal to give you an opportunity to learn as much about writing as possible in a short amount of time. I believe that writing is a craft and best learned by doing it (rather than talking about how to do it). We will be discussing each of the following areas of assessment in detail in class and working on them in our writing. Each essay will be scored according to the following rubric: 40 points total with 10 points for each of the following: Editing (grammar, spelling, punctuation, and formatting), Organization (Thesis, Topic Sentences, Transitions, etc.), Rhetoric (presenting compelling examples/proofs), and Style (brevity, variation, metaphor, etc).
* **Essay revision**: It is important to understand that revision, even for seasoned professional writers, is one of the most critical parts of the writing process. Nobody writes a perfect first draft. Most writers rewrite material many, many times before arriving at a finished product. Revision is not a penalty; it is part of the learning process. If a certain problem, say comma usage, is a pattern in your essay, I will also likely assign extra worksheets for you in those areas. You will have one week from the date that your essay is returned to complete the revisions for an improved grade (up to 50% of the difference).

**Course Schedule.**

I will be assessing the class throughout the semester and making adjustments to the schedule as we go along. This will allow us to focus on the special needs of the individuals in the class. The following are approximate and will likely change as a result.

Week One: Course Introduction and Overview of Essay Format

Week Two: Building Better Sentences

Week Three: Writing the Introduction

Week Four: Writing the Body

Week Five: Writing the Conclusion

Week Six: Narrative Essays I

Week Seven: Narrative Essays II

Week Eight: Midterm Exam

Week Nine: Comparison Essays I

Week Ten: Comparison Essays II

Week Eleven: Cause and Effect Essays I

Week Twelve: Cause and Effect Essays II

Week Thirteen: Argumentative Essays I

Week Fourteen: Argumentative Essays II

Week Fifteen: Argumentative Essays III

Week Sixteen: Final Exam