

Instructor: Mark K. Nishimura
Class: English 21, Section 0204
Aug. 26 through Dec 15, 2013
Class Hours: 7:15 to 8:40 a.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays
Class Room: CSB 101
Office Hours: 10:30 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Instructional Building, Faculty
Office #16
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Course Description: English 21 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.

Prerequisite: Dev Com 1 or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the English assessment process or by permit.

Student Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Produce an essay of at least 250 words, which has a thesis, an introduction, body, and conclusion; and sentence structure will be diversified;
- Self-edit and correct grammar, spelling and punctuation errors in his or her essays;
- 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 readings.

Required Texts:

The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White. Fourth Edition.

Mercury Reader LAMC Custom Text (MR).

English Simplified Package with MySkillsLab pamphlet. **MySkillsLab Course ID:**

nishimura10871

An English dictionary of the student's choice (*American Heritage* or *Merriam Webster* paperback suggested).

Students should bring *Mercury Reader* and the dictionary to every class session.

Other Required Materials: A college-rule, 180-sheet (or more) notebook. Students should bring the notebook, along with a pen and pencil, to every class session.

Internet: Internet access will be required for MySkillsLab exercises and for online documents posted on the instructor's profile on the LAMC Website. A student representative of Pearson Publishing is available to assist you with questions or problems that may arise in your use of MySkillsLab.

Participation: Students must come to class fully prepared, complete all readings and writing assignments, take part in discussions, ask thoughtful questions, and respect everyone's opinion in the class. Any student who does not come to class fully prepared or who disrupts or disrespects these basic rules of kindness will be dismissed from the class period and be marked absent.

Electronic devices must be turned off in the classroom. Text-messaging, e-mailing, receiving phone calls, and listening to music players will be treated as non-participation in class work. Students committing any of these acts will be dismissed from the class period and be marked absent.

There will be no exceptions to these rules.

Attendance Is Mandatory: Students are required to attend regularly, to arrive on time, and to remain throughout the period. If a student leaves midway through the class at any time, for longer than ten minutes, without proper permission, he or she will be marked absent. Three (3) class absences will lead to a lowering of the course grade. A student who misses four (4) or more classes will not pass the course. Consistent tardiness or an early exit will likewise lead to an overall low course grade.

If a student cannot attend class due to emergency or special circumstances, the instructor must be notified beforehand. If a student does miss a class, he or she is responsible for making arrangements to turn in any assignment that was due and for contacting class members to review the class discussion and announcements. Calling or sending an e-mail to explain an absence is necessary to ensure that *excused absences* are recorded properly, but please do not ask the instructor to repeat information given in the missed class.

Note: If you stop attending a class (or wish to drop a class), you MUST drop the class yourself officially on or before Nov. 17 (Internet). Failure to do so may result in a failure in that class.

There will be no exceptions to these rules.

Preparation: Students are required to come to class, textbook or readings in hand, with reading, writing and grammar assignments completed so that they could be handed in at the beginning of the class and/or be discussed in depth. Any assignment that is late, particularly the essays, will be marked down for each day late.

There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Writing Assignments: Early drafts of paragraphs or essays brought to class for review and revision should be typed or written clearly enough for the instructor and other students to easily read them. All revised and final drafts of writing assignments must be typed and double-spaced, with proper margin lengths and font (Times New Roman, Size 12), and must contain title of essay, name of student, name of course/teacher, and date. Final drafts must also be carefully proofread for spelling and grammatical errors. Students must maintain backup copies of all essays submitted for grading. Assignments will not be accepted via email.

Essays will be accepted at the next class meeting after the due date but with a deduction of one full point from the earned grade. The final out-of-class assignment, the Argument Essay, will not be accepted after the original due date.

In addition, students may revised all graded paragraphs and essays (except for the final Argument Essay) if they want to improve a grade on the papers. Students who take this offer

must confirm it with the professor, so that the professor can tell the students how to improve the paper. All revised papers must be turned in before or on the last day of class.

There will be no exceptions to these rules.

Grading Policy: This class is graded as either “credit” or “no credit.” A grade of “credit” indicates that the student has mastered the necessary skills for advancing to English 28. To receive a grade of “credit”, the student must meet attendance requirements, complete all MySkillsLab exercises, complete essay assignments with a passing average, AND pass the final exam.

