

**South Forsyth High School  
Advanced Composition  
2012-2013**

COURSE TITLE:	Advanced Composition		
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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide seniors with an opportunity to explore all modes of writing, sharpen composition and research skills, read and examine writing exemplars in a variety of genres, and hone presentation/public speaking skills.

**Standards:**

Standards are online at: [https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Common%20Core%20Frameworks/CCGPS\\_ELA\\_11-12\\_Standards\(AdvComp\).pdf](https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Common%20Core%20Frameworks/CCGPS_ELA_11-12_Standards(AdvComp).pdf)

**Course Format:**

In many ways, Advanced Composition is both self-directed and self-propelling. As a result, while I will encourage you, pushing you toward worthy academic goals, you will get out of this course what you put into it. This class is mostly seminar-style in design rather than the traditional lecture format; therefore, attendance is crucial. In addition to individual reading, writing, and discussion, you will engage in several group activities and complete a senior presentation.

**Learning Resources/Textbook(s):**

- Patterns for College Writing, Bedford/St Martin's, 9th ed.
- Selected fiction and non-fiction full-length pieces from the approved Forsyth County reading list: *Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley), *Tuesdays With Morrie* (Albom), *The Kite Runner* (Hosseini), and *The Road* (McCarthy)
- Vocabulary Workshop, Sadlier-Oxford
- ***It is recommended that students purchase their own copies of the novels and memoirs listed above in order to facilitate note-taking and annotation of the works.***

*We will read many literature selections in class; however, **you will be responsible for novel/memoir reading assignments outside of class.***

*With the emergence of technology as a tool for learning, South Forsyth High School will be utilizing various resources to assist with instruction, including ANGEL, online textbooks, and interactive websites. In addition to these web based instructional tools, this course will also have a classroom set of textbooks. Should you feel that your child would benefit from having a textbook at home in addition to the classroom textbook, please contact me.*

**Extra Help:**

Extra help is available on a school-wide basis, including Saturdays. I am available before and after school by appointment.

**Late Assignments:**

Formative: Per SFHS English Department policy, twenty percent (20%) of an assignment's score will be deducted for up to three school days following the missed due date; "school days" refers to days of the week when school is in session, *not only days when a class meets*. After three days, the assignment will earn **no credit**. The formative assignment grade will be determined by quality of the work less deducted points or percentage. No formative assignments will be accepted after the summative assessment connected to the previous formative assignment(s) is administered.

Summative: Summative-level projects, research papers, and essays that are not submitted by the designated date will have 30% deducted on the **first** day. One-day late assignments can receive a maximum score of 70%. If submitted more than **one school day** after the established deadline, the assignment **will not be accepted**.

***Technological difficulties are not considered a legitimate excuse for late work.*** Computers are available for student use weekdays 7:30am to 4:00pm in the media center. Students are also welcome to use the printers available on campus (although a small per page fee may apply).

**Makeup Work:**

All missed work and assessments are the responsibility of the student when absent from school. The English Department follows SFHS make-up policies as outlined in the SFHS student handbook.

**Integrity:**

All work submitted by students must be reflection of each student's individual thoughts, opinions, and collective effort. Cheating and/or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated in any form.

Cheating will result in a **zero** and a ***notation in parent portal***. Please be aware this policy applies to all parties involved.

Plagiarism includes but is not restricted to copying class work or homework; looking at another student's paper; using signs/sign language/signals to communicate answers; using notes of any kind on a test or quiz; using electronic devices during class and excessive editing by someone other than the student. Students will be given a **zero** for the assignment, ***parents will be notified***, and all students involved will be ***referred for administrative discipline***.

**Expectations:**

- **Respect yourself, your teacher, and your peers** (this includes personal space, property, viewpoints, and their right to "think out loud" and take educational risks)
- **Act with courtesy** (be punctual, pick up after yourself, wait until the bell to pack up if instruction is still in progress, and determine appropriate times to speak, listen, respond, or act)
- **Class time should be constructive and productive** (be punctual, assignments should be prepared and completed prior to the start of class, bring appropriate materials)
- **Make the most of your academic, intellectual, and social opportunities**
- **Stay hydrated** (you may bring water but may not leave the room to refill your bottle)
- **Fast food and/or messy or distracting snacks are not permitted in class.**
- **Use of technology is at the *direction and discretion of the teacher***

**Suggestions for Success:**

- Carry a flash drive
- Read all assignments and consider them thoughtfully – ANNOTATE WHEN YOU READ!
- Come to class prepared for discussions
- Attend class regularly and bring your materials
- When absent, be diligent in making up missed assignments—including reading assignments and notes from missed class discussions
- **Check ANGEL for missed handouts and supplemental materials such as optional study guides**
- Participate in class—answer and ask questions, offer comments, actively listen
- Be honest and demonstrate integrity—work must be individual and original; let me know when problems arise or material is confusing
- Be proactive—avoid procrastination
- Keep up with your grade—check it frequently
- Talk to me – be an advocate for yourself

**Grading Policy:**

A = 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

Failing = Below 70

***\*\*Formative Assessments include but are not limited to homework, class work, quizzes, practice tests, rough drafts, and sections of projects/ research papers/presentations.***

***\*\*Summative Assessments include but are not limited to unit tests, final projects, final essays, final research papers, and major presentations.*** Exams will count as two summative grades.

**Grading Calculations:**

Course Average = 50% (1<sup>ST</sup> Sem. Course Work) + 50% (2<sup>ND</sup> Sem. Course Work)

1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> Semester Course Work = 75% Summative + 25% Formative

**NOTE:** The teacher reserves the right to make changes on the syllabus as needed to meet the needs of the individual.

