

West Los Angeles College
English 20A
Spring 2014 Section: 0929
Mark Wallach

Email: markwallach@msn.com

Meetings: General Classroom Building, Room 230

Time: TTh, 1-2:25 p.m.

Office hours: Tues. 2:25-2:40 p.m.; Thurs. 2:25-2:45 p.m.

Required texts:

Boyne, John. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. New York: Ember, 2006.

Henry, D. J. *The Skilled Reader*. Third edition. Boston: Longman, 2011.

Wakatsuki Houston, Jeanne & James D. Houston. *Farewell to Manzanar*. New York: Dell
Laurel-Leaf, 1973.

Student Learning Outcome:

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to utilize his or her own knowledge and experience to write meaningfully about texts.

Goals:

- Students will learn specific reading comprehension strategies, including predicting, using prior knowledge, questioning, relating text to yourself/other texts/ the world, determining what's important, visualizing, inferring, monitoring, and synthesizing information.
- Students will learn to identify main ideas and supporting details.
- Students will increase their vocabulary.
- Students will learn to critically evaluate texts.
- Students will learn skills in using a dictionary.
- Students will nurture their ability to enjoy and appreciate reading.
- Students will learn to write clearly about texts, writing paragraphs with topic sentences and supporting details.
- Students will make connections between different parts of the reading.
- Students will learn how to use library resources.

Requirements:

- Reading assignments
- Writing assignments on readings and from The Skilled Reader (generally five to ten points)
- Quizzes on readings (10 points)
- Library assignment (20)
- Midterm on Farewell to Manzanar (100 points)
- Final exam on The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (100 points)
- Participation (50 points)

Note: I reserve the right to make small changes in the point totals and activities

Grading:

- A: 90% and higher
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 50-69%
- F: less than 50%

Course Policies:

1. You will receive points for doing homework assignments. Generally, these assignments will be from The Skilled Reader or about the readings. Students who regularly do not do the homework (50% or more of the assignments) risk being dropped from the class.
2. Attending class regularly is important. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be counted as absent. If you are absent more than five times, you risk being dropped from the class. If you are not present during the first day of class when the roll is called, you may be dropped from the class. If you are absent three times in the first three weeks, you may be dropped from the class.
3. Being on time and staying for the entire class is important. Leaving more than twenty minutes early or being out of the room for 20 minutes or more during class will also count as an absence. Students who are chronically late or who make a habit of leaving early may be suspended from class.
4. Assignments will be accepted no more than one meeting late. Late assignments will receive a penalty.
5. You must let me know **prior** to an exam or quiz about any true emergencies or illnesses. If possible, bring an authorized note regarding your illness or emergency. If I do not receive prior notice about your absence for the midterm, I will deduct twenty-five points from your make-up midterm exam. It is your responsibility to notify me upon your return. Make ups will not be given more than two meetings after the original exam. A final exam cannot be made up without prior notification.
6. If you have a medical or religious reason for missing class, please bring me an authorized excuse.
7. Keep your pagers and cell phones silent while in class, and please do not text during class. If I see you texting or using a cellphone (including a ringing cell phone), you may be asked to leave the class meeting for that day and/or have points deducted from your grade. You may also have points deducted from your grade if you show up to class without The Skilled Reader and the book we are currently reading.
8. Type assignments if possible. If you cannot type the assignments, please write neatly.
9. I generally prefer not to receive emailed assignments. If you must email an assignment, please make special arrangements with me. Emailed assignments will be penalized.
10. I encourage you to exchange phone numbers or email addresses with at least one other student to find out about classes you have missed.
11. Communicate with me about any problems you are having.
12. Visit the writing lab in the HLRC.
13. You may only attempt to take a class in LACCD three times (including Ws). Check the Schedule of Classes for deadlines about withdrawing from the class and other deadlines. If you decide to drop the class, it is your responsibility to do so.

Keys to Success:

- Be diligent about doing the readings.
- Be prepared for quizzes.
- Do the homework,
- Participate in class discussions.

