

ATTUNEUP

take every word captive

THE ESSAY PRACTITIONER

*“Talent is only a starting point.”
— Irving Berlin*

Spring 2016

March 21 – May 27, 2016

- Instructor: Miss Amy Tanaka (Miss Tanaka)
attuneup@gmail.com
- Location: Online, blended synchronous and asynchronous format
- Course Begins: Monday, March 21, 2016
- Course Ends: Friday, May 27, 2016
- Live Class: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PST
- Office Hours: Mondays: 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: *Office closed*
Thursdays: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Fridays: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
(all times are in PST)
- Grading: All assignments are assigned a letter/percentage grade.
- A = 90.00 – 100.00%
B = 80.00 – 89.99%
C = 70.00 – 79.99%
D = 60.00 – 69.99%
F = 0.00 – 59.99%

I. Purpose

This course is designed for students who know how to write a basic essay but want to take their writing skills to the next level.

II. Prerequisites

Prospective students must submit a five-paragraph essay that they have written in the last year to demonstrate their ability to write a standard essay.

III. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able:

- To gather information in an organized way
- To create outlines with clear direction and purpose
- To document research in a professional and ethical way
- To write 800-1000 word essays with insight and accuracy
- To evaluate writing with objectivity

IV. Course Expectations

I know that you have a busy life; I have a busy life too. So I have intentionally created this course with a focus on *quality over quantity*. I would rather have you pour everything that you have into a well-written paragraph than to turn in fifty poorly written paragraphs. I do my best to avoid pointless, frivolous assignments that just take up time, so I encourage you to really take every single assignment seriously. There is a very realistic amount of homework each week. Please don't whip something together so that you can eat donuts or kick footballs for the rest of the day. Please turn in your best of your best work.

I expect all assignments to be turned in on time unless you specifically request an exception at least 48 hours in advance. Late assignments will be marked down by 10% percent per day. I also expect you to attend *and participate* in all live classes unless you specifically request an exception at least 48 hours in advance. You are part of the class: you need others, and others need you! Everyone will be expected to share insights, give encouragement, and also present two creative projects (PowerPoint, infographic, illustration, short story, etc.) during the course.

This has never been a major issue, but I expect all students to behave themselves in a respectful, supportive, and appropriate manner on the course website and during the live classes. Foul language or disruptive behavior is not appreciated or allowed, and parents/guardians/teachers will be notified if this becomes an issue. If you see something inappropriate, please contact me directly and I will address it.

Please also realize that I may not be able to immediately detect if you are confused by something or having trouble with an assignment. I rely on *you* to tell me that you need help. I am available and willing to help you in whatever way you need! But I will not automatically know if you don't know how to upload an assignment or if you are experiencing writer's block. *Please* speak up, and I will be there for you!

V. Course Materials

Everyone will need a copy of *Six Modern Plagues and How We Are Causing Them* by Dr. Mark Jerome Walters. It is currently available on [Amazon](#) for about \$10.00 (1st edition – ISBN: 978-1559637145). Everyone will also need a three-ring binder for organizing handouts and notes.

VI. Grading Procedures

Since this is primarily a *writing* course, the actual writing assignments will carry the most weight. Here is the breakdown:

- 80% Writing assignments
- 10% Class participation
- 10% Class presentation

VII. Technical Requirements

Since this is an online course, you will need to have a working internet connection, a reliable computer, access to a printer, and a *working* headset with a microphone. I can help with basic troubleshooting problems, but I don't usually spend class time working through technical problems. I'd encourage you to arrive a few minutes early to the live classes if you anticipate technical trouble so that we can work out issues *before* class.

VIII. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism or other unethical behaviors cannot be tolerated. Plagiarism will result in a 0% grade on the assignment and the student's parents/guardians/teachers will be contacted. Don't do it!

Please note that the weekly quizzes in this course are not designed to test your knowledge but to test your ability to *find* answers. All quizzes are open-book exams which means that you can consult your textbooks and notes during the examination. The only thing that you can't do is ask other people for help (including Siri).

IX. Tentative Course Schedule (*Subject to change*)

This chart will give you a rough overview of the course organization and due dates.

Dates	Reading Assignment	Writing Assignment	Live Class <i>Thursdays at 11 a.m. PST</i>
March 21 – 25, 2016	Read chapter 1	Submit study questions and answers by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Subject exploration
March 28 – April 1, 2016 (no joke!)	N/A	Submit complete outline by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Outline critique and citation practice
April 4 – 8, 2016	N/A	Submit rough draft of three body paragraphs by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Question and answer session

April 11 – 15, 2016	N/A	Submit introduction and conclusion paragraphs by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Creative project presentation #1
April 18 – 22, 2016	N/A	Submit final draft of completed essay by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Essay presentation and awards
April 25 – 29, 2016	Read chapter 4	Submit study questions and answers by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Subject exploration
May 2 – 6, 2016	N/A	Submit complete outline by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Outline critique and citation practice
May 9 – 13, 2016	N/A	Submit rough draft of three body paragraphs by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Question and answer session
May 16 – 20, 2016	N/A	Submit introduction and conclusion paragraphs by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Creative project presentation #2
May 23 – 27, 2016	N/A	Submit final draft of completed essay by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. PST	Essay presentation and awards

If you have any questions, please contact me at attuneup@gmail.com!