

Instructor: Mark K. Nishimura

Class: English 101: College Reading and Composition I. Section 3103

June 16 to July 17, 2014

Class Hours: 7:20 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

Mondays through Thursdays

Class Room: INST 1013

Office Hours: Mondays through Thursdays 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Instructional Building, Faculty Office #16

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**Course Description:** The course develops proficiency in college-level reading and writing through the application of the principles of rhetoric, argument, and critical thinking. Students will write expository essays based on college-level readings. Emphasis is placed on the research paper. This course requires the writing of a minimum of 6,000 words in essays and a research paper.

**NOTE:** This is the first freshman composition course that meets requirements for the BA at four-year colleges and universities, comprising intensive reading, writing of essays, term papers, the study of style, methods of discourse, logic and documentation.

**Prerequisite:** English 28 or ESL 8 with a grade of “C” or better, or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the English assessment process, or by permit.

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

- Produce a unified essay of 1,000 words that shows a mastery of critical thinking, logical organization and mechanics;
- Identify and analyze the logical fallacies in academic articles, literature and other media;
- Produce a 6- to 8-page research paper which utilizes library research materials and documents evidence.

**Required Texts:**

Critical Thinking Reading and Writing: A Brief Guide to Argument. Seventh Edition. Ed. Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedau.

Aldous Huxley's Brave New World.

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

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

**Internet:** Students should also have access to the Internet and should have an e-mail account. Several readings and links will be posted on the professor's profile on the LAMC Website.

**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.

Also, 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. 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 and writing assignments completed so that they could be handed in at the beginning of the class and/or be discussed in depth. Any student without the textbook or reading in hand will be dismissed from the class period and be marked absent. 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 and Essays:** Any in-class writing, brainstorming, discussions, and other free-writing drafts may be handwritten. Final drafts of essays must be typed and double-spaced, with proper margin lengths and font (Times New Roman, Size 12), and must follow the MLA guidelines. They must have a title page (with title of essay, name of student, name of course/teacher, date) and be carefully proofread for spelling and grammatical errors.

Hand-written essays will not be accepted. Any essay that does not follow the directions in the assignment prompt and/or contains numerous grammatical and spelling errors will not be accepted.

Students must maintain backup copies of all essays submitted for grading. Assignments will not be accepted via email.

In addition, students may revise all graded essays (except for the final Research Paper) 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.

**Plagiarism:** Students must make sure to notate every published quote, according to MLA guidelines. Plagiarism is the use of another person's words or ideas without properly documenting their source. Plagiarism or any other form of cheating may result in a failing grade for an assignment or for the entire course. In other words, **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!**

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please speak to the instructor.

Quizzes and Exams: Expect quizzes on the reading assignments, according to need. There will also be a Final Exam that will also determine your grade in the course.

Presentation: Students are also required to participate in a group presentation on Brave New World on Tuesday, July 15: 5 minutes of formal presentation, 5 minutes of Q&A. A student who does not participate in the group presentation will not pass the course.

Grading: Students will receive a letter grade for completing all of the assigned readings, writing, and class activities satisfactorily. Any part of the assignments, especially essay assignments and group presentation, left unfulfilled will result in a failing grade. Also, if you are missing even one essay, you will not pass the course.

Grade Breakdown: by percentage

3 essays: 45% (15% each)

Research Paper: 20%

Final Exam: 15%

Group Presentation: 10%

Class Participation: 10%

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.

Accommodation for Disabled Students: 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 Thing: The film, *City of God*, will be screened in the class. The film contains violence and obscene language. The screening is not mandatory. If you are sensitive with such scenes and language, please notify me, and I will dismiss you from the screening. You will not be marked absent.

## English 101 Syllabus

This is a tentative list of readings and assignments. The syllabus might change at any time throughout the course. To maintain an updated schedule, consult other students.

### Week One

Monday, June 16: Introduction to the Class. The Thesis Statement: What Is the Point? The Rules to Writing an Argumentative Essay. An Example of Argumentative Essay: Gwen Wilde's "Why the Pledge of Allegiance Should Be Revised" (CTRW 53). A Lesson in Utilitarianism. Looking at "The Queen v. Dudley and Stephens" (profile page). How to Write a Summary. Homework: "A Philosopher's View: The Toulmin Model" (CTRW 337-342) and Garrett Hardin's "Lifeboat Ethics" (CTRW 414).