Academic Integrity Policy:

The college has a strict policy against plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism is when you “borrow” another person’s work and present it as your own or when another person writes all or part of your paper. You will receive a zero for any assignment for which you have cheated on an exam or plagiarized a paper. Also, students who copy (or share) homework assignments with other students will receive a zero for the assignments. Repeat violators may be referred to the Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action.

Student Code of Conduct:

You are expected to conduct yourself as an adult and abide by the “Standards of Student Conduct” listed in the Schedule of Classes. I will speak to individual students who disrupt the class. If I need to give a second warning to students, I will deduct points from your grade, and you may be excused for the class meeting. If disruptions continue, I am authorized to suspend you for up to two class meetings

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: dsp@wlaac.edu.

Writing Lab:

Information on West’s Writing Lab is available at http://www.wlaac.edu/library/info/lab_writing.html

The link to West’s online writing lab is

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

Learning Skills Center, HLRC, first floor:

The Learning Skills Center is a valuable resource for those needing additional help with developing their reading skills.

Sue de Bord, director. Tel: (310) 287-4508

Major Class Activities:

Note: I may change the order in which the activities are presented based on how the class proceeds. Also note that once you have learned a reading comprehension skill, you will practice those skills in subsequent weeks.

Week One: Course and Student introductions. *Skilled Reader*: SQ3R, prior knowledge

Week Two: Read and discuss *Farewell to Manzanar*: SQ3R, prior knowledge. Additional reading comp. skills: relating text to self

Week Three: Read and discuss *Farewell to Manzanar*. *Skilled Reader*: Inferences, vocabulary in context. Additional reading comp. skills: Text to text, text to world.

Week Four: Read and discuss *Farewell to Manzanar*. *Skilled Reader*: Vocabulary-building skills, word parts, reading graphics

Week Five: Read and discuss *Farewell to Manzanar*. *Skilled Reader*: Topics and main ideas. Additional reading comprehension skills: Asking questions, predicting.

Week Six: Read and discuss *Farewell to Manzanar*. *Skilled Reader*: Locating stated main ideas. Additional reading comp. skills: Determining importance, asking questions

Week Seven: Read and discuss *Farewell to Manzanar*. Additional reading comprehension skills: Visualizing, inferences

Week Eight: Read and discuss *Farewell to Manzanar*. *Skilled Reader*: Implied main ideas.
Midterm: *Farewell to Manzanar*

Week Nine: Read and discuss *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. *Skilled Reader*: Inferences

Week Ten: Read and discuss *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. *Skilled Reader*: Reading Skills: Inferences, monitoring, summarizing

Week Eleven: Read and discuss *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Library skills. *Skilled Reader*: Supporting details.

Week Twelve: Read and discuss *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Library skills. *The Skilled Reader*: Outlines and concept maps.

Week Thirteen: Read and discuss *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. *Skilled Reader*: Transitions and thought patterns

Week Fourteen: Read and discuss *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Skilled Reader: More thought patterns

Week Fifteen: Read and discuss *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*. Reading comp. skills: Synthesis

Week Sixteen: **Final Exam:** Thursday, June 5, 2014, 1:45-3:45 p.m.
Please bring a blue book for your midterm and final exam.

Bonuses:

- Students will receive bonus points on quizzes for having perfect attendance and no disruptive behavior in the weeks leading up to the quiz.
- Students who have perfect attendance (and one lateness or fewer) for the semester will receive a 15 point bonus in their participation grade.
- Students who have one absence (and one lateness or fewer) for the semester will receive a 10 point bonus in their participation grade.

Student Services:

West Institute for Student Excellence. Tel.: (310) 287-4261. Includes CalWorks/GAIN, Educational Opportunity Center, Educational Talent Search, Tech Prep, TRIO Student Services, and Upward Bound.

Counseling. Building A-13. Tel.: (310) 287-4357.

Student Health: Building A-9. Tel.: (310) 287-4478.

