

English 101

Mark Wallach

West Los Angeles College

Meetings: Mon.-Thurs. 4:15-6:50 p.m.

Class meetings: General Classroom 240

Email: markwallach@msn.com

Section: 3978

Office hours: 6:50-7:10 pm., Mon.-Thurs.

Prerequisites: Completion of English 28 with a grade of C or better or appropriate placement demonstrated through the assessment process.

Required texts:

Eshholz, Paul, Alfred Rosa and Virginia Clark, eds. Language Awareness: Readings for

College Writers. Eleventh edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013.

Hobbs, Jeff. The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left

Newark for the Ivy League. New York: Scribner, 2014.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to argue a point and support it (in writing) using extensive evidence from outside sources.

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to cite sources both in-text and on a works cited page following MLA guidelines.

Requirements:

You will write four 3-5 page papers of 750-1250 words and one longer paper of 4 to 6 pages (1000 to 1500 words). Three of the papers will include research, at least one will be revised, and two will be written in class for the midterm and final. I also recommend that you make at least one visit to the writing lab or my office to discuss a rough draft. In addition, you will have a number of short assignments. You will get the most from the course by coming to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings and participating in class discussions and activities. You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class period.

Grading:

3-5 page essays: 100 points

4-6 page essay: 125 points

Midterm: 100 points

Final exam: 100

Short assignments (preparation for research essays, homework, journals, in-class exercises, quizzes, etc.): 10 points

Individual conference on research essay: 10 points (extra credit)

Participation: 50 points

A: 90% and higher of total points for class

B: 80-90%

C: 70-80%

D: 50-70%

F: less than 50%

Academic Integrity Policy (Board rule 9803.28):

The college has a strict policy against cheating and plagiarizing. Plagiarizing is defined as taking credit for work which is not yours. You will receive a 0 on any assignment on which you plagiarize.

Student Code of Conduct:

You are responsible for adhering to the student code of conduct described in the Schedule of Classes. I will give the class a general warning about student misconduct. I will also speak with students individually. Students who repeatedly disrupt class will be suspended for up to two classes and referred to the Dean of Student Services.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who need any assistance or accommodations should contact me. The Disabled Students Programs and Services is located in the Student Services Building, Room 320. Tel.: (310) 287-4450. Email: dsps@wla.edu.

Writing Lab:

Information on West's Writing Lab is available at
<http://www.wla.edu/library/learningcenter/Writing-Lab.aspx>

The link to West's online writing lab is

<http://www.wla.edu/online/owl.asp>

Course Policies:

1. Attendance, participation, and being on time for class activities are very important. Students who are absent more than four times risk being dropped from the class. Students will also lose points on their participation grade if they are absent more than four times. (Three latenesses equal one absence.) If you have a medical problem that will affect your attendance, please let me know. I will generally only grant an excused absence as a result of a note from a doctor or other authorized person.

2. Being on time for class is important. Being late repeatedly will affect your participation grade. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be counted as absent. Leaving the class early (without prior notice to the instructor) or being absent for a significant portion of the class will also affect your participation grade and may be counted as an absence. It is the responsibility of tardy students to notify the instructor of their presence.
3. All out-of-class papers must be typed. Please double space your papers. Please keep a copy of all essays that you turn in.
4. Late papers will not be accepted more than one class meeting late. This policy will be strictly enforced. Please contact me about any prolonged illness or emergency. The midterm, final exam, and quizzes cannot be made up unless you notify me *prior* to the exam or quiz about any true emergencies or serious illness that prevent you from taking the exam or quiz. If possible, provide me with an authorized excuse about your absence.
5. It is crucial for you to do all major assignments. It is difficult to pass the class if you have not done one of these assignments. Students who do not keep up with the work will be dropped from the class.
6. No late homework will be accepted.
7. If you need to email an assignment, please make special arrangements with me in advance.
8. If you decide to drop the class, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw from the class. The drop deadlines are printed in the Schedule of Classes.
9. If you receive a D on an assignment, you may re-do it. It is due two class meetings after it has been returned to you. Assignments due during the last week of class cannot be redone.
10. Please keep your pagers and cellular phones silent during class time and do not text during class time. Violators will be asked to leave a class meeting.
11. I encourage you to exchange email addresses or cellphone numbers with one or two students in the class.
12. If you are having difficulty with the class, please see me or contact me by email.

Major Class Activities:

Note: The activities and essay topics, many of which are based on readings from Language Awareness and The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace may be revised based on how the class proceeds.

Week One:

- Course and student introductions
- Language Awareness: “Reading critically”
- Language Awareness: “Writing in college”
- Language Awareness: “Writing with Sources.”
- Language Awareness: “Understanding the Power of Language”
- The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace

Week Two:

- First research essay due.
- Language Awareness: “Writers on Writing”
- Language Awareness: “A Brief Guide to Writing a Research Paper”
- Language Awareness: “Language That Manipulates: Politics, Propaganda, and Doublespeak”
- Orientation on West LA College library data bases
- The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace
- Quiz: The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace

Week Three:

- Peer editing of second research paper
- Research essay due on topics from “Language That Manipulates” or The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace
- Language Awareness: “Language Essentials”
- Language Awareness: “Writers on Writing”
- The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace

Week Four:

- Midterm on topics from “Language That Manipulates” and “Language Essentials”
- Issues in grammar and mechanics
- Language Awareness: “Writers on Writing”
- Language Awareness: “Language and Advertising” and “Arguing about Language”
- The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace
- Quiz on The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace

Week Five:

- Research essay due on topics from “Language Essentials,” “Language and Advertising,” or The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace
- Language Awareness: “Arguing about Language”
- Final Exam on topics from “Arguing about Language”

Bonuses:

- Students can earn up to ten bonus points for each quiz if they come on time to each class in the two weeks (or less) preceding the quiz (including the day of the quiz), stay for the entire class, and don’t behave disruptively.
- Students can earn a one-time five point bonus for showing their work on the document camera.
- Students can earn a one-time ten point bonus by having an individual conference with me about one of your research papers.

Student Services:

- Tutoring: HLRC. Tel.: (310) 287-4408
- Counseling: Building SSB 350. Tel.: (310) 287-7242.
- Student Health: Building A-9. Tel.: (310) 287-4478.
- TRIO Student Support Services: Building B-4. Tel. (310) 287-4261