

English 008: Basic Composition 1
Imperial Valley College
Fall 2013
CRN 10340

Class Time: MWF 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Class Location: Room 2727

Instructor: Mr. Robert Baukholt

Office: 2792

Live Office Hours: M 12:50 p.m. – 2:50 p.m., WF 12:50 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Online Office Hour: T 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (in the “Office” forum of our BB course shell)

Email: Robert.Baukholt@imperial.edu

Campus Phone: (760) 355-6159

English 008 SLOs: Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Generate essays with a clear thesis statement or controlling idea. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
2. Write essays showing support for a thesis statement or controlling idea. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
3. Construct complete sentences with few errors in sentence structure such as fragments, comma splices, run-on sentences. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)
4. Compose a multi-paragraph essay response to a reading. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

Welcome to English 008: Basic Composition I. This class is intended to help students develop and strengthen their basic writing skills. It focuses on grammar, mechanics, punctuation, paragraph structure and simple essay composition. Our primary goal in this class is to become better at written forms of communication, particularly as they apply towards future academic and professional success. We will attempt to meet this goal through exercises, reading responses, and written assignments, both in paragraph and essay form. This class requires a great deal of hard work and effort!

Class Atmosphere and Requirements

The majority of our class activities will involve discussion and practice of grammatical and structural concepts, assigned readings, and other topics relevant to us. We may be discussing controversial issues; please remember to keep an open mind and be respectful of the diverse backgrounds, opinions, and ideas of your peers in your contributions to these discussions.

There will also be some homework assignments and readings distributed in class. If you miss class, you will need to contact a classmate or me to find out what you missed.

Required Texts:

- A college dictionary
- Sentences, Paragraphs, & Beyond: A Worktext with Readings by Brandon and Brandon

Attendance: Students are expected to attend every class session. Any student who misses the first class will be dropped. Students may be dropped at instructor discretion if they miss more than a week of class hours continuously. Please make arrangements with the instructor or a fellow student to keep up with all assignments in case you cannot attend a class session for any reason.

Students whose attendance record is exemplary will receive an extra credit bonus to their grade at the end of the semester:

No Absences = +10 pts

Late Assignments: Assignments that are turned in late will be marked down ten percent for each class period they are late. One of my students turned in an A quality essay a few semesters ago. He began with a base score of 97, minus ten for never turning in a first draft, minus forty for the four class sessions it was late. His total grade was 47 (F), and despite his other A quality assignments, his overall grade in the class ended up being a C. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!

Discussions and Exercises: Participation in class discussions and volunteering to help with exercises are very important in this class. You will be expected to contribute to class discussions on a regular basis. If you are unwilling or unable to do this, your grade will suffer SUBSTANTIALLY.

Cell Phones: If your cell phone goes off, you lose ten points from your final grade. If I catch you texting, you lose ten points from your final grade. In one of my classes a few semesters ago, a woman lost 80 points through the course of the semester. This is almost an entire essay grade! She failed the class because of these points. DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!

Typed Assignments: All take-home essay assignments should be typed. This includes all drafts and outlines. Don't bother turning in handwritten essay drafts!

Disruptive Students: Most of you are here to learn, but some students are not serious. To preserve a productive learning environment, students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with Sergio Lopez, Campus Disciplinary officer, before returning to continue with coursework. Mr. Lopez will follow disciplinary procedures as outlined in the General Catalog.

Plagiarism: IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. A student found to have cheated on any assignment or plagiarized will receive a zero for the assignment and will be sent to Disciplinary Officer Sergio Lopez. A second occurrence of cheating or plagiarism may result in dismissal from class and expulsion from IVC as outlined in the General Catalog.

If you have any questions about how to quote or document sources, please feel free to ask me. In an average semester (six composition and literature classes) I usually fail between 5-10 students for plagiarizing. DON'T LET THIS BE YOU! If you aren't sure, ASK!

If I am not confident that a submitted work of writing is representative of your true capabilities, I may arrange an alternative, timed writing assignment to replace or supplement the original assignment.

Office Hours: I want you to pass my class. If you are having trouble, COME TO MY OFFICE SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS IT!!!

Showing Me What you Have Learned: Because this class focuses on improving your writing skills, you will be learning a variety of writing skill strategies throughout the semester. You should always attempt to incorporate these strategies into your essays. A large portion of your grade depends on your ability to prove that you have learned something about the writing process. Show me what you have learned.

Special Needs: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have information to share with me or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

“Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S is located in the Health Sciences Building, Room 2117. (760) 955-6312

Assignments and Grading

In addition to the paragraphs and essays you will be writing for this class, there are a number of other assignments that will factor into your final grade.

Journal: Journal entries will be the most common assignment for this class. Journals should consist of one- to two page hand-written responses to the assigned question or questions. Your grade on this journal will be based solely on whether or not it appears you are making a good faith effort to answer the questions being asked.

MySkills Tutor: Some of your grade will be based on your performance working with Myskills tutor assignments outside of class. I will give you a user name and password that will allow you to access Myskills at home or at school. You must score at least an 80 percent on any Myskills section to have it count towards your grade, but you can take each section as many times as you want. The higher the score you earn, the higher your grade will be.

