

English 110 – Composition and Reading

Course Syllabus – Fall 2013

Section 10408 meets Thursdays, 5:30pm-9:45pm in room 2751.

Instructor and Office Hours

Aaron Abubo, MFA aaron.abubo@imperial.edu

Office hours by appointment only.

Required Texts:

Kirzner, Laurie G. & Mandell, Stephen R. *Patterns for College Writing, Twelfth Edition.*

Eggers, David; Editor. *The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2011.*

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five.*

Course Description:

English 110 is the standard course in freshman English. The course seeks to improve the student's ability to understand serious and complex prose and to improve the student's ability to write an exposition that is thoughtful and clear, including the production of a well-documented research paper.

This is a reading and writing class. As such, students will be expected to complete weekly reading selections and reading journals prior to class each week. There will be extensive reading including essays, articles, short stories, and a novel. Students will also be required to compose a total of 8,000 to 10,000 words throughout the semester, including essays, reading journals, and in-class assignments.

Course Objectives:

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Read, analyze, and interpret a variety of written texts, including one single-author text.
2. Identify evidence, tone, purpose, and audience, and fallacies in a variety of written works.
3. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the writing process, from development and drafting to revising and editing.
4. Demonstrate a command of varying writing patterns, such as comparison and contrast, definition and argumentation.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of connotative and figurative language while writing for an academic audience.
6. Adapt writing strategies to the requirements of the writing situation (e.g., to essay exam or other timed writing, research writing, reflective writing).
7. Examine and analyze their own writing and that of other students with a view towards improving the effectiveness of the written work.
8. Develop text analysis and interpretation supported by citations, synthesized with the study and application of documentation styles and library skills (including electronic databases to produce a research paper).
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the writing process by writing at least four essays using a variety of rhetorical modes, along with one research paper, composing a total of 8,000-10,000 words.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate mastery of research strategies, including appropriate use and correct documentation of research materials (ILO1, ILO4, ILO5)
2. Demonstrate mastery of pre-writing strategies, including brainstorming and outlining (ILO1, ILO2)
3. Develop an essay of multiple pages that effectively presents and strongly supports a thesis statement (ILO1, ILO2)
4. Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics (ILO3)

Assignments

Students will complete a variety of assignments including four essays, weekly reading journals, weekly reading, etc. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of due dates and to plan accordingly. All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard, due by 5:15 pm the day of class. Some assignments will also need to be printed and brought into class, including weekly reading journals, and essay drafts on the day of workshops.

If the student knows he/she will be absent the day the assignment is due, it is the student's responsibility to make arrangements to turn the assignment in early or have it delivered to class at the appropriate time by a friend, family member, or classmate.

Submit assignments on BlackBoard before class.
imperial.blackboard.com

Late assignments will be accepted up to one week (7 days) after the due date and will be assessed a 50% points penalty based on grade earned. If the assignment earns 90 out of 100 points for example, only 45 points would be earned were the assignment turned in late. No assignments will be accepted later than one week after the due date.

GRADES

Narrative Essay	(1000 words)	500 points
Expository Essay	(1000 words)	500 points
Persuasive Essay	(1500 words)	750 points
Research Essay	(3500 – 4500 words)	1500 points
Reading Journals	(300-500 words)	100 points each
In-Class Writing	(varies)	varies
Quizzes	(varies)	varies

Grading for essays will be broken down in the following way:

- 20%: Draft
- 15%: Grammar & Spelling
- 10%: Adherence to assignment guidelines
- 10%: Clarity of Thesis
- 20%: Overall Structure and Organization
- 25%: Overall Presentation of Subject

In-Class Writing, Reading Journals, and Essay Drafts will be graded on a credit/no credit basis.

Your final grade will be based on a percentage of total points earned throughout the semester of the total points available. As such, each assignment is important and may help your final grade.

- A 90%-100%
- B 80%-89%
- C 70%-79%
- D 60%-69%
- F 0%- 59%

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 8/22:

Course Introduction/ Crafting a narrative.

Week 2 8/29:

Grammar / Workshop / Narrative Essay Draft Due. *

Week 3 9/5:

The Writing Process / Purpose, Tone, & Audience / Narrative Essay Due.

Week 4 9/12:

Using Description / Definition / Discuss & Develop Expository Essay.

Week 5 9/19:

Grammar / Workshop / Compare & Contrast / Expository Essay Draft Due. *

Week 6 9/26:

Crafting an Argument / Connotative & Figurative Language / Expository Essay Due.

Week 7 10/3:

Pre-Writing Strategies / Discuss & Develop Persuasive Essay.

Week 8 10/17:

Grammar / Workshop / Persuasive Essay Draft Due. *

Week 9 10/24:

Finding & Evaluating Sources / Persuasive Essay Due.

Week 10 10/31:

Documenting Sources / Discuss & Develop Research Essay.

Week 11 11/7:

Structuring Your Research Essay / Research Essay Thesis Due.

Last day to drop with a "W" is November 9, 2013.

Week 12 11/14:

Workshop / Research Essay Introduction, Outline, & Bibliography Due. *

Week 13 11/21:

Workshop / Research Essay Draft Due. *

Week 14 11/28:

Thanksgiving Holiday. No class.

Week 15 12/5:

Research Essay Due.

*For in-class workshops, students will need to bring one copy each for the instructor and each member of workshop group, including the student.

In addition to essays and in-class workshops, each class session will also include a lecture portion and a class discussion of weekly readings.

Imperial Valley College Policies

Academic Misconduct Policy: 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.

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 the class meets per week.

When you signed up for this class, you made a commitment to attend all sessions and complete all assignments, including readings. However, if you know two weeks in advance that you will be absent from class, you may make arrangements with me to take any scheduled tests (and submit that week’s homework) one week early. You may not make up a test that has already been taken by the class. You may not submit late work.

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.”