

## English Fundamentals: English 21 ~ Fall 2012

Course # 0204

CSB 102B

M/W: 7:30-8:55a.m.

**Instructor:** A. Keshishyan

**Office:** LRC 219

**Office hours:** Mondays 9-9:45 a.m. and by appointment

**E-Mail:** english.lamission@gmail.com

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### Required Text:

- *Mercury Reader*
- *My Skills Lab* access code:
  - Course ID: english81873

### Required Materials:

- An active E-mail account
  - Access to Internet
  - 2 Blue or Green Books
  - Folder with 2 pockets
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### Course Description (from LAMC catalog):

This is a course in reading and writing designed to strengthen the student's basic communication skills, including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence construction. Greatest emphasis is placed on the writing of competent paragraphs and short essays.

### Student Learning Objectives (SLOs):

- Produce an essay of at least 250 words, which has a thesis, introduction, body and conclusion
- Self-edit and correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors in his/her essay
- Differentiate fact from opinion, identify and paraphrase the main ideas and supporting points in a reading, generalize meaning by recognizing and interpreting inferences and predict meaning of vocabulary through contextual clues in a reading

### A Message:

I once read a very brief but powerful quote that made a deep impact: "writing matters." Whether you are planning on becoming a theoretical physicist or working for a publishing company, writing is going to be an important part of the process. Learning how to read and write well will help you both in your academics and in your future careers, no matter what that may be. Indeed, writing does matter, and English 21 is a great start to your journey to become strong readers, writers, and critical thinkers.

### Course Requirements:

This class is graded **credit/no credit**. The following is a list of the assignments required throughout the semester and the amount of points they count toward passing this class. There are **1,000** total points. 700 points = 70% = passing. You will receive **a zero** for each missing assignment.

- Portfolio (100 points)
- Final Exam (100 points)
- Three essays (100 points each/300 points total)
- Two in-class timed essays (50 points each/100 points total)
- Quizzes – announced and surprises (10 points each/50 points total)
- My Skills Lab (150 points)
- In-class and HW assignments (50 points)
- Participation (150 points)

## **Portfolio Requirements:**

At the end of the semester, you will be required to submit a portfolio of your work, which will include:

- Cover letter
- One in-class timed essay
- Two revised essay packets

The portfolio should demonstrate your understanding of how to write thesis-driven essays with adequate and relevant support, so choose the best two out of the three essays you write this semester, and the best in-class timed essay. You will further revise and polish the assignments you choose to include to showcase your progress throughout the semester. We will discuss the portfolio in more detail as the semester's end draws near. Please do not throw any work away, as you will need to include it in the portfolio.

## **Essays:**

Final drafts will be turned in as a packet in the following order:

- Final draft
- Second draft (with Pearson tutor services receipt)
- First draft
- Peer review sheets

*Grading Policy for Major Essays:*

- Final draft – 70 pts.
- Draft 1 – 10 pts.
- Draft 2 – 10 pts.
- Peer review sheets – 10 pts.

**Total:** 100 points

## **LRC:**

The LRC tutors are there to help students with their writing process. They are nice people and don't bite, so do not be afraid or intimidated to ask for help. The LRC is located in the LRC building, room 219. Call ahead of time to make an appointment: (818) 364-7754. Services are free for LAMC students.

## **Revision Policy:**

I will not accept revisions on any of the essays as you have plenty of opportunities to progress before you turn in your final drafts. However, the portfolio offers you the chance to show me that you have taken what you have learned throughout the semester and are able to apply them into your writings.

## **In-Class Timed Essays:**

Timed essays are a good way to practice quick thinking and organizing. It will give you a chance to learn the areas in which you excel and the areas in which you need to practice. In addition to all of these benefits, it will help prepare you for timed writing exams you may have throughout your academic careers.

## **MySkillsLab:**

These online assignments are a required part of this course, and by departmental policy, they are worth 15% of your grade. These exercises will give you extra practice on the skills you need to work on, while not having to concentrate on what you already know. If you need technical assistance, contact Pearson:

<http://247pearsoned.custhelp.com>

## **Pearson Tutor Services:**

Your subscription to MySkillsLab gives you access to Pearson Tutor Services, including 3 free submissions. Highly qualified online tutors will carefully review your essay drafts and provide you with personalized and detailed feedback with advice on how to improve. You will receive the tutor's response typically within 12 to 48 hours. A receipt confirming the use of this service will be required in your final essay packet.

## **Homework Assignments:**

Homework assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class. If you are late, you will receive a zero on that assignment. Assignments that require Internet responses must be submitted at or before the time allotted. Anything posted after this time will not be counted.

## Quizzes:

We will be having announced AND unannounced quizzes throughout the semester – this will be my way of making sure you stay on top of the assigned readings.

## Participation:

Your participation in class discussions, attendance, peer review, and teacher conferencing are all a part of your participation grade.

