

## Syllabus

Darren Simon

English 009

Monday-Wednesdays: 7:40 to 9:50

Room 507

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Code: 20454

### Course objective:

This is a preparatory course for English 101. The class will include intensive instruction in grammar and punctuation and in writing essays that focus on a clear thesis. The course is meant to help students start to master some of the basic sentence construction skills needed to express themselves in clear paragraphs and essays. The skills learned in this class should help students understand the essay structure as they tackle different writing patterns. Students will also develop the ability to conduct research and utilize sources to support an argument within an essay, and build their analytical skills. Finally, the course should enable the student to become more confident in their writing abilities.

### Course materials:

Book: College Writing Skills with Readings, Eighth edition

Novel: The Outsiders

A good notebook used solely for this course

A dictionary to be brought to each class

### Course work:

This is writing course so you will do a lot of writing. You will have up to five take-home essays, including a research paper, and two in-class essays. Additionally, you will do short response papers based on The Outsiders and have weekly grammar assignments. You will have quizzes as needed, a mid-term, a common final and grammar final.

### Grading:

#### Take-home writing:

- One 20 pt short essay
- One 50 pt full essay
- Two 100 pt full essays
- Two 50 pt. in-class essays
- Research paper 200 pts.

Quizzes: 20 to 40 pts. each

Mid-term: 200 pts.

Common Final: 300 pts

Grammar Final: 50 pts.

Participation: 150 pts. including short response papers on *The Outsiders*

Plagiarizing:

The first and most important rule is that no plagiarism or cheating of any kind will be accepted. Anyone caught plagiarizing someone else's work could be subject to dismissal from the class and at the very least will receive no points for that assignment. You also cannot have anyone else edit your work or help you to write the essays, except when seeking help from the writing lab. Each paragraph is a contract between the student and the teacher and the teacher should be the only one who edits the work unless the teacher allows group work where students can help each other or, again, the student is helped by the writing lab. If a student's in-class work is substantially different from their work out of class, the teacher reserves the right to base their grade solely on the work done in class.

Late Work:

Late work will not be accepted for any reason. If you are going to be absent, homework should be emailed to the teacher. Otherwise, work should be ready to be turned in at the start of class on due dates. That means the work is stapled, neat, formatted correctly with all requested elements attached.

Absences/Tardies:

Absences should not occur, but I realize that sometimes it cannot be helped. Please contact me and let me know if you are going to miss a class so that you can find out what the assignments are. Always maintain contact with the instructor. You will be allowed three absences. Students can face dismissal from the class if they go beyond three absences. Tardies should not occur, but better to come to class late rather than not attending at all.

Cell Phones/Pagers:

You can bring your cell phones and pagers to class, but show some class etiquette. Turn down the sound, and if you do receive a call, quietly step out and return as quickly as possible. If it becomes a constant issue, it could count as an absence against you.

Finally:

This class is based strongly on your participation. Please, when you come to class come prepared to take part in the lecture by having the readings done, asking questions, coming to the board when asked to do so, playing an active role in group work and by helping your fellow students. Remember, I like questions, so always feel comfortable asking them. Do not leave the class until you feel comfortable that you understood the day's lecture.

Note on Student Services:

Please make use of the services available to you here at IVC. Seek help from tutors in the library early in the semester. Do not wait until you are failing to decide to get that help. Maintain contact with your counselors. Also, if you are in need of services offered by IVC's Disabled Student Programs and Services, contact that department at 355-6312 or visit the office in the 2100 building.

Schedule:

Week 1

Roster  
Syllabus  
Opening discussion on a paragraph/essay  
Practice paragraph  
Open with discussion on run-ons and fragments  
review parts of speech  
Assign Practice paper

Week 2

Buy book  
Elements of an essay  
Writing Process  
Continue on run-ons and fragments  
Continue Parts of Speech  
Assign short essay

Week 3

Turn in short-essay  
More on parts of speech  
Begin reading *The Outsiders*  
Assign short response paper on *The Outsiders*

Week 4

Finish parts of speech  
Move to chapter on subjects/verbs  
Return short-essay to be re-written  
Continue reading *The Outsiders*  
Assign Essay 1

Week 5

Turn in Essay 1  
Turn in re-write of short essay  
Continue on subjects and verbs