

West Los Angeles College

English 28: Intermediate Reading and Composition
Section 3956
Instructor: Mark Salerno (e-mail: arshile@earthlink.net)

Fall 2014
W 6:45 PM - 10:00 .p.m.
Room: GC 240

DESCRIPTION:

Course Catalog Description: English 28 gives students practice in paragraph construction and essay writing, with an emphasis on critical thinking and critical reading of non-fiction essays and books.

Welcome to English 28! This will be a fun and engaging class in which you will learn and practice the basic skills that you will need to be successful in all of your other academic work and in your careers after graduation. There is nothing that you will do as an adult that will not require you to think, read and write, and in English 28 you can learn to do these things effectively and be empowered. I'm not saying that this semester won't be full of hard work and difficult challenges, but these challenges will be worthy of you and will make you a better student. Lastly, if you are the type of student who thinks that they are "just not good at English," you can change that right now if you are willing to make the effort! *Prerequisite: Grade of C or above in English 21 or appropriate score on the College English Placement Examination.*

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will leave English 28 knowing how to read and analyze short, college-level texts on a variety of topics. The student will also know how to make brief oral arguments that are clear, well-organized and logical. The student will be able to write clear, logical and well-organized short essays. The student will have knowledge of the ten essential points of grammar.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successfully completing English 28, the student will be able to argue a point and support it (in writing) with multiple examples and limited outside sources.

Drop Date:

Friday, September 12, is the last day to drop without a "W."

TEXTS:

Samuel Cohen, *50 Essays*, 4th ed.
W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folks*
Diane Hacker and Nancy Sommers, *Rules For Writers*
PDF Files Sent by E-Mail from the Instructor
Notebook
Dictionary

REQUIREMENTS:

- We will do in-class writing. Bring some loose leaf paper and some pens.
- Everybody is going to speak in class and make contributions to the class dialog. This is a good thing!
- We will have some quizzes on the readings and on vocabulary.
- There will be daily reader response portfolio assignments (essays written in longhand).

- You will read approx. 40 pages per week for this class.
- In addition to portfolio assignments, you will produce five homework writing assignments of 700 to 1,000 words in length. For every writing assignment, you must hand in a First Draft and a Final Draft. Label your drafts. All First Drafts must be in longhand. For Final Drafts, follow the MLA Format. Some of these assignments will incorporate the use of sources. If more than one page, staple in the upper left hand corner.
- Homework hardcopy assignments are due on my desk at 6:45 p.m. of the date assigned. A Word file of the Final Draft is due in my Inbox by 6:00 p.m. on the same day.
- There will be a Midterm (October 22) and a Final (December 17).

TEXTBOOKS FOR THIS CLASS:

The textbooks are necessary for our work. Please get them as soon as possible so that you don't fall behind in your assignments.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments will be marked down one full grade for lateness (an A becomes a B, etc.) if it is handed the following week. After one week, I cannot accept it.

FIRST AND FINAL DRAFTS:

You must hand in a First and Final Draft for every assignment. All First Drafts must be in long-hand. All Final Drafts must be printed according to MLA Format requirements.

ATTENDANCE:

The college expects that students will attend all of their classes and do all of their assignments. More importantly, we need you. So, come to class.

MISSED CLASSES:

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to make up all work. Do this by contacting a fellow student. If you miss a class on a day that an assignment is due, e-mail the assignment on that day and bring the hardcopy to class when you are well.

CLASSROOM DECORUM:

It's rude to be rude. Don't be rude.

NOTES:

Notes help you think your thoughts and remember them. Take notes in every class and while you are doing your homework.

DICTIONARIES:

Dictionaries are incredibly important. Any one that you already have will probably be fine.

GRADES:

Your grade for the course will be earned as follows:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage of Grade</u>
Preparation and In-Class Participation	25%
Quizzes	15%
Essays (+Portfolios) #1-5	40%
Midterm & Final	20%

You must complete all written assignments in order to pass this class. If you are sick for an exam, I will give you a makeup assignment or count another grade twice. There are no Incompletes. All grades are final.

Grading on Quizzes

Pass = 3 out of 5 correct answers.

Grading on Essays

A = A correct thesis paragraph with 3+ sentences clearly stating and developing a thesis (an abstract noun, a concept word) that responds the question. Each body paragraph is 3+ sentences long and presents 1-2 pieces of evidence (direct quotation from the text). A conclusion paragraph that does more than restate the thesis. Demonstrates a strong understanding of the reading.

B = As above, but needs development of the analysis, further organization and development of paragraphs.

C = This is a functioning essay, but the thesis statement is not clear enough or is underdeveloped, usually because it is a description of an idea instead of the statement of an idea, or it is a summary of the text. Beginning to see some grammar and punctuation errors. Careless presentation. Some ESL or idiom problems.