Tuesday, June 17: Titles, Introductions, and Conclusions. Quoting from Sources (CTRW 284-298). Documentation: The MLA Format (CTRW 289-295). The Toulmin Model as Argument. Example: Michael S. Dukakis and Daniel J.B. Mitchell's "Raise Wages, Not Walls" (CTRW 345). Hardin and "Lifeboat Ethics": Applying the Lifeboat to the "Big Picture". First Paper: School as a Lifeboat. Starting the First Paper. Homework: Fallacies (CTRW 368-381) and Max Shulman's "Love Is a Fallacy" (CTRW 383).

Wednesday, June 18: Last day to add (instructor initiated). Last day for Section Transfer. Last day to drop without incurring fees or with a refund. Last day to drop without receiving a "W". What Are Fallacies? A Look at Shulman and Being in Love. Exercise: Fallacies – Or Not? (CTRW 381). Fallacies in Real Life: David Brooks's "Weed. Been There. Done That" (handout). A Word About Plagiarism (CTRW 277-280).

Thursday, June 19: Peer Review: First Paper (CTRW 254-255). Example of an Argument and a Student's Analysis: Nicholas D. Kristof's "For Environmental Balance, Pick Up a Rifle" (CTRW 183) and Betsy Swinton's "Tracking Kristof" (CTRW 188). Homework: Charles R. Lawrence III's "On Racist Speech" (CTRW 61) and Derek Bok's "Protecting Freedom of Expression on the Campus" (CTRW 66).

### Week Two

Monday, June 23: A Lesson in Democracy. A Look at the First Amendment. Arguments on Hate Speech: Lawrence III vs. Bok. Homework: Susan Jacoby's "A First Amendment Junkie" (CTRW 43) and Susan Brownmiller's "Let's Put Pornography Back in the Closet" (CTRW 57).

Tuesday, June 24: First Paper due. Arguments on Pornography: Jacoby vs. Brownmiller. Looking at Internet Speech and Cyberbullying: Andrew Keen's "Douse the Online Flamers" (CTRW 69). Second Paper: First Amendment Abuse? An Introduction to Aldous Huxley and Brave New World. Homework: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (Chapters 1-3).

Wednesday, June 25: Thomas More and the Ideal Society. In-class: What Is Your Ideal Society? An Introduction to Brave New World Presentations. Brave New World (Chapters 1-3). Homework: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (Chapters 4-8).

Thursday, June 26: Peer Review: Second Paper. Brave New World (Chapters 4-8). Homework: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (Chapters 9-12).

#### Week Three

Monday, June 30: Brave New World (Chapters 9-12). Homework: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (Chapters 13-15).

Tuesday, July 1: Second Paper due. Brave New World (Chapters 13-15). Preparing for Group Presentations on Brave New World, Part I. Homework: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World (Chapters 16-18).

Wednesday, July 2: Brave New World (Chapter 16-18). An Argument on Behalf of John the Savage. Homework: "Visual Rhetoric: Images as Arguments" (CTRW 137-154) and Nora Ephron's "The Boston Photographs" (CTRW 167).

Thursday, July 3: The Rhetorical Situation: The Author, The Text, The Audience. The Art of Persuasion: Logos, Pathos, and Ethos. Style in Argument: Persona and Rhetorical Stance. Looking for the Point in Visuals. In-class Discussion: Looking at Photographs. Third Essay: The Power of Print Advertisement.

#### Week Four

Monday, July 7: Film: Fernando Meirelles and Katia Lund's City of God. Part I. In-class Discussion: Dealing with the Situation. Checking Up on Group Presentations.

Tuesday, July 8: Peer Review: Third Paper. Film: Fernando Meirelles and Katia Lund's City of God. Part II. In-class Discussion: Solving the Situation. Homework: Peter Singer's "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" (CTRW 402).

Wednesday, July 9: Last day to drop classes with a "W". Third Essay due. Another Example at Utilitarian: Peter Singer. A Lesson in Altruism: Christ's Sermon and the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Research Paper: City of Angels. Choosing a Topic (CTRW 265).

Thursday, July 10: Using Sources (CTRW 262-272). The Cornell University Library's five criteria for evaluating Web pages. Library Orientation.

#### Week Five

Monday, July 14: Evaluating Your Sources and Taking Notes (CTRW 272-276). Writing the Paper (CTRW 281-284). The MLA List of Works Cited (CTRW 295-307). An Annotated Student Research Paper in MLA Format (CTRW312).

Tuesday, July 15: Last day to drop with a "W". Group Presentations on Brave New World. Homework: Ursula LeGuin's "The Ones Who Walked Away from Omelas" (CTRW, p. 545).

Wednesday, July 16: Moral vs. Immoral. What Would You Do?: The Omelas Dilemma. Checking Up on Research Paper. Preparing for the Final Exam. Final Thoughts.

Thursday, July 17: Research Paper due. Final Exam.