

Course Information

Composition I

Credits: 3

Fall 2025

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12:20

Room 603

In-person

MnTC Goals: Goal 01 - Communication, Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

Instructor Contact Information

Course Instructor:

Adam Paulson

Office number and campus: TRF 622E

Email address: adam.paulson@northlandcollege.edu

Office phone number: 1-218-683-8733

Most of my students choose to call me Mr. Paulson, but I also answer to Paulson, or professor Paulson, or just professor.

Student (Office) Hours:

Monday through Thursday 10:00 – 11:00, and also by appointment (email me!). We can also schedule a Zoom meeting if you would prefer.

Course Overview/Description

(Fulfills MNTC Areas: 1, 2) The course is an introduction to college-level writing, focusing on descriptive, narrative, and expository essays. One essay will be a research paper using an appropriate documentation format. Prerequisites: ENGL0095 Reading & Writing III or a sufficient Accuplacer Reading Placement score to be exempted from developmental coursework in reading and writing.

Course Learner Outcomes

1. Organize material effectively.
2. Apply authority, point-of-view, and individual voice and style in her or his writing.
3. Perform to the required standards of English.
4. Argue a position through the use of concrete evidence and/or researched material and cite such research material accurately.
5. Contribute actively and effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
6. (ILO: 1) Demonstrate the writing processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation of the paper.

Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MNTC) Goals

Goal 01 - Communication

1. Understand/demonstrate the writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing and presentation.
2. Participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
3. Locate, evaluate, and synthesize in a responsible manner material from diverse sources and points of view.
4. Select appropriate communication choices for specific audiences.
5. Construct logical and coherent arguments.
6. Use authority, point-of-view, and individual voice and style in their writing and speaking.
7. Employ syntax and usage appropriate to academic disciplines and the professional world.

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.

Course Materials

Books: Free digital textbook provided on D2L

Equipment: A one subject notebook, a folder, and multiple writing utensils. Please bring these to class each day.

Computer Requirements: All essays will be submitted digitally, so they must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point font (Times New Roman is recommended), with header, and course information. Details will be discussed in class.

D2L Brightspace: Required. This will be a major component of our course.

Coursework and Grading Scheme

All grades will be given based off the standard percentage scale based on the points earned on each individual assignment. The final grade of the semester will be based on the total percentage of points earned throughout the class. This means that one point on a journal is worth the same as one point on your final paper.

Evaluation of papers will be based on the final product of each individual paper. You will turn each paper in a total of two times. The first draft will not be graded but it is required. If there is no first draft turned in, not only will you lose the valuable comments that I provide on the draft, but you will also lose one full letter grade from the final grade for that paper. The intention of the first draft is to let me critique an early version of the essay to guide you toward a better paper.

During my review of the first draft, I will be making suggestions as to how to improve the overall quality of the paper, as well as marking any grammatical mistakes I find in the paper. While I will do my best in pointing out the mistakes, I may not always correct them, instead leaving you to do that on your own. I will not always find every mistake in every paper, so most revision is up to you. I hope that you consider following most of my suggestions for the paper.

Grading Scale

100-90%	A
89-80%	B
79-70%	C
69-60%	D
59-0%	F

Class Work

Essays

There are a total of four major essay projects, as well as some smaller writing assignments for this semester (this is subject to change). The four major essays are an

Autobiographical Narrative, a Critical Film Review, an Argumentative Essay, and a Personal College Essay. The smaller writing assignments will be announced in class.

Journals

You will be required to keep a journal throughout the semester. Mostly, we will be finishing journal assignments in class, but there may be journal assignments given as homework. The journals will be collected up to twice during the semester. Each journal assignment should be completed by writing at least a half of a page in your journal, on average. You will sometimes be asked to share your journal entries with the class as part of a discussion.

Sometimes these journal entries will be directly related to the current essay we are working on, while other times the journal entries will be used to facilitate discussion in class.

Course Policies

Attendance

Because this is a workshop class, much of your work will be done in the classroom. Therefore, attendance is expected. If you miss a class, and the in-class work assigned for that day, you may not make up the points unless the absence has been discussed with me beforehand. Peer review cannot be made up under any circumstances. Due dates, assignments, and the schedule for the class will be announced during class time, therefore it is very important to attend class.

If class is cancelled for any reason, I will send an email, post to D2L, and load it into the Class Cancellation Manager as soon as I can. You are responsible for any class updates that are posted.

Class Expectations

If at any point I feel your behavior in the classroom is disruptive and inhibiting the ability of other students to learn (including personal electronics), you will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of that class period and be counted absent. You will then be responsible for arranging a meeting with me to discuss your return to class. If the problems persist, a meeting with the academic dean will be arranged.

I run my classroom in an open and inclusive manner. All thoughts and opinions are welcome, and the class will often have discussions that will allow students to share their own voices and viewpoints. I ask all students to respect the academic environment and all class participants.

Due Dates

All due dates for the semester are listed on the Assignment Schedule, and are final. Generally, no late work is accepted. Certain circumstances can change that, so please discuss any issues you have with the deadlines and due dates. Most assignments will be submitted through our D2L classroom. All due dates are listed in Central Standard time.

AI Policy

All coursework for this class must be original and unique, created by each individual student. Use of generative AI is not allowed, and is considered plagiarism. AI can be a useful tool to improve one's writing, but should never be the basis for any work submitted for a grade.

Late Work

As stated above, late work is not generally accepted. If you have an issue with a specific due date, please email me.

Class Cancellations

If I have to cancel class for any reason I will list it in the Class Cancellation Manager, post the cancellation on D2L, and send an email. If a class is cancelled an update will be posted and you may need to complete an assignment in place of the class time. The information will be posted with the cancellation notice.

