

English 21: English Fundamentals

Mark Wallach

West Los Angeles College

Meetings: Mon.-Thurs. 8-9:25 a.m.

Section: 0929

Class meetings: General Classroom 150

Office hours: 9:25-9:45 a.m., Mon-Thurs.

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Prerequisites: Completion of English 20A with a grade of C or better or appropriate placement demonstrated through the assessment process.

Required texts:

Boutry, Katherine, Clare Norris-Bell, and Holly Bailey-Hofmann. *The West Guide to Writing*. Revised edition. Iowa: Kendall Hunt, 2013

Rubin, Gretchen. *The Happiness Project*. New York: Harper, 2009.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- argue a point and support it in writing.
- support an explicit thesis statement by citing evidence in a multi-paragraph essay.
- write an accurate, well-organized summary of a text, and effectively integrate ideas from a text into his/her own written composition.
- compose a variety of effective sentences incorporating English usage rules and concepts.

Requirements:

You will write two one paragraph compositions and five multi-paragraph essays, including the midterm and the final. You will revise at least two of the paragraphs or essays. In addition, you will write several reader response papers to *The Happiness Project*, write several reflections about your own writing, do a small research exercise, and do a number of homework assignments from *The West Guide to Writing*.

Grading:

One paragraph essays: 25 points

Multi-paragraph essays: 50-100 points depending on length

Midterm: 100 points

Final exam: 100

Short assignments (homework, reader responses, writer reflections, in-class exercises, quizzes, research assignment, etc.): 5 to 10 points each

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 warn students who disrupt the class. 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. Tardiness and disruptive behavior may also be a factor in excluding students from the class.

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@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>

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. (Two 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, 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.
5. You must notify me *prior* to the midterm or final about any true emergencies or serious illness that prevent you from taking the exam. If you miss the midterm without notifying me in advance, you may take the midterm with a 25 point penalty. The make up exam may not be taken more than two meetings late. The final exam and quizzes cannot be made up without prior notification.
6. 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 risk being dropped from the class.
7. No late homework will be accepted.
8. In general, I do not accept emailed assignments without an authorized excuse.
9. 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.
10. If you receive a D on an essay, 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.
11. 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.
12. Please do not email me about assignments. I encourage you to exchange phone numbers or email addresses with one or two students.
13. If you are having difficulty with the class, please see me or contact me by email.

Major Class Activities:

Note: The activities listed below may be revised based on how the class proceeds.

Week One:

- Course and student introductions
- Read *The Happiness project*
- Writing reflection on own writing
- Grammar, mechanics, and usage
- Thesis statements and topic sentences
- Writing process, including prewriting
- Class success strategies

Week Two:

- Paragraph One due
- Topic sentences
- Revised Paragraph One due
- Read *The Happiness Project*

- Write a summary of *The Happiness Project*
- Write a reflection of *The Happiness Project*
- Reading strategies
- Parts of speech
- Punctuation
- Grammar, mechanics, and usage

Week Three:

- Paragraph Two due
- Revising
- Revised Paragraph Two due
- Read *The Happiness Project*
- Quiz on *The Happiness Project*
- Reading from *West Guide*
- Parts of Speech
- Punctuation
- Reading strategies

Week Four:

- Multi-paragraph essay # 1 (Midterm)
- Thesis statements
- Read *The Happiness Project*
- Research exercise; trip to HLRC
- Revising
- Writing a summary of *The Happiness Project*
- Grammar, mechanics, and usage
- Reading strategies
- “Holly’s Seven Rules of College-Level Writing”

Week Five:

- Peer review of multi-paragraph essay # 2
- Final draft of multi-paragraph essay # 2 due
- Read *The Happiness Project*
- Reflection on *The Happiness Project*
- Quiz on *The Happiness Project*
- Reading strategies
- Introduction to MLA format

Week Six:

- Multi-paragraph essay # 3, which will be on *The Happiness Project*, due
- Writing a summary of *The Happiness Project*
- Writing reflection on own writing
- Quiz on grammar, mechanics, and usage

- Grammar, mechanics, and usage
- Reading strategies

Week Seven

- Multi-paragraph essay # 4
- Writing summary on *The Happiness Project*
- Reading strategies
- Writing effective sentences
- Quiz on *The Happiness Project*

Week Eight

- Reflection on writing
- Reflection on *The Happiness Project*
- Writing effective sentences
- Final Exam (Multi-paragraph essay # 5)

Bonuses:

- Students can earn up to ten bonus points for each reading quiz if they come on time to each class in the two weeks (or less) preceding the reading 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.

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.

