Important Information About Your Online Writing Class

Composition courses require a small class size in order to ensure a high quality educational experience for students. Summer Session and the Composition Office have established a set of add and drop rules to ensure that courses maintain this optimal student-to-instructor ratio.

For all Writing courses, the policies for course changes are as follows:

· **Adds**: Students must obtain approval from the Composition Office in order to add a Summer Composition course during the first week of instruction. No adds will be permitted after Week 1.

· **Drops**: Students will be able to drop through the second week of classes. After the second week of classes, students will not be allowed to drop without approval from the Summer Composition Coordinator. Exceptions to the drop deadline will only be granted for extenuating circumstances beyond the student’s control.

If you decide to drop your writing course, we ask for your cooperation in dropping in a timely fashion during the first week of class. This will help students on the waiting list enroll more quickly and catch up with their coursework.

The following information should help you determine ahead of time if an online writing class is a good fit for you.

**Is an online course right for me?**
An online course will work well for you if you’re a self-directed person who is aware of your own comprehension level and can seek assistance when you need help. You should be motivated to learn mostly from textbooks, online content, videos, and discussions rather than lectures. If you feel that you often need reminders about your work or if that you benefit more from verbal explanations from your instructor rather than written communication, an online course might not be the best format for you.

**Will I have to come to campus?**
No, the class is completely online. As long as you have access to a good internet connection, you can take the class from anywhere.

**Will I have to log in at certain times?**
Most of the class activities are asynchronous, meaning you can complete them on your own time by a specific due date. Your instructor will most likely have office hour times that they’ll try to coordinate around student schedules. There may be some group activities that will require you to be online at certain times. However, these will be times that can be coordinated with your instructor.

**Will taking the course during the summer be easier?**
No. Summer online courses have the same assignments and expectations as the regular academic year. You should evaluate your summer schedule to decide if the class will be right for you. Our classes require 9-12 hours of reading and writing homework per week. Please expect to spend this time on your writing course each week, or take the course when your schedule allows.
What kinds of assignments will need to be completed?
Our Composition courses require weekly reading and writing assignments, peer review workshops, discussion and group activities, and presentations. Each writing class will follow a similar syllabus to the regular year adapted for online. Some activities will be conducted using video software (pre-recorded and/or live conferencing) so that you’re able to have more interaction with your instructor and classmates.

Will I be able to have an actual conversation with the instructor?
Absolutely! The Canvas learning management system that we’ll be using has the ability for instructors and students to communicate regularly with each other. Your instructor will let you know about additional software you’ll use for chatting in real time.

How do I begin the class?
You will be enrolled in Canvas automatically and should be able to access your class at http://ucirvine.instructure.com the week before classes start. You will also receive a welcome email from your instructor about your course textbooks, policies, and other information you’ll need to begin coursework.

You can find more information about our courses at https://www.humanities.uci.edu/comp/.