

Core 120: English Composition (3 credits)
Dordt University (online)
Summer

Instructor Information:

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Course Description: Students will participate in a number of writing experiences which will help them become aware of writing as a process and develop skills in generating ideas, revising, and editing. They will also review traditional grammar and principles of usage and style.

Course Philosophy: Writing is a gift from God to be practiced and developed but is often met with fear and resistance because the process seems nebulous and unclear. Many students are not sure why they write well while other struggle with writing and don't have a clear understanding how to improve. I am here to tell you: writing is a skill that can be taught, and it can improve through consistent practice. Think of this class as a sports team (or drama troupe, speech team, choir, band) and me as your coach. Instead of winning a football game or finishing first in a race, we are working together, training to write a polished college paper. No one expects a runner to run a marathon at the first practice, and I don't expect you to write like an expert the first day. I have carefully designed our training sessions to help you through the process, and in order to finish well, you need to trust me, commit to the process (I won't lie—it's not always easy), and apply yourself to each and every task. If you can do those things, I can guarantee a winning record (and some pretty good papers)!

Required Texts and Materials:

1. *The Writer's Practice: Building Confidence in your Nonfiction Writing* by John Warner
2. The Little Seagull Handbook (3rd edition) with InQuizitive

Course Goals: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify themselves as writers and understand what they can do to be a competent college writer.

2. Demonstrate an understanding of writing as a process and use that process for any college writing task, work, or other areas of life.
3. Write in a mature style—clear, graceful, energetic, and varied as well as be able to adapt style to the writing task at hand.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of correct grammar and usage and understanding of how it effects their own writing. They will also be able to effective use a writing handbook.

Assessment Tools: The grades in this class are divided into two major categories: product and process. All the process assignments are steppingstones to the product (final papers) and need to be completed

PRODUCT (45%) We will be referring to these assignments as Writing Experiences. The instructions for completing these assignments can be found in the *Writer's Practice*. All assignments in this category must be completed in order to pass the class. Students may be asked to rewrite papers that do not meet the minimum requirements. Will be graded using the Core 120 Rubric (see resources page for a copy).

PROCESS (45%)

* Discussion Board Participation (generally each discussion board will require an initial post and two responses to other students).

*Reading Quizzes: Will cover assigned readings. Quizzes will close at 11:59 pm on the day due. Quizzes not completed on time will start at half credit. There will be two opportunities to take most quizzes (questions will be different each time).

* Assignments: Should be uploaded to Canvas unless otherwise indicated. Late assignments start at half credit.

*InQuizitive: We will use this adaptive quiz system is from W.W. Norton along with *The Little Seagull Handbook*, 3rd edition to cover basic grammar and editing skills.

WRITING BOOK REVIEW (10%)

At the beginning of the semester, you will select a book about writing (from a list provided). You will have all semester to read the book and write your response (4-5 pages).

How to Succeed in Core 120 (Online)

1. Do Not Procrastinate: You wouldn't start training for a marathon the night before the race. Do not start writing your papers two hours before they are due. Writing needs time. If you follow the syllabus and work on your papers a little at a time, you will not be panicked, and you will turn in much stronger work.
2. Make yourself a schedule: The first thing you should do each week is print out the weekly learning guide so you know exactly what is expected of you that week. Set aside specific times to work on this class. You will find that the class follows a rhythm so use that rhythm to design a

schedule that works for you! Assignments are generally due twice a week (Fridays and Tuesdays at 11:59 pm CST). You will generally have about 17 hours of work to complete each week.

3. Stay Organized: Print out relevant documents as they are presented (the syllabus, major assignment sheets, etc.). Create a folder in OneDrive and/or on your computer for this class. Name every one of your files using a consistent naming system.

4. Talk to Me: I am here to help you. I am your guide and resource. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns. I will check email three times a day but not at all on Sunday. Please do not wait until the last minute to ask questions or complete assignments. Your weekly assignment sheet and syllabus should be your first stop when you have questions. When you email me, please compose a new message so your questions don't get lost in an email thread and please clearly identify the issue in the subject line.

5. Ask for Help: Use the Academic Enrichment Center: You can schedule online or face-to-face tutoring (including paper revising/editing help) as well as study skills assistance. Contact: or Shelli.VanMaanen@dordt.edu or (712-722-6490).

Additional Information

Dual Credit Students: You are enrolled in a university course, and therefore you are considered a university student in all situations pertaining to this course. As a result, I cannot communicate with your parents or guardians, any of the teachers at your school, or even your school's administrators. If any of those stakeholders have concerns or questions about this course, they will need to contact Dordt University administration directly. You might encounter technical difficulties if you are accessing this course at another institution with different internet filters and restrictions. If you encounter issues, you will need to deal with your school's IT department directly, and you are always more than welcome to contact Dordt's Computer Services, but ultimately, as a university student you are responsible for your participation in the course.

Accommodations: Students who require assistance or accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability must contact the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities to access accommodations. Contact: Marliss.VanDerZwaag@dordt.edu or 712-722-6490.

Computer Services: Having trouble accessing your account? Canvas not working correctly? Contact: Sandy.Reitsma@dordt.edu or 712-722-6299.

Document Check List <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-inch margins • Times/ New Roman • 12-Point Font • Double Spaced • MLA Format • Running head (top right) • Header (first page, top left) 	Header Information Please include a header on every document you create and upload Student First & Last Name Core 120 Instructor Name Assignment Name Due Date
How to Name your Document ClassName_AssignmentName_DueDate_LastNames Examples: Core120_TSISp29_Aug27_Smith Core120_TIBFinalDraft_Dec5_Smith Core120_SummaryAssn_Oct15_Smith	

Grading Scale			
	A 96-100%	A- 92-95%	
B+ 89-91%	B 86-88%	B- 83-85%	
C + 80-82%	C 77-79%	C- 74-76%	
D+ 71-73%	D 88-70%	D- 65-67%	F below 65%