

English 008 - 4 units
Basic English Composition I--Fall 2013
Imperial Valley College

Instructor: Kathleen Dorantes
Class: Section 10338, TR 9:45-11:50 a.m., Room 2900
email: **kathleen.dorantes@imperial.edu**
Office: **2797**
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 12: 15-1:15 p.m.
Online Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 10-11 a.m.
Writing Lab Hour: Thursdays: 3-4 p.m.

Course Description and Objectives

In the course of the semester, students will read, examine, analyze, and evaluate many short essays and one longer novel or non-fiction work of at least 200 pages. Students will learn basic composition skills, focusing on the sentence and paragraph, leading to a multi-paragraph essay. Students will study vocabulary in the context of reading and writing. This class will provide developmental instruction approaching the college level in paragraph and short essay writing.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Sentences, Paragraphs and Beyond, with Readings, by Brandon and Brandon
Warriors Don't Cry, by Melba Pattillo Beals

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Attendance: Students who wish to do well in the class should plan on attending every class. Students should try to arrive early so that they are on time for class. It is the responsibility of the student to drop a class before the drop date. Quizzes will be given sometimes at the beginning of class and/or just before leaving at the end of class. If a student misses a quiz because he/she is late, left early, or absent, the quiz cannot be made up.
2. Preparation, participation, and deadlines: Students are expected to arrive in class with the day's reading already completed or with required drafts ready to be turned in. Late work, unless previously excused by the instructor, will not be accepted. Students will be expected to actively participate in class activities that involve reading, discussion, peer response, and group work.

3. Materials: Students are expected to arrive in class with the assigned texts and loose- leaf paper.
4. Saving work: Essays written in this class will be based on a series of pre-writing activities and drafts. Please save all work and staple new work atop old work when turning in any draft. Purchase a folder devoted to saving all the work from this class.
5. Proper format: For essays, turn in typed, double-spaced, and stapled drafts. In the top left corner of page 1, please use the following heading style:
 - Name
 - Essay Name (Descriptive Narrative, etc.)
 - English 008—Instructor
 - Date draft is due
6. Academic honesty: Plagiarism is unacceptable. Any work turned in must be yours or must be adequately cited. This class will use the MLA standards for documentation of secondary sources. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on the specific assignment. All dishonest behavior will be reported to the administration.
7. Office visits: Students are encouraged to make an appointment to visit me in my office.
8. Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible: DSP&S, Room 2117, Health Sciences Bldg., (760) 355-6312.
9. **Blackboard:** This class will use Blackboard for Announcements, Gradebook, some Quizzes, and Assignments. Students will be expected to check Blackboard regularly. If I need to contact a student, I will use the email function on Blackboard, so be sure that you have an email on Blackboard that you check regularly.

If you have never logged into Blackboard before, here are instructions:

Blackboard website: Login Instructions for Students

Student can login by visiting: <http://imperial.blackboard.com>

For their username, they will use the first part of their student email address (e.g. jdoe2)

For their password, they will use their WebSTAR PIN (which should automatically be synced when updated via WebSTAR)

If a student does not know his or her IVC email address, these two locations can help him or her find out that information:

- <https://www.imperial.edu/students/student-email-lookup/>(Does not require additional login, but will only work if the student is registered for 0.5 or more units for the current semester)

- <https://my.imperial.edu/student-email>(Does require additional login to the Student Portal, but will work regardless of whether or not the student is registered for any classes)

Blackboard Assistance

IVC has established Blackboard support, which includes the following:

- **24/7 Phone Support:** Support Representatives are available around the clock every day of the week to provide you with technical support for the Blackboard Learning System and log-in issues.
- **Submit A Ticket:** This web based ticket submission tool allows you to fill out a web form that will get submitted as a ticket to our support representatives.
- **Real-Time Chat:** This tool allows you to contact our support representatives 24/7. You can access this tool from the support portal.
- **Knowledge Base:** Allows you to search or browse the various topics and questions that have already been answered.

To visit the **Blackboard Support Portal** you can:

- Go to <http://bbsupport.imperial.edu>
- Or, from the IVC Homepage, click on the **Faculty & Staff | Blackboard Support** link
- Or call **1-855-532-6983, toll free any time, day or night**

10. My Skills Tutor is a software program with assignments that can be done on campus or at home from any computer with access to the internet. Go to www.myskillstutor.com. Your user name is your G# as in G00123456. Your password is your G# as in G00123456. The site is imperial01. There are deadlines to complete the work on the class schedule, but you have until I check the scores to complete the work. Once a grade is entered in Blackboard, the assignment is closed. Students completing all of the lessons in an assignment with an 80 percent or better will receive full marks. Students not completing all of the lessons will receive zero points. For instance, if a student completes all but one of the lessons with 100 percent, he or she will receive zero points.