D = Lacks analysis. Lacks ideas. Grammar and punctuation errors. Significant Basic English problems with sentences and paragraphs. Fails to meet MLA Format and Essay Style Format. Fails to meet minimum assigned length. Fails to provide First and Final Draft. Fails to submit a Word file of Final Draft by e-mail.

F = Fails to meet MLA Format and Essay Style Format. Fails to meet minimum assigned length. Fails to provide First and Final Draft. Fails to submit a Word file of Final Draft by e-mail.

E-MAIL:

You must have a functioning e-mail account for this class. All e-mails regarding this class should have "WLA Engl 28" as part of the subject line or will not open them. I will not use e-mail to discuss your grades, or to tell you what your grade for the course is at the end of the semester. You must check your e-mail for messages from me at least once a day.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is when you use the words or ideas of another without giving proper acknowledgement. The first time you are suspected of plagiarism, you will be given an "F" on the assignment. The second time you are suspected of plagiarism, you will be referred to the English Department for discipline.

CLASS SESSIONS:

This class is scheduled to meet from 6:45 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The college expects that all students will be in class during the designated time.

PROPER ENROLLMENT:

Anyone who is not properly enrolled in this class will not receive a grade for the course. If you are not properly enrolled, your name will not appear on the rosters or on the Grade Collection Form. No one is allowed to Audit this class.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONAL ACCOMMODATION:

If you require special accommodations, please discuss your situation with the professor. To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services at the beginning of the semester. Tape recording of lectures and discussions will not be permitted without the consent of the instructor.

CONFERENCES:

My office hours are Wednesday, 6:10 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in GC 270 (the faculty offices across from our classroom). It is always a good idea to make an appointment in advance.

NOTICE:

Everything on this syllabus is subject to change without warning.

English 28 / Intermediate Reading and Composition / 3956 / Fall 2014
Class Schedule v.1

Assignments are due on the date they are listed. This schedule is subject to change at any time. Be certain to double-check all assignments with the instructor.

Sept 3: Welcome. Introduction to the Syllabus. Roster and Admissions. Diagnostic Essay. MLA Format.

Sept 10: Reading and Writing: Tools and Strategies. MLA. Read Hacker and Sommers 524-527. Read and be prepared to discuss Alexie (Cohen 15), Douglass (Cohen 118), Malcolm X (Cohen 273), King (Cohen 221). Quiz #1. In-class Essay 1.0.

Sept 17: Grammar Workshop #1: Commas. Read Hacker and Sommers 292-318. Portfolio #1 Due.

Sept 24: Cofer 103, Mukherjee 290, Mairs 259, Tan 417. Quiz #2. In-class Essay 2.0.

Oct 1: Plato 303, Didion 111, Burdick 83. Quiz #3. In-class Essay 2.1.

Oct 8: Grammar Workshop #2: Agreement. Read Hacker Pages 196-217. Portfolio #2 Due.

Oct 15: Carr 91, Gladwell 169, Woolf 466. Quiz #4. In-class Essay 3.0.

Oct 22: Midterm

Oct 29: Rampell (handout), Sontag 386, Singer 378, Pollan 312 . Quiz #5. In-class Essay 3.1.

Nov 5: Grammar Workshop #3: Adjectives and Adverbs. Read Hacker Pages 226-231. Portfolio #3 Due.

Nov 12: Read Du Bois: Introduction and Chapter I-V. In-class Essay 4.0.

Nov 19: Read Du Bois: Chapter VI-X. In-class Essay 4.1.

Nov 26: Read Du Bois: Chapter XI-XIV. In-class Essay 5.0. Portfolio #4 Due.

Dec 3: Black Power.

Dec 10: Course Review.

Dec 17: Final Exam at 7:30 p.m. Portfolio #5 Due.

English 28 / Intermediate Reading and Composition / 3956 / Fall 2014
Assignment 1

Note: My Office Hours are W 6:10 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in GC 270.

Date Assigned: 7/27/14

Date Due: 9/3/14

- 1) Get a notebook. Bring it to class.
- 2) Get a copy of *50 Essays, Rules For Writers, The Souls of Black Folks*. Bring them to class.
- 3) Get a dictionary. Bring it to class.
- 4) You will need at least three sheets of loose leaf paper for every class meeting. We will have daily in-class writing assignments.
- 5) Send me an e-mail at arshile@earthlink.net so that I can build an e-mail address list for the class. All e-mails regarding this class must have "WLA Engl 28" as part of the subject line or I will not open them. In the body of this first e-mail, write the full name under which you are registered with the college.

English Grammar

The Ten Most Common Grammar Mistakes

(According to a nationwide survey by Andrea Lundsford of Ohio State University and Robert Conners of the University of New Hampshire)

1. Wrong tense or verb form
2. Run-on sentence
3. Sentence fragment
4. Lack of agreement between subject and verb
5. Wrong word
6. Inconsistent tense
7. Comma errors
8. Missing possessive apostrophe
9. Misplaced modifier
10. Lack of agreement between pronoun and antecedent