**SYLLABUS:** Advanced Composition

**Instructor:** Elizabeth Zaldivar

**Room:** H215

**Email:** azaldivar@cartersvilleschools.org

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to Advanced Composition. This course is designed to prepare you for writing, listening, reading, and speaking in college. We will focus on skills required for both *effective writing* and *critical reading* of texts.

**Assignments**

**Reading**

This course will focus on readings related to real-life topics and types of writing. The readings will include articles, essays, editorials, speeches, videos, and literature, from classical to contemporary.

**Writing**

You will practice the following types of writing this year:

* Narrative
* Informational
* Argumentative
* Research
* Routine Writing: notes, summaries, process journals, short responses to/analysis of texts

***In each of the four units, you will create 1-2 compositions.***

**CONCEPTS AND SKILLS**

This course offers discussion and practice of concepts and skills necessary to college and career, skills that you will use every day, critical thinking and writing; for example

* Developing and focusing ideas
* Organizing, revising, and editing strategies
* Grammar and usage, style, mechanics, punctuation
* Evaluating writing
* Research
* Vocabulary

**Specific Expectations:**

* Uphold the procedures and policies detailed in the *CHS Student Handbook*.
* Be prepared—bring all materials to class and submit assignments by due dates.
* Display courtesy toward all.
* Be in your seat and ready to work when the bell rings.
* Take good care of materials, supplies, equipment, and furniture in this classroom.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is a serious offense! CHS’s PLAGIARISM STATEMENT:

Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else’s words or ideas and using them as your own, intentionally or carelessly. When you submit any kind of work, you are claiming that you have generated and written it, unless you indicate otherwise by the use of quotation marks or paraphrased with proper source identification. Submitting content that has been generated by someone other than you, submitted for the same course last semester or year, or was created or assisted by a computer application or tool, including artificial intelligence (AI tools such as Chat GPT) is cheating.

There may be opportunities for you to use AI tools in this class. Where they exist, I will clearly specify when and in what capacity it is permissible for you to use these tools. All forms of plagiarism, regardless of intent, will result in a zero for the assignment, parent and administrative contact.

**Advanced Composition Late Policy**

For any *summative* assignments not submitted by the established due date, students have up to five days to turn in the work whether an absence is excused OR unexcused. After five days, the student may not earn a score higher than 70 on the late *summative* assessment. For *formative* assignments, students have up to three days to turn in the assignment with a 10% deduction each day. After three days, the highest grade they can receive is a 50. *It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with their teacher regarding make up work*. The deadlines for submission of any outstanding assessments are **December 4, 2024**, and **May 7, 2025**, for semester 1 and semester 2, respectively.

**Materials/Apps**

You should come to class prepared with the proper materials:

* Durable Folder
* College-ruled notebook paper
* Pen/pencil
* Earbuds (*optional*)
* Cartersville City Schools App (*optional*)

| **Class Dates** | **Course Outline** |
| --- | --- |
| First Day | Introductions, syllabus, general orientation. |
| August-September | **“Beating the Odds”**  Reading Focus: Literary, Writing Focus: Narrative/Memoir |
| September-October | **“Capstone / Gen Z in the Workplace”**  Reading Focus: Informational, Writing Focus: Informational/Research |
| October-November | **“Society and Cultural Identity”**  Reading Focus: Literary, Writing Focus: Informational |
| November-December | **“Debate”**  Reading Focus: Informational, Writing Focus: Argumentative |

***This year the class will read The Glass Castle and All American Boys. These works/novels have been approved by the district and support the curriculum. If you wish for your student to have an alternate assignment, please contact me at azaldivar@cartersvilleschools.org.***

| **Grading Scale and Requirements** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Because Advanced Composition is a college-preparatory writing course, many **formative** activities will be comparable to a college composition course and will consist of independent reading and writing combined with class discussions and activities.  At the end of a semester course, the Final Course Average is calculated with 80% (semester grade) and the Final Exam, 20%. | | |
| **Type of Work** | **Percent of Grade** | **Brief Descriptions** |
| Formative Assessments | 40% | Response journals, peer reviews, group activities, writing activities, reading annotations, critical discussions, homework, vocabulary, self-assessment, grammar |
| Summative Assessments | 60% | Formal compositions: narrative, informational, argumentative, and research; projects and presentations |
| Final | 10% | Final (December/May) |

Student Name (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature & E-Mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_