

West Los Angeles College

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

Fall 2013
W 6:45 PM - 10:00 .p.m.
Room: GS 240

DESCRIPTION:

A college-level introduction to the practice of analytical thinking, critical reading and expository writing, with emphasis on essay style and essay strategy. Some ongoing themes of this class will be: ways to think; how to ask questions; form vs. content; problem solving. Class format: seminar style discussion and in-class writing. Considerable student participation required. *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.

TEXTS:

Samuel Cohen, *50 Essays*, 3rd ed.
Hacker and Sommers, *Rules For Writers*, 7th ed.
Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*.
Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie*.
PDF Files Sent by E-Mail from the Instructor
A notebook
A dictionary

REQUIREMENTS:

- You are required to have a notebook for this class.
- In-class writing exercises at every class meeting. You are required to bring three sheets loose leaf paper and ink writing implements to each class.
- You will be required to speak in class and make oral presentations.
- There will be quizzes on the readings, on vocabulary and on grammar.
- There will be portfolio assignments (essays written in longhand).
- There will be student teaching events (in which students will teach the class).
- You will read approx. 50 pages per week for this class.

- In addition to portfolio assignments, you will produce four 700-word homework writing assignments. For every writing assignment, you must hand in a First Draft (longhand) and a Final Draft (printed). Label your drafts. All homework assignments for this class must be typed and presented according to MLA Format. Some of these events will incorporate research. If more than one page, staple in the upper left hand corner. No plastic covers, folders, etc.
- Homework hardcopy assignments are due on my desk at 6:45 p.m. of the date assigned. A Word document of the same assignment is due in my Inbox by 3:00 p.m. on the same day.
- There will be a Midterm (October 16) and a Final (December 11).
- Grammar Requirement (see below).

TEXTBOOKS FOR THIS CLASS:

Students are required to bring the following to class: *50 Essays*, *Rules For Writers*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Death of a Salesman*, a hardcopy dictionary, a notebook, along with a writing implement (blue or black ink pen) and several sheets of loose leaf paper. Showing up to class without the appropriate text(s) earns a failing grade for your work that day. Photocopies, borrowed books, ebooks, or library books are not acceptable.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading assignments are required, not optional. You will not be permitted to participate in the class discussion unless you have read the entire assignment.

GRAMMAR REQUIREMENT:

If you make six or more grammar errors on your written assignments, I will stop reading and grade the assignment an F.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

In order to earn a passing grade for the course, you must complete all written assignments. Any assignment that is handed in late will be marked down one full grade for lateness. You have 24 hours beyond the due date to submit a "late assignment" by e-mail. Follow up with the hardcopy at the next class meeting. After 24 hours, your grade on the assignment is an F, but you still must complete the assignment.

ATTENDANCE:

Regular class attendance is required of all students. You will be dropped from the class if you are absent from more than one class meetings. In other words, if you are absent two times, you will be dropped from the class. Tardiness, like absences, is considered an academic matter. Be punctual. You will be marked tardy if you come into class after the instructor has read the roll. You will be marked absent if you come into class 10 minutes or more after the roll has been read or if you leave class early. Three tardies will count as one absence. If you drop the class, it is your responsibility to have your name removed from the roster. Otherwise, you will be given a grade of "F" at the end of the semester.

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 is 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.

CLASS DISCUSSION:

Class time is your time. Use it wisely and well. If you have questions, ask them. It is likely that there are other students in the class with the same or similar questions. To earn a passing grade, you are required to make at least one significant contribution to each class meeting.

CLASSROOM DECORUM:

In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to experiment and creative interchange, it is important that classroom decorum be rigorously observed. Talking out of turn, whispering in class, moving around, leaving the room, doing assignments for another class, texting, or making any extraneous noise is both rude and distracting. Students are required pay attention in class and make constructive contributions at each meeting.

NOTES:

You are required have a notebook. Take notes in every class and while you are doing your homework.

DICTIONARIES:

You are required to have a college-appropriate, hardcopy English dictionary and you must bring it to every class. No electronic dictionaries or electronic translators allowed.

GRADES:

Your grade for the course will be earned as follows:

| <u>Assignment</u> | <u>Percentage of Grade</u> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Preparation and In-Class Participation | 30% |
| Quizzes | 10% |
| Essays+Portfolios #1-4 | 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.

TEXTING:

Do not send me e-mails from your phone or text messages.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is when you use the words or ideas of another without giving proper acknowledgment. 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 given an "F" for the course.

DO NOT BRING THESE ITEMS INTO THE CLASSROOM:

Food, drink, candy, chewing gum, nonprescription medicines, cell phones, pagers, computers, e-books, e-readers, iPads, Kindles, electronic translators, electronic devices of any kind, skateboards, bicycles, anything wrapped in cellophane, family members, pets, anyone who is not properly enrolled in this class.

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. The college does not allow students to arrive late or to leave early. If your work commitments, family commitments or commuting time prevent you from attending the each entire class, you must select a class that better suits your schedule.

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.

NOTICE:

Everything on this syllabus is subject to change without warning.

English 28 / Intermediate Reading and Composition / 3956 / Fall 2013
Assignment 1

Date Assigned: 8/19/13

Date Due: 8/28/13

- 1) Get a notebook. Bring it to class.
- 2) Get a copy of Hacker and Sommers, *Rules For Writers*, 7th ed. Bring it to class.
- 3) Get a copy of *50 Essays*. Bring it to class.
- 4) Get a copy of *The Glass Menagerie*. Bring it to class.
- 5) Get a copy of *Death of a Salesman*. Bring it to class.
- 6) Get a dictionary. Bring it to class.
- 7) Have at least three sheets of loose leaf paper and an ink (blue or black) writing implement at every class meeting.
- 8) Send me an e-mail (arshile@earthlink.net), so that I can build an e-mail address list for this 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. Do this immediately.
- 9) In the Cohen book, read and be prepared to discuss Alexie 15, Douglass 129 and Malcolm X 257.

English 28 / Intermediate Reading and Composition / 3956 / Fall 2013

Class Schedule

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.

Aug 28: Introduction to the Syllabus. Roster. Reading and Writing: Tools and Strategies. MLA. Read Hacker and Sommers 524-527. In-class essay.

Sept 4: Alexie 15, Douglas 129, Malcolm X 257. In-class essay.

Sept 11: Cofer 91, Mukherjee 280, Tan 396, Ali (PDF). Quiz #1. In-class essay.

Sept 18: Grammar Workshop #1: Commas. Read Hacker and Sommers 292-318. Essay #1 Due.

Sept 25: Mairs 244, Sedaris 359. Quiz #2.

Oct 2: Pollan 300, Gould 169, Diamond 98.

Oct 9: Pollan (PDF), Plato 292. Essay #2 Due. In-class essay.

Oct 16: Midterm.

Oct 23: Johnson 196, Schlosser 353. In-class essay. Grammar Workshop #2: Agreement. Read Hacker Pages 196-217.

Oct 30: Didion (Cohen 106), Didion (PDFs). Quiz #3. In-class essay.

Nov 6: Grammar Workshop #3: Adjectives and Adverbs. Read Hacker Pages 226-231. Essay #3 Due.

Nov 13: Vowell 412, Momaday 273. Quiz #4. In-class essay.

Nov 20: *The Glass Menagerie*. In-class essay.

Nov 27: *Death of a Salesman*. Quiz #5. In-class essay.

Dec 4: Dec 11: Course Review.

Dec 11: Final. Essay #4 Due.

English Grammar

The Ten Most Common Grammar Mistakes

(According to a nationwide survey by Andrea Lundsford of Ohio State University and Robert Connors 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