

West Los Angeles College

English 28: Intermediate Reading and Composition (3 units)  
Section 0942 (January 6 to February 6, 2014)  
Instructor: Mark Salerno (e-mail: [arshile@earthlink.net](mailto:arshile@earthlink.net))

Winter 2014  
MTWTh 1:30 p.m.-4:05 p.m.  
Room: GC 250

DESCRIPTION:

Course Catalog Description: 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.

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.

Drop Date:

Wednesday, January 8, is the last day to drop without a "W."

TEXTS:

Samuel Cohen, *50 Essays*, 4th 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  
Notebook  
Dictionary

REQUIREMENTS:

- You are required to have a notebook for this class.
- In-class writing exercises. You are required to bring adequate loose leaf paper and ink writing implements to 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 daily reader response portfolio assignments (essays written in longhand).
- There will be student teaching events in which students teach the class.
- You will read approx. 50 pages per week for this class.
- In addition to portfolio assignments, you will produce four homework writing assignments of 700-1,000 words in length. For every writing assignment, you must hand in a First Draft and a

Final Draft. Label your drafts. All First Drafts must be in longhand. All Final Drafts must be typed according to the MLA Format. Some of these events will incorporate the use of sources. 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 1:30 p.m. of the date assigned. A Word file of the Final Draft is due in my Inbox by 1:30 p.m. on the same day.
- There will be a Midterm (January 21) and a Final (February 6).

#### TEXTBOOKS FOR THIS CLASS:

Students are required to bring the following to class: *50 Essays*, *Rules For Writers*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Glass Menagerie*, a hardcopy dictionary, a notebook, 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 permitted.

#### 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.

#### LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

There are no late assignments. Any assignment that is handed in late earns a failing grade, but you still must complete the assignment. In order to earn a passing grade for the course, you must complete all written assignments.

#### FIRST AND FINAL DRAFTS:

You must hand in a First and Final Draft for every assignment. All First Drafts must be in longhand. All Final Drafts must be printed according to MLA Format requirements.

#### ATTENDANCE:

Regular class attendance is required of all students. You will be dropped from the class if you are absent from more than two class meetings. In other words, if you are absent three 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 by contacting a fellow student. If you miss a class on a day that an assignment is due, email 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. If you do not speak in class, you fail the course.

#### 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 full-sized, late-model 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	25%
Quizzes	15%
Essays (+Portfolios) #1-5	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 W '14" 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. Do not send me 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, anything wrapped in cellophane, family members, pets, anyone who is not properly enrolled in this class.

#### CELL PHONE POLICY:

Cell phones are banned from this classroom. If you bring a cell phone into this classroom, you risk failing the course, as follows: If I hear or see your cell phone once, your grade for the course drops one full grade (e.g., an A becomes a B). If I hear or see your cell phone twice, you fail the course. No exceptions. No excuses.

#### CLASS SESSIONS:

This class is scheduled to meet from 1:30 p.m. to 4:05 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 / 0942 / Winter 2014  
Assignment 1

Date Assigned: 12/6/13

Date Due: 1/6/14

- 1) Get a notebook. Bring it to class.
- 2) Get a copy of *50 Essays*, *Rules For Writers*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and *Death of a Salesman*. Bring them to class. Buy these books online. Order them immediately so that they are not delayed in shipping over the holiday shopping season.
- 3) Get a dictionary. Bring it to class.
- 4) You will need at least three sheets of loose leaf paper for every class meeting. We will have daily in-class writing assignments.
- 5) Read and be prepared to discuss Alexie (Cohen 15), Douglass (Cohen 129), Malcolm X (Cohen 257), King (Cohen 221).
- 6) If you have not done so already, send me an e-mail (arshile@earthlink.net), so that I can build an e-mail address list for the class. All e-mails regarding this class must have "WLA Engl 28: W'14" 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.

English 28 / Intermediate Reading and Composition / 0942 / Winter 2014  
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.

Week 1

Jan 6: Roster. Introduction to the Syllabus. Alexie 15, Douglass 118. Quiz #1. In-class Essay 1.1.

Jan 7: Reading and Writing: Tools and Strategies. MLA. Read Hacker and Sommers 524-527.

Jan 8: Malcolm X 273, King 221. In-class Essay 1.2.

Jan 9: Grammar Workshop #1: Commas. Read Hacker and Sommers 292-318. Portfolio #1 Due.

Week 2

Jan 13: Cofer 103, Mukherjee 290. Quiz #2. In-class Essay 2.1.

Jan 14: Mairs 259, Tan 417. In-class Essay 2.2.

Jan 15: Plato 303. Essay 2.3: Student Presentations.

Jan 16: Grammar Workshop #2: Agreement. Read Hacker Pages 196-217. Portfolio #2 Due.

Week 3

Jan 20: Holiday.

Jan 21: Midterm

Jan 22: Carr 91, Gladwell 169. Quiz #3. In-class Essay 3.1.

Jan 23: Grammar Workshop #3: Adjectives and Adverbs. Read Hacker Pages 226-231. Portfolio #3 Due.

