

Los Angeles Mission College, fall 2013

English 28: Intermediate Reading and Composition

Instructor: David J. Selsby; Sec. 0217; Room: CSB 102A T TH 12:15-1:40

Office Hours: English Department in the Instructional Building, TBA

Email: selsbydj@lamission.edu

Course Description:

English 28 is a course in reading and writing designed to strengthen the student's ability to use basic communication skills, including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and proper sentence construction. Instruction will include the assignment of full-length expository and argumentative essays.

Student Learning Objectives: By the end of this class, you will have acquired the following skills:

1. Produce a 350-500 word essay, utilizing standard rhetorical modes and maintaining unity and coherence.
2. Produce a 4 to 5 page research paper which supports an argument.

Required Texts:

Fawcett, Susan. *Evergreen: A Guide to Writing with Readings*, 9th Ed., Wadsworth, Cengage Learning

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*, Penguin Classics

The Sun Also Rises. Hemingway, Ernest. Scribner.

MyPearsonCafe (which includes MyWritingLab), which is bundled with Clines Research Simplified

A good dictionary (e.g. Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

Other Related Materials:

A two-pocket folder to hold all written assignments, including in-class writing exercises, essays, quizzes, and short writing assignments. You must always have paper and a writing utensil when you arrive in class.

Your Responsibilities:

1. Attendance: Attending class is required. You may miss two classes—no questions asked. After that, each unexcused missed class will have consequences towards your final grade. Being more than 15 minutes late constitutes an unexcused absence, as does leaving 15 minutes before class is dismissed.
2. Participation: The more you give to the atmosphere of the classroom, the more we will all get out of the class. Your participation will be reflected in your final grade.
3. Homework, essays, tests: All assignments must be double-spaced and printed on a computer, unless otherwise instructed. If you have an extraordinary reason why you cannot type your paper, your writing must be in cursive, double-spaced and legible.
4. Latework: Papers turned in more than one class session late will be deducted a half letter grade.
5. Plagiarism: This is the use of another person's words or ideas without properly documenting the source. If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please review the topic in the Evergreen text and speak with the instructor. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating will result in a failing grade for the assignment.
6. Students are responsible for material missed during an absence.
Finally, students who choose to discontinue their enrollment in the course must file the necessary paperwork through the Admissions Office. Students who stop attending and fail to file the proper paperwork may receive an "F" for the course.

Web Components of English 28:

MyWritingLab.com: This web-based grammar and writing website will be an important component of our work and will greatly contribute to your success in the class. The access code for this website is packaged with the Research Simplified handbook. You can also purchase access by going directly to MyWritingLab.com. Once you register, you should take all four sections of the diagnostic pre-test ASAP.

Evaluation:

Your final grade is determined as follows:

Three out-of -class papers (two pages each)	300 pts.
Homework and in-class writing exercises	200 pts.
Class Participation and preparation	100 pts.
Research Paper	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.

Grading Policy:

Final drafts of essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- *Content and development: Controlling idea, specific support, coherence
- *Expression: Sentence structure and variety; precise word choices
- *Organization: Clear and meaningful thesis, transition, and overall unity
- *Grammar, mechanics, and usage: Standard written English punctuation, spelling, meaningful titles, and identifying of sources.

A (excellent): This paper demonstrates strength in all of the evaluation criteria listed above. It has a compelling, original, and thoughtful main point that is supported by accurate details, examples, and explanations. The paper is easy to follow because it is clearly organized and has transitional markers. In addition, precise and lively word choices are combined into balanced, clear sentences. There are few if any, deviations from standard usage, grammar, and mechanics.

B (good): This paper is strong in all of the evaluation criteria but is weaker than the A paper in the quality of the main point, development, diction, and sentence variety. It has few, if any, errors of usage, grammar, and mechanics.

C (adequate): This paper is clearly organized around a main idea but may not be as fully developed as an A or B essay. Typically, expression is clear and sentences are correct, but they may lack variety. Errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics are infrequent.

D (inadequate): This essay does not meet the criteria listed for the assignment. Usually, no organizational pattern is evident, or the main point and development are too general to be effective. Sentence-level problems (comma splices, run-ons, and fragments), incorrect word choices, or errors of punctuation, usage, spelling, and mechanics lower the grade.

F (failing): This paper is unacceptable. It is off the topic, plagiarized, or unintelligible.

Conduct:

Students will not be allowed to use iPods, cell phones, and text message gadgets—in short, students need to pay attention to the classroom activities, discussion, and lectures. This is not the time to catch up with your friends. Talking, texting, and arriving late are disruptive and inconsiderate.

Finally (!), the course calendar (forthcoming) is an overview of weekly topics, chapters to be discussed, writing assignments, and exams. The exact reading within each chapter will be given to students during class each week. Please make sure you don't leave class without knowing the reading/homework assignment.