

## Writing II

### Writing I QSI Virtual School 2021

#### Instructor Information

**Instructor:** Geoff Cooper

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**Preferred Method of Communication:** Email

#### Course Description

Writing II is a composition and grammar course designed to prepare students for university writing. It is usually taken in the second year of secondary school. Writing I is the normal prerequisite for this course. Writing II includes different modes of academic composition, grammar, mechanics, applied vocabulary, timed writing, and research writing. Students will use the writing process, which includes prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. All work can be assessed using rubrics in the unit documents. Every major piece of assessed writing, as emphasized in the Common Core standards, should demonstrate command of standard English grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Formatting should conform to the guidelines in the MLA Handbook

**Course Credit Equivalency:** 10 QSI credits are equal to 1 Carnegie credit.

#### Course Prerequisites

Grade 9 English or equivalent

#### Technology Information and Requirements

Computer with internet access

Webcam, microphone and headphones

#### Course Grading

QVS is a mastery learning school where students must demonstrate that they meet certain criteria ("The Student Will", or TSWs) before closing a unit and receiving credit for it. The assignments for each unit are designed to give students a chance to meet the TSW criteria for either B Level Mastery or A Level Mastery (see below). On the course Moodle page, each unit features the TSW criteria in an attached unit description PDF document.

**Assignments may be graded as follows:**

***Attempted /NOT Completed*** - the student has attempted the assignment but it is not done correctly or completely.

***Completed*** - the assignment in question is not being used to evaluate mastery and is marked as complete.

***Mastery “B”*** - the student has met the TSW criteria covered by the assignment for Mastery. This is sometimes also referred to as “B Level Mastery”.

***Above Mastery “A”*** - the student has exceeded the TSW criteria covered by the assignment for Mastery and meets the criteria for Above Mastery. This is sometimes referred to as “A Level Mastery” and is awarded for work that showcases a consistently sophisticated, nuanced and thorough understanding and application of the TSW criteria being evaluated.

#### **Units may be graded as follows:**

***Mastery “B”*** - the student has met all of the required criteria (TSWs) for B Level Mastery as demonstrated in the assignments.

***Above Mastery “A”*** - the student has met all of the required criteria for A Level Mastery described in the unit document. This typically means that a student has completed most or all assignments at “A” level.

***Deficient “D”*** - a “D” may be assigned to the unit if the student has fallen behind (typically 10 or more days) due to lack of effort OR if the student has plagiarized material. In the event of late work, the instructor will send a reminder and if the work is still not submitted a D warning may be issued along with a prescribed schedule of when the missing work should be submitted. If the missing work is not submitted in accordance with the schedule, a D will be entered into the QVS gradebook until the work is done. In the case of plagiarism, a D will be automatically entered until the matter has been resolved. See the last page of this syllabus for more information on the plagiarism policy.

***It is important to note that a “D” is not in itself a grade or a punitive measure but rather an indication that the student is not performing as required.***

***On Hold “H”*** – for whatever reason, the student is unable to complete a unit and it is put on hold until such a time as work can resume.

#### **Teacher feedback and revision of work:**

- The instructor will endeavor to return work within 24 hours, excepting weekends and holidays.
- If a student does not receive feedback within 48 hours, the student should contact the instructor.
- The student will endeavor to revise any assignment that requires it within 48 hours.

#### **Progression through course units:**

- Students must close a unit with at least a B before beginning the next (unless a unit is intended to remain open for the duration of a term or the entire year or an “H” was assigned to the unit). The teacher will work closely with students to ensure they attain B level mastery on a unit, regardless of the time it takes.

- The instructor may allow students to ‘upgrade’ their results on an assignment or on a unit from B to A level mastery. Since this is an English course, major assignments are typically essays that require drafting and there will be an opportunity to work towards an A during this process. **However, outside of this, the ability to upgrade from B to A hinges upon the ability of the student to keep up with progression through units and therefore, upgrades to A for units and assignments may not be possible if a student is behind in the course.**
- Students may only complete two (2) units in June. That is to say that if a student has fallen behind during the school year it is not possible to close more than two units between June 1<sup>st</sup> and the last day of school (typically, mid-June).