Course averages will be determined as follows:

Essays and Paragraphs: 35%

Midterm Exam: 20%

MySkillsLab: 15%

Reading Questions, Discussion Groups and Quizzes: 10%

Final Exam: 20%

Additional weight in grading may be placed on assignments written near the end of the semester, if the instructor considers a student’s work to be clearly improved over earlier assignments. However, such adjustments will be made at the instructor’s discretion, and they will not be applied to compensate for any prior work not completed.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words or ideas without properly documenting their source. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please speak to the instructor. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating may result in a failing grade for an assignment or for the entire course.

The Learning Center: If you need help or feedback while you are working on your assignments, visit The Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Library building. Tutors there will assist you in many areas: writing, reading, research, and homework assignments. In the new Title V HSI-ISSA Academic Success Center, the writing and reading specialists are excited about helping you to succeed.

In the Writing Lab, tutors can assist you with MLA styles and in developing writing assignments, lab reports, book reports, essays and research papers.

The Reading Lab offers free assessments of your reading and language skills using PLATO, interactive software that provides learning modules for your individual needs to enhance your reading and grammar skills.

The Learning Center is FREE for all students. Call 818-364-7754 to make an appointment or visit the Information Desk. Visit The Learning Center early each semester and use the FREE assistance throughout the term.

In addition, if a student has a verified disability and need a reasonable accommodation for this class, he or she must notify the instructor and contact the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) at 818-364-7732 or 818-364-7861 (TDD use only) as soon as possible. All information will remain confidential.

Emergency Procedure: If a campus emergency that poses risk to students occurs, please be prepared to immediately follow the instructions of your Instructor. Do not exit the classroom

until instructed to do so. If building evacuation is required, you will be asked to leave all of your non-essential personal belongings in the classroom and quickly, yet orderly and safely, exit the classroom and the building, preferably through the main doors on the north end of Building 29. Proceed to a safe location near the walkway intersection. As the last person to exit, the Instructor will lock the classroom door behind him or her and meet students outside of the building in order to account for each student's presence and safety.

One More Note: The film, *Hangin' with the Homeboys*, will be screened in the class. The film contains offensive language. The screening is not mandatory. If you are sensitive with such language, please notify me, and I will dismiss you from the screening. You will not be marked absent.

English 21 Syllabus

This schedule includes all work that will be completed in the semester. However, the instructor may adjust due dates or shift emphasis among elements of writing and grammar according to students' progress in those areas.

Week One

Tuesday, Aug. 27: Review Syllabus. How to Register for MySkillsLab. *The Elements of Style*: Elementary Rules of Usage (Rules 1-4). Apostrophes and Commas. Homework: Register for MySkillsLab and complete the diagnostic tests.

Thursday, Aug. 29: Topic Sentence: What's the Topic? Read and discuss Thomas Lynch's "Endpaper" (handout).

Week Two

Monday, Sept. 2: Labor Day. Campus closed.

Tuesday, Sept. 3: *The Elements of Style*: Elementary Rules of Usage (Rules 5-8). Those Damn Run-ons and Fragments! The Use/Misuse of Semi-Colons. Colons and Dashes. Homework: Read Malcolm X's "A Homemade Education" (*MR*, p. 49).

Thursday, Sept. 5: Discuss "A Homemade Education." How to Tell a Narrative Story. Homework: Write a **Narrative Paragraph**. Continue MySkillsLab writing exercises.

Friday, Sept. 6: Add Dates Deadline to add full-term classes. Last day to add an Audit. Last day to do a Section Transfer.

Week Three

Sunday, Sept. 8: Last day to drop classes without receiving a "W" or incurring fees or with refund (online only).

Tuesday, Sept. 10: *The Elements of Style*: Elementary Rules of Usage (Rules 9-11). Nouns, Pronouns and Verbs. Those Damn Modifiers! Homework: Read William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" (*MR*, p. 87).

Thursday, Sept. 12: **Narrative Paragraph due**. Discuss "A Rose for Emily." How to Describe a Place. Homework: Write a **Descriptive Paragraph**.

Week Four

Tuesday, Sept. 17: Those Damn Irregular Verbs! Homework: Read Richard Rodriguez's "Public and Private Language" (*MR*, p. 23) and Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue" (*MR*, p. 36).

Thursday, Sept. 19: **Descriptive Paragraph due**. Discuss "Public and Private Language" and "Mother Tongue." Thesis Statement: What's the Point? How to Write a Division-Classification

Essay. Start a **Division-Classification Essay** in class. Homework: Write a **Division-Classification Essay**, first draft due Sept. 26.

