

West Los Angeles College

English 20A

Fall 2013 Section: 0929

Mark Wallach

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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:

Alexie, Sherman. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. New York: Little

Brown and Company, 2009.

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

Philbrick, Rodman. Freak the Mighty. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1993.

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 The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (100 points)
- Final exam on Freak the Mighty (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 absent more than five times, you risk being dropped from the class. If you are more than 20 minutes late, you will be counted as absent. 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 will be dropped from the class.
3. Being on time and staying for the entire class is important. Leaving early or being out of the room for an extended period during class will also count as a lateness. If you are not present for more than 20 minutes of the class it will count as an absence. Students who are chronically late or who make a habit of leaving early may be suspended from class.
4. You may not turn in an assignment 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, twenty-five points will be deducted 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 the class and to individual students who disrupt the class. I may also deduct points from exams of students who are disruptive. If I need to speak with a student repeatedly about disruptive behavior, you will be excused from the class meeting for that day and be required to speak to the Dean of Student Services before you will be permitted back in 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: dspd@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

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, coordinator. 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 Part-Time Indian. Skilled Reader: SQ3R, prior knowledge. Additional reading comp. skills: relating text to self.

Week Three: Read and discuss Part-Time Indian. Skilled Reader: Inferences, vocabulary in content. Additional reading comp. skills: Text to text, text to world.

Week Four: Read and discuss Part-Time Indian. Skilled Reader: Vocabulary-building skills, word parts, reading graphics

Week Five: Read and discuss Part-Time Indian. Skilled Reader: Topics and main ideas. Additional reading comp. skills: Asking questions, predicting.

Week Six: Read and discuss Part-Time Indian. Skilled Reader: Locating stated main ideas. Additional reading comp. skills: Determining importance, asking questions

Week Seven: Read and discuss Part-Time Indian. Additional reading comprehension skills: Visualizing, inferences

Week Eight: Read and discuss Part-Time Indian. Skilled Reader: Implied main ideas. **Midterm**: Part-Time Indian

Week Nine: Read and discuss Freak. Skilled Reader: Inferences

Week Ten: Read and discuss Freak. Skilled Reader: Inferences. Reading Skills: Monitoring, summarizing

Week Eleven: Read and discuss Freak. Library skills. Skilled Reader: Supporting details.

Week Twelve: Read and discuss Freak. Library skills. The Skilled Reader: Outlines and concept maps.

Week Thirteen: Read and discuss Freak. Skilled Reader: Transitions and thought patterns

Week Fourteen: Read and discuss Freak. Skilled Reader: More Thought Patterns

Week Fifteen: Read and discuss Freak. Additional reading comp. skills: synthesis

Week Sixteen: **Final Exam:** Thurs., Dec. 12, 1:45-3:45 p.m.
Please bring a blue book for your midterm and final exam.

Bonuses:

- Students who have perfect attendance and one lateness or fewer will receive a 15 point bonus for their participation grade
- Students who are absent once with one lateness or fewer will receive a 10 point bonus.
- Students who average 80% or better on in-class quizzes on the readings will receive a 20 point bonus.

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.