



ENGLISH 28 SUMMER 2015 WEST LA COLLEGE

Instructor: Vicente Ruvalcaba
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Section No.: 0952 MTWTH 10:20 - 11:45
Office: TBA
Office Hours: 12:00-12:30 M-Th

Required Texts

- Boutry, Katherine, Clare Norris-Bell and Holly Bailey-Hofmann. *The West Guide to Writing: Success through the Sequence from Community College to University*. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt, 2013. **Required**.
- Skloot, Rebecca. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. New York; Broadway Books, 2010. **Required**

Course Description and Policies

English 28 provides students instruction in techniques of writing at the college level. Students develop writing and reading skills with emphasis on grammar, various essay writing, and analysis of non-fiction materials. The goal of the course is to infuse life-long reading and writing skills that lead students towards successful completion of college level courses. Students learn a wide range of writing conventions of English, explore the writing process, enhance critical thinking skills, and master the foundations of reading and writing. Consequently, this course will prepare students to expand their ability to speak, read, and write more fluently and confidently. This class incorporates an interactive and communicative approach to learning English.

Student Learning Outcome for English 28

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to argue a point and support it in writing with multiple examples and limited outside resources.

Summer Session Advisory

Because our summer session is so short and intense, I strongly recommend that you keep pace with all the assigned readings and writings. A semester's worth of work is compressed into a short amount of time, requiring daily homework, and at least one to two typed, take-home journals, or essay per week.

Attendance

Students must read the syllabus and complete the assigned homework/readings *without my having to mention it*. **I reserve the right to ask you to withdraw if you miss more than two classes or are late more than three times.** Arriving late to class and/or leaving early will add up to absences. If you are having trouble reading the syllabus, please ask! It's possible that other students have the same questions you do.

Grading

Essays (70%)

Essay 1:	15%
Essay 2:	15%
Essay 3 (in class midterm)	20%
Essay 4: Final	20%

Other 30%- Homework, Reading Responses, Journals, Quizzes, Class Participation

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be muted, as a courtesy to your classmates and your professor. We all forget sometimes, but it is not acceptable to take phone calls in class. Please notify the instructor in advance if you are going to need to step into the hall to take or make an important call at a specific time.

Supplies Needed

You must have a **notebook** for class notes, a **stapler** to staple essays, and a **folder** to keep graded essays in. You will also need a **computer disc or flash drive** for your paragraphs, which must be typed. Always save a copy of the reports, etc. that you submit in class so that you can produce them if necessary for grade verification. **ALL JOURNALS and ESSAYS MUST BE TYPED.**

Disabilities

Disabilities are not a reflection of who you are, but of how your brain works. Maybe eventually we won't even call them "disabilities" anymore. Understanding how you learn is to the first step to success. If you know or *think* that you have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services Office in HLRC 121 at (310) 287-4450. The DSPS will then contact your instructors to notify them of needed accommodations, such as additional testing time, note taker, etc. Do not be embarrassed to seek help. Your classmates will not know about your DSPS status. I will never say to you in class, "Ok Joe, now you go to the DSPS and take your special test." On test days you will simply not come to class. If you're dyslexic, for example, you could have a note-taker in class taking notes for you and giving you a copy (after class.) How cool would that be?

Standards

- **No late papers or assignments are accepted in summer session;** it just goes too fast.
- Missed quizzes cannot be made up, even if you just arrive to class after it has been given.
- You must buy the books and do all the work for the class or you cannot pass.
- If you plagiarize (submit work that is not your own, either entirely or in part) you will get a failing grade on the assignment.
- Read your syllabus, or contact a classmate to find out what you missed.

But what if there are extenuating circumstances?

There always are! Nearly every WLAC student works 40 hours a week. We all have personal responsibilities: bodies that get sick, cars and computers/printers that break down, loved ones that get sick and (heaven forbid) die. Some have families and children to attend to. This is a given. That's what makes it necessary to manage time and plan ahead in order to succeed! We all go through tough times, myself included, which is why I can sympathize with your troubles, but I cannot make exceptions. There's nothing that feels as good as a grade that you earned, despite difficulties. If your extenuating circumstances become too overwhelming, withdraw and take the course at a more convenient time.

Dropping the course

According to college policy, you may be excluded for excessive absences or for not following the Standards of Student Conduct (printed in the Schedule of Classes). If you drop the course, be sure to do so at the Admissions and Business Offices. Otherwise, the grade drops to a "D" or "F" and cannot be removed. Pay attention to drop dates in the Schedule of Classes.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, even unintentional, is unacceptable, and will result in failure of the assignment and possibly failure of the class. Remember to credit words or ideas that are not your own. Submitting someone else's paper or importing other sources whole scale is the kind of thing that will get you in serious trouble. I advise you to keep your work to yourself,

and do not show it to classmates. It takes more energy to cheat than to write something yourself, and you only cheat yourself. I take plagiarism as an personal insult and a waste of my time and therefore am not inclined to be lenient.

How to Succeed in this Class

Attend all class sessions, do the required reading, thinking, rereading, and writing. DO look up vocabulary words you're not sure of. Observe due dates. Listen carefully and follow all instructions. Seek help as needed. Challenge yourself to do the very best work that you can.

Be sure to do the assigned readings on the syllabus *before* coming to class, preferably more than once. There may be unannounced quizzes to check on your comprehension of the readings. *Quizzes cannot be made up.* Look up words you are unfamiliar with or unsure about to ensure accuracy in your understanding/comprehension.

You are also welcome to visit the instructor during office hours to share your concerns and/or get extra help. **Office hours are the hours that the instructor is available to you.** Often you might catch me in early afternoons during "unposted" times as well. Ring my phone and see if I'm there: 310-287-4547.

