

Writing II Syllabus 2024-2025

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Welcome to Writing II! This semester-long course is designed to empower students with the tools and techniques needed to excel in all areas of writing. The class will focus on enhancing grammar skills, mastering effective test-taking strategies, and refining overall writing abilities. Through engaging activities and targeted practice, students will build confidence in their writing, ensuring they are well-prepared for various writing tasks, including essays, narratives, research papers, and standardized tests. This course aims to strengthen each student's foundation in writing, helping them to express their ideas clearly and effectively in any context.

Content of the Course:

- **Grammar Essentials**
 - Parts of Speech Review (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, etc.)
 - Sentence Structure (simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences)
 - Subject-Verb Agreement
 - Pronoun Usage and Antecedents
 - Correct Punctuation (commas, semicolons, colons, etc.)
 - Common Grammar Mistakes and How to Avoid Them
 - Active vs. Passive Voice
- **Writing Process**
 - Prewriting Techniques (brainstorming, outlining, mapping ideas)
 - Drafting and Organizing Ideas
 - Writing Strong Introductions and Conclusions
 - Developing Paragraph Structure (topic sentences, supporting details, transitions)
 - Editing and Revising Strategies
 - Proofreading for Clarity and Coherence
- **Writing Styles and Techniques**
 - Narrative Writing (developing voice and perspective)
 - Persuasive Writing (crafting arguments and supporting evidence)
 - Analytical Writing (developing thesis statements and analyzing texts)
 - Research Writing (citation styles, incorporating sources, avoiding plagiarism)
- **Test-Taking Strategies for Writing**
 - Understanding Different Writing Prompts
 - Techniques for Answering Multiple-Choice Grammar Questions
 - Planning and Structuring Timed Essays
- **Building Vocabulary**
 - Strategies for Learning New Words
 - Using Context Clues to Determine Meaning
 - Incorporating Advanced Vocabulary into Writing
 - Avoiding Common Misused Words
- **Collaborative Writing and Peer Review**
 - Working in Groups to Develop Ideas
 - Providing Constructive Feedback
 - Revising Work Based on Peer and Instructor Feedback

Weekly Routines:

Every unit we will focus on a topic. There will be two types of units:

4 Day Unit

Day A	Day B	Day C	Day D
Grammar Intensive	Multiple Choice Practice and Test-Taking Strategies	Writing Practice	Discussions, Debates, or Public Speaking

6 Day Unit

Day A	Day B	Day C	Day D	Day Aa	Day Bb
Grammar Intensive	Multiple Choice Practice and Test-Taking Strategies	Writing Practice	Discussions, Debates, or Public Speaking	Editing Essays for Grammar and Syntax	Revising Essay for Clarity and Organization

Possible Topics

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate change• 2024 Election• GMOs vs organic farming• School Policies/Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships• Friendships• Silly Topics• Current events• Film and media studies• Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AI• Mental Health• Celebrities/ celebrity gossip• Music/Artists
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Norms: It is important that we understand classroom norms in order to make informed choices about our behavior. Behavior that doesn't meet these expectations will result in a consequence that may include: loss of classroom privileges, referral to administration, conference with parent or guardian or administration, and in-school suspension.

- **Cell Phones-** Cell phones are to be put away in the "phone spa" when students walk into the classroom each day.
 - If a student is found to be lying about not having a cell phone or if a student brings more than one cellphone to class, their phone will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. If a student refuses to hand over their cell phone or if cell phone use becomes a recurring issue, a conference will be called with the student, the parent/guardian, and the school administration.
- **iPads-** Students are expected to bring their iPads to school every day, fully charged. When completing work on their iPads, students should remain on task and avoid distractions, games, or work for other classes.
- **Smartwatches and headphones-** Students are expected to place their smartwatches and headphones in their backpacks when entering the classroom.

Grading: In this class, we follow the AUC grading policy. Within this policy there are four grade categories:

- **Homework** (ex: MCQ practice, assigned videos, incomplete classwork): **10% of final grade.** Homework is essential for developing self-pacing skills and ensuring you're prepared for class by reinforcing concepts and building the discipline needed for academic success.
- **Classwork** (ex: discussions, organizers, participation): **20% of final grade.** Participation builds the college-ready skills of being independently present, attentive, and active during class.
- **Quizzes** (ex: multiple-choice, writing-element checks, and quick-write extensions): **30% of final grade.** Quizzes will provide an opportunity to receive feedback on your progress toward the acquisition of skills and that will be tested throughout the year.
- **Tests** (ex: Essays, multiple-choice Tests): **40% of final grade.** This is your opportunity to show your understanding of daily learning. All assessment grades are evaluated using a criteria for success and/or rubric.

Grading Scales:

- Classwork and Assessments will be graded according to the chart below:

Incomplete	Emerging	E/D	Developing	D/P	Proficient	P/A	Advanced
50%	63%	69%	75%	82%	88%	94%	100%

- Quick Writes will be graded on a one-point scale.
 - 1 point if you did it thoughtfully.
 - .5 points if you did it, but barely.
 - 0 points if you didn't do it.

Late Work: An assignment is late if you are in class on the due date of an assignment and do not turn it in, or if you have an unexcused absence on the due date of an assignment and do not turn it in. If you have an excused absence, and turn in your work upon your return, your work is not late.

- Students with excused absences will have one day for each excused absence to make up the work.
- Late work for a given unit will be accepted until **5 days after the due date.** Once homework is late, an increment of ten (10) points is deducted from the grade, after the homework is graded for the correctness.

Plagiarism: Using or closely imitating someone else's work, including a peer's, without citation and claiming it as your own is one of the most serious academic offenses. It carries strong consequences now and in college. The use of AI-powered tools, such as ChatGPT or similar artificial intelligence platforms, to generate or complete assignments is strictly prohibited. Even if it is claimed to be accidental, plagiarism is not tolerated in our class. Plagiarism and unauthorized use of AI tools will result in the following consequences:

1. First Offense: Student receives no credit for the assignment, but can redo the assignment for credit after a required conference with Ms. Patino.
2. Second Offense: Student receives no credit for the assignment, but can redo the assignment for 50% credit after a required conference with Ms. Patino and a parent/guardian.
3. Third Offense: Student receives no credit for the assignment. Requires a conference with Ms. Patino and Mr. Kertesz.

Teacher/Student/Parent Communication:

- Teacher – Student communication is done via email, Google Classroom, or in-person.
- Teacher – Parent communication is done via email: tatiana.patino@archimedrean.org
 - To schedule parent-teacher conference please email the request to the above-mentioned school email

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the Writing II Syllabus.

- As a student, You agree to adhere to the policies, expectations, and guidelines outlined in this document.
- As a parent/guardian, you commit to supporting your student's educational journey and understanding the course requirements.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____