Basic English Composition
Imperial Valley College

Course: ENG 098
Instructor: John McClain
Semester: Fall, 2008
Room: 500-515
Days and Time: T/Th 4:45pm – 6:10pm
Instructor Contact: Office Phone 355-6518 / E-mail: john.mcclain@imperial.edu
Office: IVC Main Campus, Building 10, #44
Office Hours: M/W 10:00 – 10:45pm (CLX), T/R 1:15 – 2:00pm (CLX), 3:45 – 4:45pm (IVC), ABA.

Course Description

This course provides developmental instruction approaching the college level in paragraph and short essay writing. It follows in sequence from ENG 097.

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to help you transition from writing an English paragraph to a well-written short essay. You will achieve mastery in identifying paragraph topics and writing thesis statements and learn more about how to generate major and minor support. Freewriting, clustering, outlining, peer editing, and revision techniques will be reviewed. Previously learned rhetorical modes, including descriptive, narrative, definitional, comparison/contrast, and cause and effect, will be deepened and expanded. Of course, we will continue to review proper English sentence grammar, including punctuation, spelling, and essay formatting. The reading of model essays will further assist you in your writing, but no outside research will be required. By the end of the semester you will to be able to produce a well-written five-paragraph essay.

Required Texts


Required Materials

A three-ring binder with dividers
A pen and a pencil
An eraser

Assignments

Approximately 8-10 pages of combined reading and writing per class (at least 2 hours).
Five 2 to 2 1/2 page essay assignments.
A final exam: 12/9.
Grading Policy

At the beginning of the intersession every student begins with 400 grade points. You maintain these points by doing excellent work. Throughout the course you will be expected to contribute to discussion and your participation in group-work will contribute to your grade. The final course grade is determined as follows:

- Pair/Groupwork 5% (20 grade points)
- Homework 20% (80 grade points)
- Five Written Essays 50% (200 grade points)
- Final Exam 25% (100 grade points)

A = 400 – 360 grade points
B = 359 – 320 grade points
C = 319 – 280 grade points
D = 279 – 240 grade points
F = 239 – 0 grade points

All students must have and bring the required texts and materials to each class. If you cannot show them by the second class meeting, you will lose five grade points. You lose an additional five grade points for each class meeting you do not bring the course materials.

Classroom Policies

All cell phones, pagers and other noise making devices MUST be turned off or made to vibrate during class. I will give you one warning. After that, you will have to choose to either complete an extra assignment or lose five grade points.

Regular attendance is an absolute requirement. According to college policy, miss three classes, and you can be dropped. All written assignments must be turned in to pass the class. Remember, the instructor is not an ogre. Talk to me about any problems you might be having. Communication is an important reason why we’re here.

NOTE: Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP & S) office as soon as possible. DSP&S – Room 2117 Health Sciences Building (760) 355-6312

Important Dates

November 14: Final Drop Day
November 27: No Class (Thanksgiving Day)
December 9: Final Exam