

Instructor: Mark K. Nishimura

Class: English 21, Section 0206

August 27 through December 16, 2012

Class Hours: 9 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

Saturdays

Class Room: CSB 101

Office Hours: 8:20 a.m. to 8:55 a.m. Saturday, Instructional Building, Faculty Office #40

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Course Description: English 21 is a course in reading and writing with emphasis on basic skills in grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence construction and paragraph structure.

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:

Mercury Reader LAMC Custom Text (MR)

Ellsworth, Blanche and John A. Higgins. *English Simplified 12th Edition* with MySkillsLab. **MySkillsLab Course ID: english96165**

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, and 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. Over 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.

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: 25%

Midterm Exam: 25%

MySkillsLab: 15%

Reading Questions, Discussion Groups and Quizzes: 10%

Final Exam: 25%

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 with the instructor. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating may result in a failing grade for an assignment or for the entire course.

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 LearningCenter is FREE for all students. Call 818-364-7754 to make an appointment or visit the Information Desk. Visit the LearningCenter 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.

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

Saturday, Sept. 1: Review Syllabus. How to Register for MySkillsLab. Grammar: Comma and Its Many Functions. Topic Sentence: What's the Topic? Prewriting: How to Brainstorm. Read and discuss Thomas Lynch's "Endpaper" (handout). Homework: Register for MySkillsLab and complete the diagnostic tests. Read Malcolm X's "A Homemade Education" (*MR*, p. 49).

Week Two

Monday, Sept. 3: **Labor Day. Campus closed.**

Friday, Sept. 7: Last day to add classes. Last day to drop classes without receiving a "W" with refund.

Saturday, Sept. 8: Review Commas. Grammar: Those Damn Run-ons and Fragments! The Use/Misuse of Semi-Colons. Discuss "A Homemade Education." How to Tell a Narrative Story. Homework: Write a **Narrative Paragraph**. Continue MySkillsLab writing exercises. Read William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" (*MR*, p. 87).

Week Three

Monday, Sept. 10: Last day to drop classes without incurring fees or with a refund.

Saturday, Sept. 15: **Narrative Paragraph due.** Review Run-ons, Fragments, and Semi-Colons. Grammar: Nouns, Pronouns and Verbs. "Is Our Children Learning?": The Bush Dilemma. Discuss "A Rose for Emily". How to Describe a Place. Homework: Write a **Descriptive Paragraph**. Read Richard Rodriguez's "Public and Private Language" (*MR*, p. 23) and Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue" (*MR*, p. 36).

Week Four

Saturday, Sept. 22: **Descriptive Paragraph due.** Review Nouns, Pronouns and Verbs. Grammar: Those Damn Irregular Verbs! Discuss "Public and Private Language" and "Mother Tongue". Thesis Statement: What's the Point? How to Write a Division-Classification Essay. Start **Division-Classification Essay** in class. Homework: Write a **Division-Classification Essay**, first draft due next class.

Week Five

Saturday, Sept. 29: Review Irregular Verbs. Grammar: Adverbs, Adjectives and Modifiers. How to Revise and Proofread. Strunk and White's "Elementary Principles of Compositions". Discuss 1st Draft of **Division-Classification Essay**. Homework: Work on

Final Division-Classification Essay. Read Langston Hughes's "Salvation" (*MR*, p. 45) and Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl" (*MR*, p. 98).

Week Six

Saturday, Oct. 6: **Final Division-Classification Essay due.** Review Adverbs, Adjectives and Modifiers. Grammar: Apostrophes, Quotations, and Other Punctuations. 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 **Definition Essay** in class. Homework: Write a **Definition Essay**, first draft due next class.

Week Seven

Saturday, Oct. 13: Review Apostrophes, Quotations, and Other Punctuations. Grammar: Commonly Misused Words/Phrases. Discuss 1st Draft of **Definition Essay**. 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

Saturday, Oct. 20: **Final Definition Essay due.** Review Commonly Misused Words/Phrases. Discuss "Sex, Lies and Conversation" and "Black Men and Public Spaces". How to Write an Exemplification Essay. Prepare for Midterm. Homework: Write an **Exemplification Essay**, first draft due next class.

Week Nine

Saturday, Oct. 27: Discuss 1st Draft of **Exemplification Essay**. **Midterm Exam.** Homework: Work on **Final Exemplification Essay**.

Week Ten

Saturday, Nov. 3: **Final Exemplification Essay due.** Watch and discuss Joseph Vasquez's *Hangin' with the Homeboys* (film). Discuss Midterm Exam. Homework: Read Judith Ortiz Cofer's "The Myth of the Latin Woman" (*MR*, p. 153).

Week Eleven

Saturday, Nov. 10: 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*). How to Write a Comparison-Contrast Essay. Homework: Write a **Comparison-Contrast Essay**, first draft due next class.

Week Twelve

Monday, Nov. 12: **Veteran's Day. Campus closed.**

Friday, Nov. 16: Last day to drop classes with a "W".

Saturday, Nov. 17: Writing a MLA Research Paper. Discuss 1st Draft of **Comparison-Contract Essay**. Homework: Work on **Final Comparison-Contrast Essay**. Read Martin Luther King's "Letter From Birmingham Jail" (*MR*, p. 65).

Week Thirteen

Nov. 22-25: **Thanksgiving. Campus closed.**

Week Fourteen

Saturday, Dec. 1: **Final Comparison-Contrast Essay due.** Discuss: "Letter From Birmingham Jail". Reading Editorials. How to Write an Argument Essay. Discuss Argument Topics. Fact vs. Opinion. Start **Argument Essay** in class. Homework: Work on **Argument Essay**, first draft due next class. **Complete MSL Reading Skills Diagnostic Post Test.**

Week Fifteen

Saturday, Dec. 8: Discuss 1st Draft of **Argument Essay**. Review for Final Exam. Homework: **Complete MSL Writings Skills Diagnostic Post Test.**

Week Sixteen

Saturday, Dec. 15: **Final Draft of Argument Essay due. Final Exam, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**