Course Structure

This course will be facilitated through a combination of class meetings and material posted on D2L Brightspace. Our D2L website can be accessed through the Northland website or this direct link: <https://nctc.learn.minnstate.edu/d2l/login> Announcements will also be made through the D2L site. You will be expected to finish any readings and review any resources that are listed on the Assignment Schedule for each class day. Most of the work will be done outside of class, but there will be many class days that will function as a workshop day.

Other Information

Use of Generative AI

It is unacceptable to submit the work of another person or chatbot as your own. If you quote, summarize, paraphrase, or use the ideas of another, you must accurately attribute that information. If you do not acknowledge the source, you are plagiarizing in

the world of AI. The assignments in this course are constructed in such a way that AI is not able to provide what the rubrics are asking for.

Content Advisories

You will be asked to conduct peer review sessions with other students in the class, and the content of their essays may be upsetting or emotionally powerful. Please respect all students and their experiences and opinions.

How to Help Yourself Be Successful

Learning how to learn effectively is a skill unto itself! To get the most out of our course learning experience, I recommend the following:

- If possible, attend all class meetings and be fully present and engaged.
- Take notes on what you read, either directly in the book or somewhere else, and jot down all your questions.
- Test yourself on what you have read by trying to summarize key points without looking back at the text.
- Ask questions! During class, in office hours, and asynchronously over email or D2L Brightspace.
- **Personal Electronics Policy:** I do not tolerate cell phones, or other electronic devices, inside the classroom during class time. You should always have your cell phone silenced and put away during class time. Please refrain from using or checking your phone during class time. Students are expected to be responsible with electronics in the classroom. The primary negative issue with phones, laptops, etc., is that they are extremely distracting to people around whoever is using them, and the user is generally too absorbed in the device to be mindful of this distraction.

Recent research is showing that multitasking on electronics in class has negative effects for both the multitasker and the students nearby; also, even the presence of an unused phone sitting on the desk during class can distract people nearby.

If you choose to use any personal electronics during class time you will be asked to leave and be counted absent. Additionally, you will lose any points associated with that day's class.

Some class activities will allow you to use your smartphones, laptops, and/or tablets. During this time I ask that you remain on task with the class and do not abuse the access allowed to your devices.

NCTC Information and Resources

Student Handbook Link

The handbook contains the policies and procedures that relate to many aspects of your life as a student at Northland. Whether you study on campus or online, membership in the Northland community brings the responsibility of becoming familiar with these policies.

<https://www.northlandcollege.edu/students/student-handbook/>

Academic Accommodations

Northland Community & Technical College is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you are a student with a short-term or long-term disability and need reasonable accommodation to participate in class and complete course requirements, contact the Academic Success Center (ASC) as soon as possible. The ASC works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. For further information about services for students with disabilities, contact the ASC at 218-683-8561 or visit office 205 on the Thief River Falls campus or 580D on the East Grand Forks campus.

Chris Fossum, Accommodations Specialist

Chris.Fossum@northlandcollege.edu

218-686-8564

Tutoring

The Academic Success Center offers tutoring to all Northland students free of charge. Tutors work in office suite 205 on the Thief River Falls campus, offices 578, 579, and 580 on the East Grand Forks campus, or online via Zoom. Students can register for a tutor account here: <https://northlandcollege.mywconline.com/>

Basic Needs Statement

Students encountering difficulties in meeting their fundamental needs are encouraged to connect with Northland staff and instructors. These essential needs may include housing, mental and physical well-being, food insecurity, safety, and financial issues. Beyond the familiar faces you regularly encounter, Northland offers the support of a Dean of Students and a Counselor. We strongly encourage you to reach out to someone at Northland; we are here to assist you.

Counselor, Rebecca Johnson 218-683-8543
Dean of Student Success, Sara Johnson 218-683-8560

<https://www.northlandcollege.edu/students/student-basic-needs/>
<https://www.northlandcollege.edu/about/offices/counseling-services/>

Diversity Statement

It is an integral part of Northland Community & Technical College's mission to acknowledge, understand, value, and celebrate the diverse heritage, cultures, and individuals within our learning environment and communities. The college views diversity as an essential component of the educational experience of our students. Diversity is an indicator of our success in adapting to the dramatic demographic shifts that will occur in the decades ahead.

Mental Health Statement

Students may experience stressors that impact their personal well-being and academic success. Northland students have access to counseling services via the Northland counselor and can utilize these services for mental health support, academic support, career development guidance, and much more. For more information on these services, visit <https://www.northlandcollege.edu/about/offices/counseling-services/>. Students seeking immediate mental health support should contact the mental health support line at 9-8-8.

Academic Dishonesty Statement

Policy 3072: Academic dishonesty refers to misconduct related to academic assignments or examinations, plagiarizing or other misconduct directly related to the academic learning experience. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's work (either word for word or in the substance of an idea) as one's own work. Plagiarism, cheating, and possession and/or distribution of un-administered examinations may be handled as a scholastic matter (i.e., failing the assignment and/or the course) or as a disciplinary matter in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Academic dishonesty or cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's test paper and/or collaborating during a test with any other person by giving or receiving information without authority; using materials during a test not authorized by the instructor.
- Stealing, buying, or otherwise obtaining all or part of an un-administered test or information about said test.
- Selling, giving, or otherwise supplying to another student for use in fulfilling an academic requirement, any theme, report, term paper, painting, drawing, sculpture, or other work of art; or submitting as one's own, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any theme, report, term paper, essay, or other written

work, painting, drawing, sculpture, or other work prepared totally or in part by another.

- Submitting nearly identical work that one has previously offered for credit in another course, without prior approval by the instructor.

Reports of academic dishonesty are filed with and reviewed by the designated Academic Affairs Administrator in accordance with Procedure 3072P.