

Hello everyone,

Welcome to Progymnasmata II! I hope your summer is providing a pleasant change of pace. That said, it's a good time to look ahead to the coming school year.

First of all, I'm happy to say that, once again, there is no summer assignment -- other than to read good books! That truly is the best way to prepare as it will provide you with well-crafted templates of the English language.

Please read through the two sections below carefully as they provide essential information for the school year.

Thank you in advance for your help — I look forward to working with you in the coming year. In the meantime, have a wonderful rest of the summer!

Mrs. Cindy Leahy

Below you will find:

- I) Progymnasmata I course syllabus
- II) Supplies to bring to class & general instructions for assignments

SECTION I

**PROGYMNASMATA II
2021-2022 SYLLABUS**

UNIT I: About the Writer's Tools and Techniques

September 16 -- Review of the Progymnasmata; vivid diction; usage; sentence variety

September 23 -- Appeal to pathos; identifying propaganda

September 30 -- Identifying audience; appeal to ethos

October 7 -- Appeal to logos; logical fallacies; style; identifying pathos, ethos & logos

UNIT II: Praising and Blaming

October 14 -- Uses of praise and blame; inventing arguments

October 21 -- Amplifying about people; praise/blame

October 28 -- Amplifying about society; praise/blame

UNIT III: The Comparison

November 4 -- Definition of a comparison; categories

November 11 -- Looking at an example from Plutarch; analyzing categories

November 18 -- Group practice in comparison: analyzing the parts

November 25 -- Group practice in comparison: generating the parts

December 2 -- Group practice in comparison: arranging the parts

UNIT IV: The Commonplace

December 9 -- What is a commonplace? looking at examples of various types

January 6 -- Inventing arguments to use with commonplaces; general statements; contrast/comparison; intention

January 13 -- Past life; description; legality; justice

January 20 -- Expediency, honor, practicality; immediate result

January 27 -- Practicing patterns of invention and arrangement

February 3 -- Commonplace: group practice

UNIT V: Speech in Character

February 10 -- Types of character speeches; definite & indefinite person; group practice with general plans

February 17 -- Finding the style that captures a character's voice; pathos, ethos and logos

February 24 - Figures of speech and rhetorical devices: analysis of Shakespeare's Mark Antony Speech for the funeral of Julius Caesar

March 3 -- Analysis of Shakespeare's Mark Antony Speech for the funeral of Julius Caesar

March 10 -- Analysis of Churchill's "Blood, Sweat and Tears" Speech

UNIT VI: Refutation/Confirmation

March 17-- Introduction to refutation/confirmation; inventing arguments: probable/improbable

March 24— Inventing arguments: clear/obscure; possible/impossible; fitting/unfitting

April 7 — Inventing arguments: credible/incredible; logical/illogical; profitable/unprofitable

April 14 —Easter Break

April 21 -- Arranging arguments, group practice

UNIT VII: The Thesis

April 28 -- Evaluating arguments; types of questions

May 5 -- Inventing arguments: deliberative questions; confirmation and refutation

May 12 -- Patterns of arrangement: confirmation and refutation patterns

May 19 -- Two sided arguments, pro and con patterns

May 26 -- Pathos, ethos and logos applied

SECTION II

SUPPLIES TO BRING TO CLASS EVERY WEEK

1) 3 ring binder with standard looseleaf notebook paper for taking notes. I recommend pens for note taking.

2) Dividers for keeping the notebook organized. I suggest making labels that correspond with the units on the syllabus.

3) The current week's homework, with the assignment sheet completely filled out and stapled to the homework to ensure that all instructions were followed and all tasks were completed.

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

Please only use looseleaf paper and ink OR typewritten format for assignments. The frayed edged of spiral bound notebooks are a nuisance, both at school and at home. Pencil smears and is very difficult for my eyes to read.

In contrast to Progymnasmata I, homework will vary slightly in length — and type of task — from week to week. Typical time for completion of weekly writing assignments is between one to two hours per week. Even when there is no written assignment to turn in, there will be an analytical task that should be done with care and attention to detail.

Instructions for written assignments are written so that they can be carefully fulfilled. From the beginning I will be returning assignments that are partially complete. Please help your child establish the habit of making sure all tasks are carefully completed. In addition, papers begun late are rarely well done — and it's not the habit you want your child to develop!

Careful and timely attention to the assigned work is a wonderful -- and essential -- student skill to develop!

I should note that there are no grades given in this class; rather, I give written comments on writing assignments with the goal being to help students learn the art and science of writing well. I comment on what is well done, as well as what needs improvement. In order to be of genuine use to the developing writer, these comments need to be specific and honest. Through this method, writers gradually learn to evaluate their own work effectively, which is our ultimate goal.

While these instructions may sound exacting, please know that they have been developed with student benefit in mind over many years of writing pedagogy. After 35 years of teaching writing, I consider it such a blessing to have a classical curriculum that develops writing and comprehension skills so consistently. Many students begin the class with some trepidation or even an aversion to writing; by far the majority finish the two year study with well-merited confidence in their skills and a new enthusiasm for writing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Please note that I will be unavailable from September 1 - September 12.

Have a great summer!

Cindy Leahy

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