

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. The Summer Session Office in collaboration with the Composition Office has established a set of add and drop rules to ensure that courses maintain this student-to-instructor ratio.

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

- Adds: Students will only be able to add the course during the first week of instruction if they have approval from the Composition Office. 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, except by special exception under extenuation circumstances and the Composition Director's approval.

If you should 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 allow other students on the waiting list time to add their section, and to have an opportunity to successfully complete their writing course in the summer.

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 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. The courses have the same rigor as the regular academic year. You should evaluate your summer schedule to decide if the class will be right for you. Our classes require 3 hours of "class time" per week as well as 9-12 hours of reading and writing homework per week. You should expect to spend this time on the course each week or take the course when your schedule allows.

What kinds of assignments will need to be completed?

Composition courses will require reading and writing assignments, peer review, discussion and group activities, and presentations. Each writing class will follow a similar syllabus to the regular year and include three major assignments and smaller exercises. Some activities will be conducted via video 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 conference and hold office hours where you'll be able to use video chatting to see and hear the instructor.

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 start.

You can find more information about our courses at <http://comp.humanities.uci.edu>.