## Course Content

### **E01: Narrative Writing ~ 4 weeks**

#### *Five Paragraph Personal Essay*

Assignment #1: Identify and Explain Elements of a Personal Essay

Assignment #2: Planning-Personal Interest Table

Assignment #3: Personal Essay Rough Draft

Assignment #4: Personal Essay Good Draft

#### *Five Paragraph Personal Narrative*

Assignment #1: Third Person Narrative Analysis

Assignment #2: Rough Draft of 3<sup>rd</sup> Person Narrative Analysis

Assignment #3: Good Draft

### **E02: Expository Writing I ~ 3 weeks**

Assignment #1: Analysis of Sample Essay

Assignment #2: Character and Setting Comparison Grids

Assignment #3: Compare and Contrast Essay Rough Draft

Assignment #4: Compare and Contrast Essay Good Draft.

## **FALL BREAK MID-OCTOBER**

### **E03: Persuasive and Timed Writing ~ 3 weeks**

Assignment #1: Analysis of Sample Timed Write

Assignment #2: Five Paragraph Problem-Solution Essay

Assignment #3: Research Exercise

Timed Write #1

Timed Write #2

Timed Write #3

### **E04: Literary Analysis-Writing About Poetry ~ 3 weeks**

Assignment #1: Poem Pairs

Assignment #2: Poem Analysis and Comparison

Poem Pair Analysis #1

Poem Pair Analysis #2

Poem Pair Analysis #3

## **WINTER BREAK**

**E05: Research Documentation and Skills ~ 3 weeks**

Assignment #1: Annotated Bibliography

Assignment #2: Quote Integration

Assignment #3: Cubing-Research Questions

**E06: Research Paper ~ 3 weeks**

Assignment #1: Outline and Introduction

Assignment #2: Updated Annotated Bibliography

Assignment #3: Rough Draft

Assignment #4: Good Draft

**S04: Advanced Literary Analysis ~ 3 weeks**

Assignment #1: Annotation of "Shooting an Elephant"

Assignment #2: Annotation of "Hitman"

Assignment #3: Literary Analysis Rough Copy

Assignment #4: Literary Analysis Good Copy

**SPRING BREAK MID-MARCH****S07: Creative Writing—Short Story ~ 3 weeks**

Short Story Rough Draft

Short Story Good Draft

**S08: Creative Writing—Poetry ~ 3 weeks**

Poetry Portfolio Rough Draft

Poetry Portfolio Good Draft

**S05: Speech ~ 3 weeks**

Assignment #1: Speech Outline

Assignment #2: Self Evaluation-Practice Speech

Assignment #3: Speech

**Attendance Policy**

5 periods of 'class time' per week (equivalent of 225 minutes) to read materials and interact with instructor as needed plus about 120 minutes for completion of assignments.

**Classroom Behavior Expectations**

For synchronous (video) communication:

- School appropriate attire and location
- Camera on at all times
- Microphone muted on login

For asynchronous (email, etc.) communication:

- Be polite and respectful in responses to forum posts of other students. Bullying and inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

- Upload only appropriate material.
- Write formally in email communication with instructor.

Submit work on time and inform the instructor if you need an extension. Extensions will only be granted on occasion for exceptional circumstances.

### Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is not accepted in this or any other QVS course. Prior to taking a QVS course, students must complete the **plagiarism contract** which specifies the QVS policy on plagiarism.

Regardless of whether a student has intentionally or unintentionally borrowed someone else's work without acknowledging it correctly, plagiarism will be dealt with as follows:

**First offence:** The student must redo the assignment(s) in question. The instructor will make sure the student understands how the plagiarism came about and will give strategies to avoid it going forward. If it appears the plagiarism was intentional, parents and the director will be informed. A "D" may be assigned for the unit in question depending on how the matter is resolved.

**Second offence:** The QVS director and the parent/guardian will be informed. A "D" will be assigned until the student has redone the assignment(s) in question.

**Third offence:** The instructor will refer the matter to the QVS director for further action.