11. Student Learning Outcomes for English 008:

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

- 1) Generate essays with a clear thesis statement or controlling idea. 1. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- 2) Write essays showing support for a thesis statement or controlling idea (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
- 3) Construct complete sentences with few errors in sentence structure such as fragments, comma splices, or run-on sentences (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)
- 4) Compose a multi-paragraph essay response to a reading (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

12. Cell phone and laptop policy: Students will be asked to turn off cell phones and laptops in class. These are the numbers for campus security: (760) 483-7411, (760) 355-6306, or (760) 355-6308. Please give these numbers and your room number to your family in case they need to reach you in an emergency. During class time, phones and laptops will be turned off and put away. Anyone seen/heard using a cell phone or laptop will be asked to leave and not return until the next class. Any points, grades, quizzes, assignments, information, etc. lost during this time cannot be made up. The exception to this rule is the student who bought a digital copy of the textbook. If that is the case, please make this known to Mrs. Dorantes and use your laptop only for the textbook when the textbook is being used in class.

13. Passing English 8: In a college-level class, it is assumed that students will have two hours of outside work for every unit of credit. Since this is a four-unit class, students will have approximately eight hours of homework, reading, writing, studying for class each week.

Sometimes a student misses very easy points such as quizzes, lab work, homework, etc. Toward the end of the semester when the student finally realizes he or she is failing, the student asks me for extra credit to bring up the grade. The time to accumulate good scores to pass the class is when the task or assignment is due. This is how college classes operate. There is no or very little extra credit.

The grade in English 8 is also qualitative. Forty percent of the grade in this class is based on in-class writing. In order to pass English 8, students need to be able to write well enough to move on to English 9.

14. Disruptive Students: Most of you are here to learn, but some students are not serious. To preserve a productive learning environment, students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with Sergio Lopez, Campus Disciplinary officer, before returning to continue with coursework. Mr. Lopez will follow disciplinary procedures as outlined in the General Catalog.

GRADING

Paragraph #1	5 percent
Paragraph #2	5 percent
Paragraph #3	5 percent
Essay #1	10 percent
In-Class Paragraph #1	5 percent
In-Class Paragraph #2	5 percent
In-Class Paragraph #3	10 percent
In-Class Essay (final)	20 percent
My Skills Tutor Lab work	15 percent
Quizzes	20 percent

GRADING SCALE

90-100 percent—A
80-89 percent—B
70-79 percent—C
60-69 percent—D
0-59 percent—F

CLASS SCHEDULE

This Schedule may be adjusted or expanded at any point in the semester. Items listed as Homework are due in the Tuesday class of the following week unless instructed otherwise.

- Week 1- -Intro to class, discussion of the paragraph and composition terms, discussion of the writing process.
 -Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
 -Writing lab orientation--My Skills Tutor
- Week 2- -Discussion of the descriptive narrative, discussion of readings (314-332),
 -Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
 -subjects and verbs. (43-55)
 -fragments (95)
 HW Due: My Skills Tutor #1 and 2
 Write: Draft of Paragraph #1
- Week 3- Continued discussion of readings (314-332),
 -kinds of sentences (56-68)
 -Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
 HW Due: My Skills Tutor #3
- Week 4- -Combining Sentences (71-91),
 -Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
 HW Due: My Skills Tutor #4
 Final of Paragraph #1
- Week 5- **In-Class Paragraph #1 (Warriors).**
 -Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
 -Correcting Fragments (94-106)
 -Correcting comma splices and run-ons. (107-117)
 HW Due: My Skills Tutor #5
 HW Due: Write draft of Paragraph #2 (description/exemplification)
- Week 6: -Regular and irregular verbs (121-131)
 -Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
 HW Due: Write final of Paragraph #2
 My Skills Tutor #6
- Week 7- -Subject-Verb Agreement, tense consistency, subjunctive mood.
 -Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
 HW Due: My Skills Tutor #7
 Write draft of Paragraph #3
- Week 8- **In-Class Paragraph #2**

-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
-parallelism and signal words (194-205)
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #8

Week 9-
-Spelling and Phrasing (243-257)
-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #9
Final of Paragraph 3

Week 10-
-Comma Usage (211-218)
-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #10
-Write draft of Essay #1

Week 11
Due - **In-class Paragraph #3.**
-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
-More verb review
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #11

Week 12-
-Sentence structure review
-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #12

Week 13-
-Correcting comma splices and run-ons review
-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #13
-Final of Essay #1

Week 14-
-Commonly confused words
-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #14

Week 15-
-commonly confused words
-Reading in small groups, discussion and vocabulary
HW Due: My Skills Tutor #15

FINAL: **Tuesday of Finals Week (argumentative essay)**