- *Class discussions* – everyone’s opinions and ideas are valued and respected in this class. We will be discussing current events, controversial issues, and sensitive topics, so be prepared to hear opinions that might differ from your own. We must be respectful and professional at all times.
- *Attendance* – your attendance is crucial to the productivity and value of this course. If you aren’t here, you aren’t participating. Period.
- *Peer reviews* – As part of the focus on writing in English 101, you will have the opportunity to write (several) drafts of your writing assignments. This process includes meeting in small groups with 3 or 4 colleagues. The idea is to help you rethink ideas and revise your papers. It is imperative that you turn in your drafts on time for the success of these group reviews. You will receive a zero on the peer review section of the final draft if you are not present on the day we meet in groups.
- *Conferences* – Having a one-on-one meeting with your instructor can be helpful to you in a variety of ways. You will be encouraged to meet with me during my office hours **at least once** during this semester to discuss one of your three essays. Of course, you are welcome to meet with me more than once. During our meeting, we will discuss your essay and other issues/questions/concerns you might have about the class and your progress.
- *Cell Phones and electronic devices* – The use of cell phones and/or other electronic devices during class time will lower your overall grade in the class. Please turn off your cell phones. If I see you texting, facebooking, twittering, emailing, watching iFunnies, playing games, or doing anything else that is not relevant to class, your participation grade will be lowered. Repeat offenders may lose all of their participation points.

## Academic Dishonesty:

Plagiarism is intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, or work of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. We will discuss plagiarism as we learn about MLA. Instances of plagiarism thereafter will be reported to administration handling academic dishonesty, and you will receive a zero on that assignment. If you are not clear about what constitutes plagiarism, ask!

## Late Policy:

All written work is due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to be in class on the day a paper is due, you must hand it in earlier. In case of medical or family emergencies, I might make an exception, but written documentation will be required. Otherwise, LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Also, I do not accept papers via Email.

## Getting Help:

Feel free to ask for assistance at any time. It is your responsibility to make sure you are on top of things. There are plenty of ways to get help when you need it: (1) Email a classmate. (2) Ask me! If you are absent and need to know what you missed, contact a classmate. If you have other questions or concerns about the class, you may contact me in person or via Email. I respond to Email fairly quickly.

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## Tentative Schedule ~ Fall 2012

\* This schedule is *tentative*. Depending on a number of different factors, readings, due dates, and homework assignments will most likely change. Thus, it is important to attend every class.

### Week 1

8/27 Introductions/Syllabus  
8/29 MySkillsLab  
Diagnostic Essay  
HW: start MySkillsLab

## Week 2

- 9/3 Labor Day – Campus Closed  
9/5 “How to Mark a Book” by Mortimer Adler  
HW: read “Letter to the President” by Jackie Robinson

## Week 3

- 9/10 essay #1 prompt handout  
General Writing Tips – PPT  
“Shitty First Drafts”  
9/12 **1<sup>st</sup> drafts due – bring 3 copies for peer review**  
**HW: email thesis statement to me by Friday midnight**

## Week 4

- 9/17 Grammar PPT and Practice  
9/19 **2<sup>nd</sup> draft of Essay #1 due – bring 3 copies for peer review**

## Week 5

- 9/24 Grammar Practice cont.  
9/26 Sentence Structure and Style PPT and practice  
**Final Draft of Essay #1 DUE**  
HW: read “The Myth of the Latin Woman: I Just Met a Girl Named Maria”

## Week 6

- 10/1 discussion of judgments, prejudice, and discrimination  
10/3 “Mother Tongue” by Amy Tan  
essay #2 prompt handout

## Week 7

- 10/8 Discrimination discussion cont.  
Thesis Statements practice  
10/10 **1<sup>st</sup> draft of essay #2 due – bring 3 copies for peer review**

## Week 8

- 10/15 “Mother Tongue” discussion cont  
*\*All reading skills modules completed, including mastery check (MySkillsLab)*  
10/17 **2<sup>nd</sup> drafts of essay #2 due - bring 3 copies for peer review**

## Week 9

- 10/22 **In-Class Essay #1**  
10/24 discussion of MLA – referencing the primary source  
**Final Draft of Essay #2 DUE**

## Week 10

- 10/29 “The Yellow Wallpaper”  
10/31 “The Yellow Wallpaper” readings

## Week 11

- 11/5 Group assignment – “The Yellow Wallpaper”  
essay #3 prompt  
11/7 Group presentations  
**1<sup>st</sup> draft of essay #3 due by Friday midnight via email**

## Week 12

- 11/12 Holiday; Campus Closed

11/14 **2<sup>nd</sup> drafts of essay #3 due – bring 3 copies for peer review**  
*\*all writing modules due, including mastery check (MySkillsLab)*

**Week 13**

11/19 **Final Draft of Essay #3 DUE**  
Revision strategies

11/21 Portfolio Talk

**Week 14**

11/26 **In-class essay #2**

11/28 Portfolio Cover Letter peer review/workshop – **drafts due**

**Week 15**

12/3 Break-up letter: Dramatic Reading

12/5 Portfolio workshops

**Week 16**

12/10 **Portfolio DUE**

12/12 Final Exam

December 10-15 Final  
Final Examinations!  
Good Luck ☺