

## Art of Composition Schedule

July 13-24, 2026

Instructor: Kirsten Holmstedt

|   | Date                 | Lesson (morning)                                                                                                                                                                                | Focus Skills (afternoon)                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Monday<br>July 13    | Syllabus<br><b>What is Creative Writing?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free write</li><li>• Lecture -- PowerPoint</li><li>• Creative Break</li><li>• Writing Assignment</li></ul> | Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printing</li></ul>                                                                                                                            |
| 2 | Tuesday<br>July 14   | <b>Writing as Discovery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free write</li><li>• Lecture – PowerPoint</li><li>• Creative Break</li><li>• Writing Assignment</li></ul>                   | MLA<br><br>Generating Ideas/Strategies for Task Initiation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free Writing</li><li>• Brainstorming</li><li>• Journal Writing</li><li>• Clustering</li></ul> |
| 3 | Wednesday<br>July 15 | <b>Details, Details</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free write</li><li>• Lecture – PowerPoint</li><li>• Creative Break</li><li>• Writing Assignment</li></ul>                       | Harkness – Nature Writing                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4 | Thursday<br>July 16  | <b>Why You Need to Show and Tell</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free write</li><li>• Lecture – PowerPoint</li><li>• Creative Break</li><li>• Writing Assignment</li></ul>          | Notetaking                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 5 | Friday<br>July 17    | <b>Reading as a Writer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free Write</li><li>• Lecture – PowerPoint</li><li>• Creative Break</li><li>• Writing Assignment</li></ul>                    | Annotating                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6 | Monday<br>July 20    | <b>Descriptive Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Free write</li><li>• Lecture – PowerPoint</li><li>• Creative Break</li><li>• Writing Assignment</li></ul>                    | S.M.A.R.T. Goals                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7 | Tuesday<br>July 21   | <b>Respond to Art Prompts</b><br>(New London Library or Downtown)                                                                                                                               | Prioritizing academic assignments                                                                                                                                                                |
| 8 | Wednesday            | <b>Narrative Writing</b>                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

July 11, 2026

|           |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                   |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|           | July 22             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free write</li> <li>• Lecture – PowerPoint</li> <li>• Creative Break</li> <li>• Writing Assignment</li> </ul>                                           |                                   |
| <b>9</b>  | Thursday<br>July 23 | <b>Learning to Fail Better (Revision)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free write</li> <li>• Lecture – PowerPoint</li> <li>• Creative Break</li> <li>• Writing Assignment</li> </ul> | Prep for Reading Creative Writing |
| <b>10</b> | Friday<br>July 24   | <b>Presentation to Class</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | Read Creative Writing             |

**JumpStart**  
**Art of Composition Curriculum**

**Monday, July 13      What is Creative Writing?**

a.m.

- Free write – Letter to me. Write questions on the board for them to answer (“Teaching the Way”, page 78).
- Lecture using PowerPoint
- Creative Break --
- Writing Assignment – write about a time when you had the most fun. Where were you? Why were you there? What made it so much fun? Who were you with? What did you do? Use your senses. (Write a minimum one-page)

p.m.

- Technology -- Printing

**Tuesday, July 14      Writing as Discovery**

a.m.

- Free write – What are you most looking forward to over the two weeks at JumpStart and why?
- Lecture using PowerPoint
- Creative Break – Walk around with your notebook and look for mystery – Learn to understand when you don’t understand. Write down something you don’t know about what you see, hear, smell, ...
- Writing Assignment – To help generate material. Create a list of at least ten items that fit into the category of things not known. “I want to know why.” Important: impose constraints to avoid abstraction or otherwise “large” topics. For example, you might want to limit the things not known to the events of that week, or to family encounters.
- Do a free write based on one of them.

p.m.

- MLA
- Generating Ideas/Task Initiation
- In writing, this looks like free writing, brainstorming, and journaling (“Patterns for College Writing”).

### **Wednesday, July 15 Details, Details – Harkness and nature writing**

a.m.

- Free write – Write down 10 things about yourself that are quantifiable – Number of siblings: 4, Number of cats: 1
- Lecture using PowerPoint
- Creative Break --
- Writing Assignment – Read the beginning of *The Things They Carried* (“The Making of a Story” page 131). Write about the things you carry in your mind, your heart, your wallet, your backpack

p.m.

- Harkness and Nature Writing
  - Choose a specific natural setting at the park to focus on, such as the woods, the beach, the stone structures, or the gardens.
  - Use vivid sensory details to describe sights, sounds, and smells of the environment.
  - Incorporate personal reflections or experiences related to nature.
  - Experiment with different writing styles, such as poetry or narrative.
  - Revise your work for clarity and emotional impact before submission.

## **Thursday, July 16      Why You Need to Show and Tell?**

a.m.

- Free write –Describe a character’s emotions by what they say and do. Do not say how they feel.
- Lecture using PowerPoint
- Creative Break --
- Writing Assignment – Describe a time when you were very upset – sad, mad, anxious. Do not say how you felt. Show the reader by what you say and do.

p.m.

- Notetaking – Outline and Cornell

## **Friday, July 17                      Reading as a Writer**

a.m.

- Free write – Write about what kind of stories you like to read and why you like them? Is it the character? The plot? The scenery? The dialogue?
- Lecture Using PowerPoint
- Creative Break --
- Writing Assignment – Read the first couple of pages of *The Things They Carried* and write about the things you carry.

p.m.

- Annotating (handout)
- Practice – Read and annotate *Weed the Racist Books, Libraries* by Kelly Jensen. The story is about the banning of six Dr. Seuss books. From page 641 in “Patterns for College Writing.”

## **Monday, July 20              Descriptive Writing**

a.m.

- Free write – What snack food do you most associate with your childhood? Is this association positive or negative? Why?
- Lecture using PowerPoint

- Creative Break
- Read – *Goodbye to My Twinkie Days* by Bich Minh Nguyen on page 169 in “Patterns for College Writing.”
- Writing Assignment – Write about your favorite holiday meal. What do you like and not like? What do you eat the most and what do you eat the least? Do you have any food phobias or quirks? Who prepares the meal? Who is there with you? Does anyone bother you? Does someone talk too much? Eat too much?

p.m.

- S.M.A.R.T. Goals

**Tuesday, July 21      Respond to art prompts -- New London Post Office or murals downtown**

a.m.

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p.m.

- How do you prioritize your academic assignments in college?

**Wednesday, July 22 Narrative Writing**

a.m.

- Free write --
- Lecture using PowerPoint
- Creative Break
- Writing Assignment: Write an account of one of the “firsts”: your first extended stay away from home, your first encounter with someone whose culture was very different from your own, or your first experience with the serious illness or death of a close friend or relative. Make sure your essay includes a thesis statement that your narrative can support.

- OR BETTER YET – COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY “Patterns for College Writing” page 146

p.m.

**Thursday, July 23      Learning to fail better: Revision**

a.m. Revise your favorite writing from the past two weeks.

- Free write
- Lecture using PowerPoint
- Creative Break
- Writing Assignment

p.m.

**Friday, July 24      Read your favorite piece to the other students**

a.m.

- Free write
- Lecture using PowerPoint
- Creative Break
- Writing Assignment

p.m.