

WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
English 28: Intermediate Reading and Composition
Fall 2013 (August 26 – December 15), Section 3950

Course Day, Time, and Location: TuTh, 5:10-6:35pm in GC 140
Instructor: Dr. Rachelle Okawa
Email: okawarm@wlaac.edu
Office Hours and Location: Th, 4:00-4:35pm in GC 280Q
Online Course Site (ETUDES): <http://www.wlaac.edu/online/login.asp>

Important Dates (Last Day To):

Drop classes w/o a Fee:	Friday, September 6
Drop classes w/o a W:	Friday, September 6
Drop classes w/a W:	Friday, November 15

Campus Closed:

Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 28
--------------	-----------------------

Course Prerequisite

Completion of English 21 with a grade of "C" or better or appropriate placement level demonstrated through English assessment process.

Course Description

This course meets the A.A. reading and writing requirement. 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.

Required Texts & Materials

Michael Pollan, *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual* (ISBN: 978-0-14-311638-7)
Alfred Rosa and Paul Eschholz, *Models for Writers*, 11th Edition (ISBN: 978-0-312-55201-5)
Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual* (ISBN: 978-0-312-66480-0)
Selected Readings on the Topic of Education (ETUDES/Online)
College Dictionary
Working Email Account and Internet Access

* Important Note: You must have your own copies of required texts and of the readings to be found online on ETUDES. We will be close reading and analyzing passages from them in class, so please remember to bring your books/materials to every class meeting. We will be viewing the film(s) in our class sessions.

Course Objectives and Goals

Student Learning Outcomes

At end of the English 28, the successful student will be able to argue a point and support it (in writing) with multiple examples and limited outside sources.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Students of English 28 are expected to arrive to class on time, and to have already completed their assigned readings and/or writing *before* class begins. We will be spending our time together in class on a range of activities, including discussions of readings, writing workshops, group work, grammar review, and peer-editing sessions.

In addition to a midterm and a final exam, students will also be turning in four formal papers over the course of the semester. To pass this course, the four papers must be turned into me on time, completed, and receive a satisfactory grade.

Remember: All assignments count, including attendance and participation!

Late Papers

All major papers must be turned in by the deadline, at the beginning of class. I will accept *one* late assignment only *once*. It will only be accepted one class period late, and it will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade. A missing paper earns a 'F,' severely impacting your final grade in this class and your chances of passing. Please make sure to plan ahead.

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Class attendance is mandatory. I will keep track of student attendance through reading quizzes. You will have a reading assignment for almost every class session. For each assigned reading, you will take a quiz during the first ten minutes of class. If you are late or absent, you will not receive these points. If you have to miss class, it is your responsibility to find out from the instructor or from a fellow classmate the assignment(s) for the next class session.

Please Note:

- * Any student who is absent from the first two class sessions will be dropped from this course.
- * If you are absent from class on more than two occasions, you risk being dropped from the course. If for any reason, you will be consistently unable to attend class, please drop the course to open up space for another student.

Dropping the Course

According to college policy, you may be excluded for excessive absences or for not following the Standards of Student Conduct (printed in the Schedule of Classes). If you drop the course, be sure to do so officially at the Admissions and Business Offices. Otherwise, the grade drops to a 'D' or 'F' and cannot be removed. Pay attention to drop dates in the Schedule of Classes.

Classroom Courtesy/Etiquette

Please remember to be considerate of the classroom environment, to your instructor and your fellow classmates by arriving on time, turning off your cell phones, and refraining from eating, entering and exiting the room, leaving early, and talking out of turn. This disrupts the learning process for everyone.

Grading

Grading Criteria

A	90% - 100%
B	80% - 89%
C	70% - 79%
D	60% - 69%
F	59% or below

- A Work is exceptional in quality, well-organized, and demonstrates a sensitive and resourceful use of language. It gracefully and effectively presents details, evidence, and examples to prove its thesis. It responds to the assignments in its focus and scope. The writing uses lively, well-chosen, and precise vocabulary. It contains almost no errors in usage and spelling. It demonstrates technical proficiency (grammar, punctuation, spelling, in-text citations, and so on), which enhances meaning rather than makes the essay hard to read.
- B The paper may be less thorough and graceful than A work, but it is technically proficient (in grammar, usage, spelling, etc.) and outstanding in some aspect of style, premise, and/or presentation.
- C Work is acceptable. It is clearly organized, coherent, shows technical competence, and meets the assignment as to content. It usually repeats accurate but commonplace ideas. It contains few serious errors in usage and spelling.
- D The paper is barely adequate. Although it may be confusing, it shows some effort to engage the topic. It is usually full of serious errors.
- F Work is unacceptable. It is confusing, chaotic, full of errors in thought and usage. Plagiarism is F work.

Evaluation of Papers

Your instructor does not CORRECT essays. English 28 students should be able to find their own mistakes. This means that students are responsible for proofreading their own papers. The instructor evaluates essays and makes suggestions for improvement in terms of organization, thesis formulation, use of evidence, critical thinking, and style.

All papers must be turned into the instructor at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. No assignments will be accepted if sent to me by email or left in my mailbox. Papers must be formatted MLA-style: typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, Times New Roman. We will discuss further the specific details of each paper in class.

