COMPOSITION

1 Trimester - ½ credit

Composition is a writing class designed for college-bound seniors. It will stress descriptive, argumentative, persuasive, and analytical writing. A major emphasis will be on library research and the writing necessary for completing research papers. Students enrolling in this class should, by the end of the semester, feel confident that they will be able to write successful college research papers and assignments.

I. GOALS

A. To help students develop structured writing skills

B. To help students realize that reason, imagination, and sensitivity to experience are crucial to good writing

C. To show students a variety of techniques for collecting, evaluating, organizing, and presenting information

II. UNITS OF STUDY

A. Types of writing

1. Opinion (mandatory for credit)

2. Persuasive Research paper (mandatory for credit)

3. Critical analysis

4. Essay

a. Impromptu

b. Mid-term exam

c. Final exam

B. Stylistic techniques

1. Clarity

2. Transition

3. Detail

4. Definition

5. Vocabulary

C. Grammar

1. Pronouns

a. Agreement

b. Clear antecedent

2. Passive voice

3. Parallel structure

4. Other problem areas

# D. Punctuation

1. Commas

2. Semicolons

F. Literature

1. Supplementary satire literature

2. Independent novel from teacher approved list

3. Supplementary persuasive literature

III. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AND EXPECTATIONS

A. Necessary materials

1. Paper/pens

2. Texts

a. *Writing the Research Paper: A Handbook*

b. *The Lively Art of Writing* (continued on back)

C. Classroom rules

1. Be on time.

2. Bring materials.

3. Use class time for senior composition assignments.

4. Follow teacher directions on use of work time.

D. Miscellaneous

1. If absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and what needs to be completed. **Except for long illnesses, due dates will remain the same**.

2. If you do not complete all of the mandatory papers, you will not receive credit for the semester.

3. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade.