

Imperial Valley College
Syllabus: English 98 Writing Fundamentals
Spring 2012

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CRN 20299
Day/Time: 11:50 – 1:15pm
Room: 2700/2732

Office Hours: M/W 12:30 – 1:15pm, T/R 3:45 – 4:30pm

Writing became such a process of discovery that I couldn't wait to get to work in the morning: I wanted to know what I was going to say. ~Sharon O'Brien

Course Description

In this course you will strengthen your intermediate writing skills as you read, think, discuss, plan and write. You will focus on your grammar, punctuation, sentence structure and word use in a variety of five-paragraph essay patterns including description, narration, comparison and definition. This nontransferable course earns 3.0 units that can be applied only to the AA/AS Degree.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Generate essays with a clear thesis statement.
2. Write essays showing support of a thesis statement.
3. Construct complete sentences with few errors in sentence structure such as fragments, comma splices, and run-on sentences.

Course Objectives

1. Develop and use discovery techniques and apply these techniques to expository writing with 3 to 5 paragraph essays.
2. Generate ideas based upon knowledge of concrete data and will be able to express ideas amply in terms of an emerging thesis statement.
3. Organize data necessary to support a thesis statement and subsequent supporting paragraphs while studying and applying various rhetorical modes with emphasis on description, narration, definition, and comparison.
4. Recognize and identify various audiences, both general and academic.
5. Develop text interpretation supported by citations from the reading with emphasis on vocabulary development.
6. Practice a variety of sentence types and successfully demonstrate clean and correct sentence patterns. Student will work to master subject-verb agreement, consistent verb tense, avoiding fragments and run-ons.
7. Practice effective sentencings and use connotative and figurative language while writing with special attention given to proofreading.
8. Participate in a number of activities and areas of study as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Textbooks and Required Class Materials

- *College Writing Skills with Readings, 8th edition* (John Langan)
- Paperback college dictionary such as Webster's or American Heritage
- #2 pencils, black or blue pens, and highlighters
- Notebook with paper and dividers

Attendance and Participation

In English 98, subject matter and skills are introduced and practiced in class, so attendance and participation are mandatory. The more you are actively engaged in reading, writing and thinking, the more your writing is going to improve. You are allowed to miss the equivalent of one week of school. This translates to *2 absences for a class that meets two times a week. If you exceed this number, you may be dropped from the class.* Arriving late or leaving early counts as a partial absence. Students not present for the first class will be dropped.

Evaluation: Class Preparation and Assignments

You are responsible for knowing and observing due dates for all assignments, and I expect you to come to class prepared, as many in-class activities are based on your preparation. I will evaluate your preparation by collecting and grading selected written assignments and also by giving impromptu quizzes. Aside from documented emergency situations, I will not grade late assignments or give make-up tests.

Plagiarism, using someone else's writings, ideas and/or words and passing them off as your own, is a form of cheating and will result in an "F" on the assignment, test, or lab activity. If it is repeated, the student will fail the course and can be expelled from the college. See student handbook for policy.

Evaluation: Grades

A final grade will be based on your weighted average in the following categories:

Quizzes	25%
Essays	25%
Preparation and Participation	20%
My Skills Tutor	10%
Midterm and Final Exam	20%

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

You will have four major writing assignments during the semester that will be typed and graded. You will be required to visit the writing lab for assistance. I will accept papers one class period late for partial credit.

Successful Students

In this class, you will be given the opportunity to learn vital skills that will prepare you for future academic and life pursuits. You will make the most of this opportunity if you:

- **Read** the syllabus and the assignment sheets carefully and refer to them regularly
- **Write** down any instructions given orally and take notes
- **Ask** questions about assignments before due dates
- **Find out** how they can most easily learn the material in this course
- **Know** when they need help, and how to get it

If you suspect you have a disability that may impact your ability to achieve the objectives of this course, please notify your instructor or contact the DSPS staff in the Health Services Building at 355-6312. All information and documentation is confidential.

Just a note...

Students in ENGL 98 are expected to focus on their learning and the learning of others. Disruptive behavior including tardiness, cell phone use, disrespectful language or repeatedly coming unprepared to class will not be tolerated, since it interferes with the educational process. Intervention may include a verbal warning, dismissal from class, and a visit to the Dean.

**It is the student's responsibility to be aware of deadlines and /or to add or drop on time.*

ENGL 98 Semester Schedule
Spring 2012

Week	Essay Writing	Sentence Skills	Assessment
1 Jan 17/19	Why Write? Diagnostic Writing		T R-Diagnostic Essay
2 Jan 24/26	Ch. 1: Intro to Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point and Support • Essay Structure • Views of Writing 	Ch. 23: Subjects & Verbs	T R-QUIZ Subjects & Verbs
3 Jan31 /Feb2	Ch. 2: The Writing Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prewriting • 1st Draft • Revising • Editing 	Ch. 24: Fragments	T R-
4 Feb 7/9	Ch. 3: Step 1 & 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis Statement • Support 	Ch. 25: Run-Ons	T- QUIZ Answering Essay Q R- Skills Tutor A.
5 Feb 14/16	Ch. 4: Step 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize Evidence • Connect Evidence 	Ch. 26: Regular and Irregular Verbs	T-QUIZ Fragments & Run-ons R
6 Feb 21/23	Ch. 5: Step 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revising Sentences • Editing Sentences 	Ch. 27: Subject- Verb Agreement Ch. 28: Verbs	T R-QUIZ: Verbs
7 Feb 28/ Mar 1	Ch. 6: Revising Essays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unity • Support • Coherence 	Ch. 29 & 30: Pronouns	T R-#1: Essay Plans
8 Mar 6/8	Midterm Ch. 7: Intro to Essay Development		Midterm: T-Part 1, Essay Writing (Ch. 1 - 6) R-Part 4, Grammar (Ch. 23 – 30)

9 Mar 13/15	Ch. 8: Description	Ch. 31: Adjectives and Adverbs	T-Skills Tutor B. R
10 Mar 20/22		Ch. 32/33: Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers	T-#2 Descriptive Essay R
11 Mar 27/29	Ch. 9: Narration	Ch. 37/38: Apostrophes and Quotation Marks	T-QUIZ: Adjectives, Adverbs & Modifiers R
12 Ap 3/5	Ch. 12: Cause and Effect	Ch. 39/40: Commas and Other Punctuation Marks	T-#3: Narrative Essay R-Skills Tutor C.
	SPRING	BREAK	APRIL 9 - 14
13 Ap 17/19	Ch. 13: Comparison or Contrast	Ch. 41/42: Spelling Improvement & Commonly Confused Words	T-QUIZ: Punctuation R
14 Ap 24/26	Ch. 14: Definition	Ch. 43: Effective Word Choice	T-#4: Comparison & Contrast Essay R
15 May 1/3	Ch. 15: Argument		T-QUIZ: Confused Words, Word Choice R-Skills Tutor D.
16 May 8/10	FINAL EXAM		T-Final Essay: Definition R-Part 4, Punctuation & Word Use (31 – 43)