Plagiarism

You must turn in your own original work. Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of someone else's language and/or ideas as your own. Turning in a paper written by someone else, whether it is from the Internet or written by a friend or family member who gives you permission, or even turning in a modified version of a paper that you wrote in another class, constitutes plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism will result in an 'F' grade on that assignment and will be reported to the Vice President of Student Services. If you have any questions, please make sure to come see me in office hours *before* turning in your paper.

Final Grade

Your final grade for the course is based on instructor evaluation of all written work as well as your meaningful participation in class. It is important not only to attend class as often as possible, but also to come prepared to discuss the readings and to work on in-class writing assignments.

Grade Challenges

Grading is not an exact science. Even with a clear rubric, it involves considerable subjectivity on my part. However, if you want to challenge an essay grade, I have three stipulations. First, that you wait at least 24 hours after you have received your graded paper to challenge your grade. Second, that you dispute your grade within a week of receiving your graded paper. And, third, that you carefully explain in a typed document (no e-mails, please) how your paper meets the rubric's criteria for the grade you think you deserve. **I do not accept any verbal challenges of my grading.** I will take your submitted challenge very seriously, and I will not in any way punish you for your disagreement.

* Make sure to keep *all* graded papers.

Grade Breakdown

Reading Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%
Paper #1	5%
Paper #2	10%
Paper #3	15%
Paper #4	20%
Midterm	10%
Final Exam	20%

Getting Help

Learning Disabilities

Students with learning disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact DSP&S (Disabled Students Programs & Services). The office is located on the first floor of the library, HLRC 121. Telephone #: (310) 287-4450.

Writing Lab

The Writing Lab, which is located on the first floor of the library, is a good resource for students seeking extra help in writing their papers. Writing tutors do not proofread or edit papers, but they can provide guidance on organization and development of a paper as well as a general overview of grammar. For more information, visit: http://www.wlac.edu/library/info/lab_writing.html.

I also strongly encourage you to come see me during my scheduled office hours or to make an appointment.

Schedule of Weekly Readings and Assignments (August 26 – December 15)

* **Syllabus is subject to change.** The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, if deemed appropriate and/or necessary to meet class needs. All such changes will be announced in advance in class, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of any such changes.

Week 1

Tue	Aug 27	Introduction to Course
Thu	Aug 29	Read Adair Lara, "An Ode to Oreos" (Handout)

Week 2

Tue	Sept 3	Read Elizabeth Adler, "Creative Eating: The Oreo Syndrome" (ETUDES)
Thu	Sept 5	Read Helen Keller, "The Most Important Day" (<i>Models for Writers</i>)

Week 3

- Tue Sept 10 DUE: Paper #1 (Summary of Adler's "Creative Eating")
Thu Sept 12 Read Peter Singer, "The Solution to World Poverty" (ETUDES)

Week 4

- Tue Sept 17 Read Sandra Cisneros, "My Name" (*Models for Writers*)
Thu Sept 19 DUE: Rough Draft of Paper #2

Week 5

- Tue Sept 24 Read William Zinsser, "Simplicity"
Thu Sept 26 Read Richard Lederer, "The Case for Short Words" (*Models for Writers*)
DUE: Final Draft of Paper #2

Week 6

- Tue Oct 1 Read Nancy Gibbs, "The Magic of the Family Meal" (*Models for Writers*)
Thu Oct 3 Read Suzanne Britt, "The Lean and Hungry Look" (*Models for Writers*)

Week 7

- Tue Oct 8 Read Sanjay Gupta, "Stuck on the Couch" (*Models for Writers*)
Thu Oct 10 DUE: Rough Draft of Paper #3

Week 8

- Tue Oct 15 Article from *Time Magazine* (TBA)
Thu Oct 17 Article from *Time Magazine* (TBA)
DUE: Final Draft of Paper #3

Week 9

- Tue Oct 22 Film: *Fast Food Nation*
Thu Oct 24 Film: *Fast Food Nation*

Week 10

Tue Oct 29 Discussion of Film
Midterm Prep

Thu Oct 31 Midterm Exam

Week 11

Tue Nov 5 Michael Pollan, *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual*
Read Introduction

Thu Nov 7 Pollan, *Food Rules*
Read Part I: What should I eat?

Week 12

Tue Nov 12 Pollan, *Food Rules*
Read Part II: What kind of food should I eat?

Thu Nov 14 Pollan, *Food Rules*
Read Part III: How should I eat?

Week 13

Tue Nov 19 Articles on Food (michaelpollan.com)

Thu Nov 21 Articles on Food (michaelpollan.com)

Week 14

Tue Nov 26 DUE: Rough Draft of Paper #4 (Pollan, *Food Rules*)
“Turkey is Basic, but Immigrants Add Their Homeland Touches”

Thu Nov 28 Holiday – Thanksgiving!

Week 15

Tue Dec 3 DUE: Final Draft of Paper #4 (Pollan, *Food Rules*)
Film: *Chocolat*

Thu Dec 5 Film: *Chocolat*

Week 16 – Finals (Monday, December 9 – Sunday, December 15)

Tue Dec 10 Final Exam