

## English 08, Fall 2013/ Imperial Valley College

**Instructor:** Jose E. Apodaca

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**Days/ Time:** Monday: 5:30-9:45    Wednesday: 5:30-9:45

### Course Description:

The primary objective of this course is to make you a better writer. In order for you to enjoy success in your academic and professional careers, it is imperative that you master the written word. By the end of the course, you will be able to compose thoughtful and effective paragraphs and essays which demonstrate a sound understanding of sentence structure, fluency, organization, development, controlling ideas and content, grammar, and mechanics. You will also have the ability to identify and compose descriptive, personal, narrative, and expository paragraphs and essays. The ability to compose coherent paragraphs and essays will give you the required training for advancement to the next level of courses.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion of this course, 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)**

### Textbook (Optional):

*Sentences, Paragraphs, and Beyond with Integrated Readings, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*

### Required Materials:

1. Binder with 8 ½ X 11 sheets of paper
2. College Dictionary with Thesaurus
3. Writing instrument: pen and pencil

### Course Policies:

**Attendance:** The expectation is that students attend 100% of the class meetings. As per policy, students may not miss a total number of consecutive days that equal to the number of hours. Failure to attend 3 consecutive meetings will result in failure of the course. Additionally, students are expected to attend the entire class meetings. Leaving early or arriving late will count as an absence. Additionally, returning late from a break may also count as an absence. If students are not in class at the start of class, students are late. **EVERY DAY COUNTS** – If a student misses one day of class, he is missing 4 hours of instruction. Information will be provided at each lesson; therefore, your attendance in class is critical to your success.

**Attendance Policy/Tardiness:** *“A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class MAY be dropped by the instructor immediately following the class. Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students enrolled. A student may be excluded from further attendance in a class during any semester when absences after the close of registration have exceeded the number of class hours which the class meets per week.*

**Cell Phones/ Electronic Devices:** As a professional courtesy turn them off or put them on vibrate. Do not use them during class, and do not place them on top of the desks as they are a distraction.

**Late Assignments:** Late or missed assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

**Academic Misconduct:** *Academic misconduct includes misconduct associated with the classroom, laboratory or clinical learning process. Some examples of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism.*

*Cheating includes, but is not limited to, (a) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, assessment tests or examinations; (b) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the faculty member in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; or (c) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the college faculty or staff. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use of paraphrased or directly quoted published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. Information gathered from the internet and not properly identified is also considered plagiarism. Any student found by a faculty member to have committed academic misconduct may be subject to sanctions as determined by the faculty member. Sanctions MAY include a warning, grade adjustment, and course failure. Consequences for plagiarism include a zero on the assignment and a referral to Sergio Lopez, Dean of Student Development and Campus Events.*

**Accommodations for Disabilities Policy:** *“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. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, Room 2117. (760) 355-6312”*

**Discipline Policy:** *“Imperial Valley College is maintained for the purpose of providing students in the community with programs of instruction in higher education. The College is concerned with the fostering of knowledge, the search for truth and the dissemination of ideas. Students shall assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college’s function as an educational institution.*

An instructor MAY REMOVE a student for the day of removal and the next class meeting. Such action must be immediately reported to Sergio Lopez, Dean of Student Development and Campus Events. During the period of removal the student MAY NOT return without the consent of the instructor.”

**Assignments and Grading:**

**Grades will be based on an accumulation of points for the term. Each assignment will be given a point value and included in the final grade. Assignments will consist of the following:**

<b>Assessment #1: 100 Points</b>	<b>In Class Practice Essays (Timed): 30 Points/ Essay (7-10 Essays)</b>
<b>Mid Term: 200 Points</b>	<b>Warm Ups (Timed): 5 Pts./ Exercise (10-16 Exercises)</b>
<b>Assessment #3: 300 Points</b>	<b>Journals: 5 Pts./ Exercise (15-30 Exercises)</b>
<b>Final: 400 Points</b>	<b>Quizzes: 5-25 Pts. / Quiz (Amount TBD)</b>
	<b>Academic Reading/ Response: 30 Pts (5-8 Exercises)</b>

**NOTES:**

**ASSESSMENTS:** *THE BULK OF YOUR GRADE WILL BE BASED ON YOUR PERFORMANCE ON THE ASSESSMENTS. THE CLASS LESSONS, PRESENTATIONS, READINGS, AND NOTES WILL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE ON EACH ASSESSMENT.*

**IN-CLASS PRACTICE ESSAYS:** *EACH ESSAY IS WORTH 30 POINTS. THE RUBRIC USED TO SCORE EACH ESSAY WILL BE PROVIDED. EACH ESSAY WILL BE TIMED AND SCORED ACCORDING TO THE RUBRIC. ESSAYS MAY NOT BE MADE UP FOR ANY MISSED CLASSES. IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT ON THE DAY OF AN IN-CLASS ESSAY, THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MAKE UP OPPORTUNITIES.*

**JOURNALS:** *STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED JOURNALS TO WRITE IN CLASS OR AT HOME. EACH JOURNAL WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF 5 OR ZERO – THERE IS NO PARTIAL CREDIT. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY “MAKE UPS” FOR ANY ABSENCES.*

**WARM UPS:** *EACH CLASS WILL BEGIN WITH A TIMED WARM UP. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE EACH EXERCISE IN ITS ENTIRETY – FAILURE TO COMPLETE ANY PART OF THE EXERCISE WILL RESULT IN A SCORE OF ZERO. THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MAKE UP WARM UPS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT.*

**NOTE: The course syllabus is a working document, and the instructor reserves the right to adjust assignments accordingly by either adding or removing assignments in an effort to best fit the need of the class.**

**NOTE: THIS IS A COURSE IN WRITING FUNDAMENTALS; THEREFORE, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN ALL IN CLASS AND OUT OF CLASS ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS. ALL ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TO HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER WRITER, AND FAILURE TO FULLY PARTICIPATE WILL RESULT IN LOW SCORES ON THE ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND QUIZZES WHICH WILL THEREBY RESULT IN A LOW OR FAILING GRADE.**

**Class Participation and Practice:**

The course will consist of lecture, discussion, and practice. You are expected to take notes on all lectures, for several examples will be provided in the lectures. The lectures will be in connection with the readings from the text, so it is imperative that you read ahead in order to fully be able to contribute to the class discussion. If you choose to take mediocre notes, you run the risk of missing out on critical information. Remember that it is critical to note that you are expected to apply all that is presented in class to your writing. We will cover everything from the writing process to sentence construction to development and organization.

Your grade will be based on a percentage of points earned throughout the term. You are responsible for keeping track of points earned in class.

**90-100 %=A**

**80-89 %=B**

**70-79%=C**

**60-69%=D**

**50-% or below= F**

**Tentative Schedule: Please note that this is a tentative schedule as there may be occasions when we will move faster, or slower, through some of the subject matter. Also, please be advised that the titles for each week serve as a guide for the area of focus for the meeting and do not necessarily indicate the only area that will be worked on. Assignments and readings from the text will also be assigned regularly. The paragraph and essay will be introduced in the first part of the semester, and we will work on areas designed to improve your performance on your over all writing.**