Week 4

Jan 27: Ehrenreich 129, Eighner 139. Quiz #4. In-class Essay 4.1.

Jan 28: Woolf 466, Sontag 386.

Jan 29: Singer 378, Pollan 312. Essay 4.2: Student Presentations.

Jan 30: Black Power. Portfolio #4 Due.

Week 5

Feb 3: Didion 111, Burdick 83. Quiz #5. In-class Essay 5.1.

Feb 4: *The Glass Menagerie*. In-class Essay 5.2.

Feb 5: *Death of a Salesman*. In-class Essay 5.3.

Feb 6: Final. Portfolio #5 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

## Essay Style Format

**NOTICE** : Failure to follow this format in your essays and exams will result in a failing grade. For example, if you hand in an essay that does not have at least three sentences in the thesis paragraph, the essay will earn a failing grade.

1) In the first sentence of the first paragraph, introduce the name of the thing you are discussing, and, if appropriate, its author. For example, in an essay on *In Our Time*, you might begin: "In Ernest Hemingway's collection of short stories, *In Our Time*, . . ." This way, your reader immediately knows what is to be discussed in your essay.

2) The "thesis" is the main idea of an essay. Always introduce your thesis in the first paragraph of your essay, preferably in the first sentence. For example: "In Ernest Hemingway's collection of short stories, *In Our Time*, the character Nick Adams progresses from one story to the next through three stages of development and growth."

3) The first paragraph of your essay should be at least three sentences long. It should not only present your thesis, but develop it. State what other ideas are important to your thesis, and let the reader know what direction your essay is headed in. For example: "In Ernest Hemingway's collection of short stories, *In Our Time*, the character Nick Adams progresses from one story to the next through three stages of development and growth. The first stage is comprised of a series of 'initiation' experiences. The middle can be thought of as Nick's 'experience of the world' stage. In the last stage, we see that Nick has in some way come to rest, and he pauses to gather his strength and face his future."

4) A topic sentence is the first sentence of a paragraph and introduces the main idea of that paragraph (you could think of it as the "thesis" of a paragraph). Every paragraph should have a topic sentence. Every subsequent sentence in a paragraph should relate directly to the paragraph's topic sentence.

5) Do not simply summarize. Do not retell the "story." It is enough to refer to the parts of a text that you are discussing and that are relevant to your thesis. The best way to refer to a text is to quote it.

6) Do not use slang in your essay. Use only standard English. Slang is imprecise and too casual, and they weaken your essay. Allow yourself to be serious in your essay.

7) Do not use contractions in your essay. A contraction is a word compounded of two words, like "don't" instead of "do not," or "won't" instead of "will not." Contractions are a form of spoken language, and therefore have no place in a written essay. Furthermore, they are too casual, and they tend to destroy a serious and objective tone.

8) Remember that mere opinion is not a thesis, nor is it an argument. We are not interested in opinions. We are interested in whatever ideas you may have that, by strong argument, you prove are worthy of our attention. A strong argument is an argument that logically presents an idea and evidence to support that idea.

9) Since your essay is about your ideas, and not about you, there is no need to introduce yourself into the fabric of your writing. For example, do not bother to say "I feel that the character Nick Adams progresses from one story to the next through various stages of development and growth." It is better to leave out the "I feel that," and simply state your idea: "The character Nick Adams progresses from one story to the next through various stages of development and growth."

10) Always be consistent in your use of verb tenses. If you begin using the present tense, then maintain it throughout your essay. If you begin with the past, then stay with that. Switching back and forth is bad style because it confuses your reader. When you make reference to a story, it is usually best to employ the simple past. For example, do not say: "In 'Indian Camp,' Nick and his dad go across the lake, where his dad delivers an Indian lady's baby." Rather, say: "In 'Indian Camp,' Nick and his dad went across the lake, where his dad delivered an Indian lady's baby."

11) Titles of poems, short stories and essays are placed in quotation marks. Titles of books and movies should be underlined or *italicized*.

12) Revise and carefully proofread. If you are unsure of something, consult a reference text (like a grammar book or a dictionary) or ask someone for help.

13) Neatness always counts. Carefully type your essay. Set your space and margins according to MLA Format. Don't expect people to read your work and not be negatively impressed if it is sloppy and carelessly put together.

14) Quotations must be exact. If they are part of one of your sentences, they must fit grammatically into that sentence. Follow MLA Format.

15) Do not use "I" or "you" in your essay. When you use "I," you make yourself the subject of your sentences. Do not make yourself the subject of your sentences in a critical essay. Make your ideas the subject of your essay. Furthermore, when you use "you," you are addressing somebody who isn't there or you are referring to the generic "one."

16) Plagiarism is when you use someone else's words or ideas without giving them proper credit. It is all right, and often very good, to refer to the ideas of others. However, you must make it clear in your writing whose ideas they are and where they came from. Having someone else do your work and putting your name on it is also plagiarism. Plagiarism is not a custom of the culture of the United States and will not be tolerated in this institution.

17) Do not ask questions in your writing. This device is called the Rhetorical Question. There are better strategies to use.

18) Avoid using semicolons.