Week Five

Tuesday, Sept. 24: *The Elements of Style*: Elementary Principles of Compositions (Principles 12-17). “Is Our Children Learning?”: The Bush Dilemma.

Thursday, Sept. 26: Quiz on *The Elements of Style* (so far). How to Revise and Proofread. Discuss 1st Draft of **Division-Classification Essay**. Homework: Work on **Final Division-Classification Essay**.

Week Six

Tuesday, Oct. 1: **Final Division-Classification Essay due**. *The Elements of Style*: Elementary Principles of Compositions (Principles 18-22). Homework: Read Langston Hughes’s “Salvation” (*MR*, p. 45) and Jamaica Kincaid’s “Girl” (*MR*, p. 98).

Thursday, Oct. 3: Discuss “Girl” and “Salvation.” How Does a Poem Work? Read and discuss Langston Hughes’s “Theme for English B” (handout). How to Write a Definition Essay. Start a **Definition Essay** in class. Homework: Write a **Definition Essay**, first draft due Oct. 10.

Week Seven

Tuesday, Oct. 8: *The Elements of Style*: A Few Matters of Form.

Thursday, Oct. 10: Discuss 1st Draft of **Definition Essay**. *The Elements of Style*: Commonly Misused Words/Phrases. Homework: Work on **Final Definition Essay**. Read Brent Staples’s “Black Men and Public Spaces” (*MR*, p. 59) and Deborah Tannen’s “Sex, Lies and Conversation” (*MR*, p. 159).

Week Eight

Tuesday, Oct. 15: **Final Definition Essay due**. Discuss “Sex, Lies and Conversation” and “Black Men and Public Spaces”. How to Write an Exemplification Essay. Homework: Write an **Exemplification Essay**, first draft due Oct. 17.

Thursday, Oct. 17: Discuss 1st Draft of **Exemplification Essay**. Prepare for Midterm. Homework: Work on **Final Exemplification Essay**.

Week Nine

Tuesday, Oct. 22: **Midterm**.

Thursday, Oct. 24: **Final Exemplification Essay due**. Watch Joseph Vasquez’s *Hangin’ with the Homeboys* (film).

Week Ten

Tuesday, Oct. 29: Discuss Midterm Exam. Discuss *Hangin’ with the Homeboys*. Homework: Read Judith Ortiz Cofer’s “The Myth of the Latin Woman” (*MR*, p. 153).

Thursday, Oct. 31: Discuss “The Myth of the Latin Woman” and how the story compares with other works (“Girl”, “Mother Tongue”, “Black Men and Public Space”, *Hangin’ with the Homeboys*).

Week Eleven

Tuesday, Nov. 5: How to Write a Comparison-Contrast Essay. Homework: Write a **Comparison-Contrast Essay**, first draft due Nov. 12.

Thursday, Nov. 7: Writing a MLA Research Paper.

Week Twelve

Monday, Nov. 11: Veteran’s Day. Campus closed.

Tuesday, Nov. 12: Discuss 1st Draft of **Comparison-Contract Essay**. Looking at Arguments: Moral Dilemmas. Homework: Work on **Final Comparison-Contrast Essay**. Read Martin Luther King’s “Letter From Birmingham Jail” (*MR*, p. 65).

Thursday, Nov. 14: **Final Comparison-Contrast Essay due**. Discuss “Letter From Birmingham Jail.”

Week Thirteen

Sunday, Nov. 17: Last day to drop classes with a “W” (online only).

Tuesday, Nov. 19: The Rules of Arguing: How to Write an Argumentative Essay. The Rhetorical Situation: The Author, The Text, The Audience. Finding the Point in Visuals.

Thursday, Nov. 21: The Art of Persuasion: Logos, Pathos, and Ethos. Fact vs. Opinion. Start **Argument Essay** in class. Homework: Write an **Argument Essay**, first draft due Dec. 3.

Week Fourteen

Tuesday, Nov. 26: Practice Final Exam.

Thursday, Nov. 28-Sunday, Dec. 1: Thanksgiving. Campus closed.

Week Fifteen

Tuesday, Dec. 3: Discuss 1st Draft of **Argument Essay**. Homework: Work on **Argument Essay**. **Complete MSL Reading Skills Diagnostic Post Test**.

Thursday, Dec. 5: Review for Final Exam. Homework: **Complete MSL Writings Skills Diagnostic Post Test**.

Week Sixteen

Tuesday, Dec. 10: Final Draft of Argument Essay due. Final Exam at 7:30 a.m.