# Advanced Writing ~ Spring 2021

# Dong-A University Humanities

**Professor:** Joe Carrier (email: cyanocitta@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Rm. 1116 by appointment.

**Text:** Folse, Ken, et al. *Great Writing 3: From Great Paragraphs to Great Essays.* Third Edition. New York: Heinle, 2015.

**Class Website:** http://www.joeteacher.org/advanced-composition.html

**Course Description:**

This introductory course is designed to develop college-level writing skills, and will focus specifically on learning to build effectively constructed paragraphs into well-organized essays.

* The writing method taught in this course is simple to learn and put into practice. In the first section of the course we will learn a step-by-step approach to paragraph development. In the second section of the course we will learn how to build essays using paragraphs as building blocks.
* 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 will be reviewed.
* This course also focuses on how to use editing techniques to polish your writing. We will use various methods (including individualized feedback from your instructor and peer-editing workshops) to learn how to turn a rough first draft into a finely polished finished product.

Upon completing this course you will have mastered the skills needed to advance to other English curricula with justified confidence in your writing ability.

**Course Methodology:**

* **Assessment:** Final grades for this class based on the following: Attendance 20%; Writing Projects 20%; Participation in Class Activities 20%; Mid-term Examination, 20%; Final Examination, 20%. The university dictates the use of a bell-curve to calculate final scores relative to other students (A: 50%; B, C, D, F 50%). Please note that this grading policy is subject to change without notice.
* **Attendance**: 5% will be deducted from the final grade for each absence. Points will not be deducted for absence if the student presents suitable written explanatory documentation (ex. Doctor's note). Late = absent (Each student will be allowed one “late” per semester). Five absences will result in a grade of “F”.
* **Participation**: You are expected to show up on time, prepared, every day. 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 teamwork with other students.
* **Writing Assignments** will be assigned regularly. These 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.
* **Examinations** will consist of classroom writing from prompts distributed during the exams. The midterm will consist of a paragraph and will be assessed for grammar, organization, style, and content. The final exam will consist of a short essay written out of class and submitted during the exam period. The prompt for this essay will be distributed one week before the exam.
* **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 paragraph, I will also likely assign extra worksheets for you in those areas. You will have one week from the date that your writing is returned to you to complete the revisions and associated assignments. Written assignments may be revised for an improved grade (up to 50% of the difference).
* **Class discipline**: I want class to be fun, but it is everyone's personal responsibility to promote a professional and respectful learning environment. I would like the students to be especially considerate during the lectures. If students are talking, writing notes, playing on their cell phones, or sleeping in class it is a distraction to other students and makes the lecturer feel horrible. Please be considerate to the teacher and to other students by making a commitment to giving 100% of your attention during lectures. Also, I have a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. If you copy the words or ideas of another person without telling who that person is and where they wrote it, that is academic theft. If you do this you will receive a zero for the assignment and possibly even an “F” for the course.

**Course Calendar:**

This coursework schedule is presented as a blueprint for our semester’s work. It is not by any means written in stone. If changes are made to the schedule, I will inform you in class. Telling me that you were not aware of changes will be no excuse if assignments are not handed in on time: check with fellow students or me if you are unsure.

**Week One**. Student Writing Sample. Course Introduction.

**Week Two**. Unit 1: Introduction to Paragraphs (*GW3*: 2-37); Homework: “Understanding the Writing Process: The Seven Steps” (*GW3*: 191-198)

**Week Three**. Unit 1 continued; Homework: “Editing Your Writing” (*GW3*: 199-203)

**Week Four**. Unit 1 continued; Homework: “Capitalization Activities” (*GW3*: 204-207)

**Week Five**. Unit 2: Five Elements of Good Writing (*GW3*: 38-63); Homework: “Punctuation Activities” (*GW3*: 207-213)

**Week Six**. Unit 3: Types of Paragraphs (*GW3*: 64-89); Homework: “Sentence Types” (*GW3*: 213-215)

**Week Seven**: Course Review and Exam Prep; Final date for Book Marking

**Week Eight: Midterm Exam**

**Week Nine**. Unit 4: Descriptive Essays: Moving from Paragraph to Essay (*GW3*: 90-113); Homework: “Additional Grammar Exercises” (*GW3*: 216-220)

**Week Ten**. Unit 4 continued; Homework: “Connectors” (*GW3*: 220-222)

**Week Eleven**. Unit 4 continued; Homework: “Citations and Plagiarism” (*GW3*: 222-223)

**Week Twelve**. Unit 5: Comparison Essays (*GW3*: 114-137)

**Week Thirteen**. Unit 6: Cause and Effect Essays (*GW3*: 138-163)

**Week Fourteen**. Unit 7: Classification Essays (*GW3*: 164-189)

**Week Fifteen.** Course Review and Exam Prep; Final Date for Book Marking

**Week Sixteen**: **Final Exam**