Homework Quizzes: Most of the assigned homework for this class will not be collected. Instead, we will go over the homework as a class and attempt to work through any parts of the assignment that we find to be especially confusing or difficult. You should consider the homework as your primary tool for succeeding in this class. The more exercises you do, the better you will understand the class concepts, and the better you will do on your quizzes, examinations and writing assignments. Every two to three weeks we will have a quiz on the previous weeks' concepts. Most of these quiz questions will be taken directly from your homework assignments.

Examinations: We will have a midterm and a final in this class. Both will be cumulative. If you do not do your homework or pay attention in class, you will do poorly on these examinations and will not pass the course. We will spend time reviewing key concepts before these examinations.

Grading is based on a 1000 point total, which includes the paragraphs you will be writing for the course, participation (which includes homework and journals in addition to verbal contributions) homework quizzes and our two examinations. The breakdown of the grading and points are as follows:

Homework Quizzes:	250 points/25%
Midterm:	150 points/15%
Final:	200 points/20%
MySkills Tutor	50 points/5%
Writing Assignment 1:	50 points/5%
Writing Assignment 2:	50 points/5%
Writing Assignment 3:	50 points/5%
Writing Assignment 4:	100 points/10%
Discussions:	100 points/10%
TOTAL	1000 points/100%

A > 90% B > 80% C > 70% D > 60% F < 60%

Failing to complete assignments or not participating in required class activities will lower your grade significantly. If you are worried about your grade, I encourage you to talk to me or e-mail me throughout the semester.

Schedule for English 008

Because English 008 is a skills class, it is a common occurrence for a topic to take more or less time for us to cover than we planned. This schedule reliably informs you of the lessons we will cover in the class and of the exact essay and exam dates, but beyond that it is subject to change at any time.

Quizzes are unannounced and can be given at any time, which is why they are not represented in the schedule.

Week 1

Monday, August 19th – Go over the syllabus. Introductions.

Wednesday, August 21st – Diagnostic writing assignment.

Friday, August 23rd – Chapter 4: Parts of Speech

Week 2

Monday, August 26th – Chapter 5: Subjects and Verbs.

Wednesday August, 28th – Chapter 6: Kinds of Sentences.

Friday, August 30th – Chapter 6, continued. Assign Essay 1.

Week 3

Monday, September 2nd – Holiday!

Wednesday, September 4th – Chapter 7: Combining Sentences

Friday, September 6th – Chapter 7, continued.

Week 4

Monday, September 9th – Chapter 8: Correcting Fragments, Comma Splices, and Run-ons.

Wednesday, September 11th – Chapter 8, continued.

Friday, September 13th – Chapter 8, continued.

Week 5

Monday, September 16th – Chapter 9: Verbs. Essay 1 is due. Assign Essay 2.

Wednesday, September 18th – Chapter 9, continued.

Friday, September 20th – Chapter 9, continued.

Week 6

Monday, September 23rd – Chapter 10: Pronouns.

Wednesday, September 25th – Chapter 10, continued.

Friday, September 27th – Chapter 10, continued.

Week 7

Monday, September 30th – Chapter 11: Adjectives and Adverbs.

Wednesday, October 2nd – Chapter 11, continued.

Friday, October 4th – Chapter 14: Spelling and Phrasing

Week 8

Monday, October 7th – Midterm Review. Essay 2 is due. Assign Essay 3.

Wednesday, October 9th – Midterm Jeopardy!

Friday, October 11th – Midterm Examination.

Week 9

Monday, October 14th – Chapter 12: Balancing Sentence Parts

Wednesday, October 16th – Chapter 12, continued.

Friday, October 18th – Chapter 12, continued.

Week 10

Monday, October 21st – Chapter 16: The Writing Process (Pre-writing)

Wednesday, October 23rd – Chapter 16, continued.

Friday, October 25th – Chapter 17: The Writing Process (Topic Sentences and Outlines)

Week 11

Monday, October 28th – Chapter 17, continued. Essay 3 is due.

Wednesday, October 30th – Movie in preparation for the final essay.

Friday, November 1st – Movie, continued. Assign Final Essay.

Week 12

Monday, November 4th – Thesis Statements.

Wednesday, November 6th – Introductions.

Friday, November 8th – Conclusions

Week 13

Monday, November 11th – Holiday!

Wednesday, November 13th – Essay Workshops.

Friday, November 15th – Essay Workshops, continued.

Week 14

Monday, November 18th – Chapter 13, punctuation.

Wednesday, November 20th – Chapter 13, continued.

Friday, November 22nd – Chapter 13, continued. Final Essay is Due.

Week 15

Monday, November 25th – Final Exam Review.

Wednesday, November 27th – Final Exam Jeopardy!

Friday, November 29th – Holiday!

Week 16

Monday, December 2nd – Final Exam, Part 1.

Wednesday, December 4th – Final Exam, Part 2.

Friday, December 6th – I will be available to answer any questions. Have a great winter break!

I understand the policies laid out in Mr. Baukholt's English 008 Syllabus, and I agree to adhere to those policies.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____