College Resources

Need a tutor?

WLAC Tutoring Center (in person) 310-287-4324
WLAC Online Tutoring: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/tutoring.asp>

Need to use a computer or printer, or check out a book?

WLAC Library: 310-287-4269

Need a Scantron, a class text, or other supplies?

WLAC Bookstore: 310-287-4560

Not feeling good? Or need to talk about a (non-academic) problem?

WLAC Healthcare Center 310-287-4478 Building A-9

Want someone to read over your writing before you hand it in?

WLAC Writing Center (first floor library, behind language computers): 310-287-4420

Need accommodations for your learning difference or physical/medical disability?

WLAC DSPS (Disabled Students Programs and Services): 310- 287-4450

Need a career/ academic advice?

WLAC Counseling Center: 310-287-4450
WLAC Online Counseling: <http://www.wlac.edu/online/counselingonline.asp>

You're going to love our class!

ENG 28 Ruvalcaba SUMMER 2015 *Tentative* Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

~ Please note that all journals and essays must be typed. I reserve the right to change this course schedule as necessary. I may add or subtract portions of the textbook and assigned readings based on what we discuss each day in class.~

Week 1

M 6/15 In class: Syllabus, Read "The Case Against College"

Homework: Read Chapter 3 "Parts of Speech" in *The West Guide*

Tu 6/16 In Class: Parts of Speech, MLA Format, Do's and Don't(s), "The Eavesdropper"

Homework: Read Chapter 4 "Punctuation" in *The West Guide*

W 6/17 In class: Punctuation Patterns, Avoiding Comma Splices, Run-Ons, and Fragments

Homework: Read Chapter 4 "Punctuation" in *The West Guide*

Th 6/18 In class: "Summer Rituals," Group Activity, Class Discussion

Homework: Writing- Journals (1) "Description," Journal (2) "Opinion"

Week 2

M 6/22 In class: Due- Journals (1-2), Assign Essay #1 "Narrative," The Structure of an Essay

Homework: Read Chapter 10 "Prewriting" in *The West Guide*

Tu 6/23 In Class: "New Directions," Group Activity, Class Discussion

Homework: Read Chapter 11 "Drafting The Essay" in *The West Guide*

W 6/24 In class: Annotating, Reading Fundamentals, Fluency, Comprehension, Process

Homework: Begin Reading *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Th 6/25 In class: Writing Introductions, Writing Conclusions, "Forward to An Anthology of Rap Music Lyrics"

Homework: Continue Reading *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Week 3

M 6/29 In class: Due- Essay #1 "Narrative," Discuss- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Tu 6/30 In Class: Discuss- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

W 7/1 In class: Discuss- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Th 7/2 In class: Discuss- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Hmwk: Writing- Journal (3) "Opinion"

Week 4

M 7/6 In class: Due- Journal (3) "Opinion," Test, Discuss- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta...*

Tu 7/7 In Class: In-Class Essay Exam Strategies, Structure of an Essay, Discuss- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

W 7/8 In class: Discuss- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Th 7/9 In class: In-Class Writing- Essay #2 "Midterm"

Week 5

M 7/13 In class: Read "Learning To Read," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion
Hmwk: Writing- Journal (4) "Process Analysis," Journal (5) "Extended Definition"

Tu 7/14 In Class: More Run-On and Fragment Solutions, Active Voice and Action Verbs

W 7/15 In class: Read "The Barrio," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion

Th 7/16 In class: Pronoun Challenges, Antecedents, Subject/ Verb Agreement,

Week 6

M 7/20 In class: Due- Journal (4) "Process Analysis," Journal (5) "Extended Definition," Assign ESSAY # 3
"Comparing and Contrasting"
Hmwk: Read Chapter Write with Intention, Be Specific, Be Concise, Point of

Tu 7/21 In Class: Read "Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion
Hmwk: Read Chapter "Revising, Proofreading, Polishing"

W 7/22 In class: Read "The Politics of Muscle," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion

Th 7/23 In class: Advance Modes of Argumentation, Logical Argument, Deductive, Inductive Reasoning, Logical Fallacies

Week 7

M 7/27 In class: Library Orientation, Due- ESSAY #3 "Comparing and Contrasting"
Hmwk: Writing- ESSAY #4 "Argument and Persuasion"

Tu 7/28 In Class: Read "The Real Skinny," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion
Hmwk: Read Chapter 21 "Be a Researcher"

W 7/29 In class: Library Database, Finding Sources, Primary Sources, Secondary Sources, Read "Victims from Birth," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion

Th 7/30 In class: Read "What Fathers Do Best" and "Reproductive Rights Protect Us All," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion

Week 8

M 8/3 In class: Documenting Resources, In-Text Citations, Works Cited Page, MLA Citation Models

Tu 8/4 In Class: Read "Notes From The Country Club," Group Activity, Group Questions, Class Discussion

W 8/5 In class: TBA

Th 8/6 In class: Due- Essay #4 "Argument and Persuasion"

ENGLISH 28: TRACK YOUR GRADES

Assignment: (Note: other assignments can be written in as added.)	Due Date:	Percentage of <input type="checkbox"/> Final Grade	Points Possible:	Points Earned
Journal 1	6/19	6%	20	
Journal 2	6/19	6%	20	
Essay #1 "Narrative"	3/10	15%	100	
Journal 3	1/4	6%	20	
Essay #2 "Midterm"	6/25	15%	100	
Journal 4	3/13	6%	20	
Journal 5	2/9	6%	20	
Essay #3 "Compare and Contrast"	2/9	20%	100	
Essay #4 "Argument and Persuasion"	7/8	20%	100	
Total			[]	*

*Divide your total of earned points by the Points Possible to see your grade percentage.