

English 009: Basic English Composition II
Imperial Valley College
Fall 2013
CRN: 10374 and 10375

Class Time: Online
Class Location: Blackboard Course Shell
Instructor: Mr. Robert Baukholt
Office: 2792
Live Office Hours: M 5:30 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.
Online Office Hour: T 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (in the “Office” forum of our BB course shell)
Email: Robert.Baukholt@imperial.edu
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SLOs

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

1. Compose a multi-paragraph essay that responds to an essay prompt with a clear controlling idea or thesis statement. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
2. Compose a multi-paragraph essay with a clear organizational structure and adequate support. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)
3. Compose a multi-paragraph essay that uses correctly formed sentences with virtually no sentence-level or grammar errors. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4)
4. Develop a research paper that effectively synthesizes ideas and information from multiple sources and utilizes correct MLA formatting of citations. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)

Welcome to English 009: Basic Composition II.

This class prepares you for reading, writing, and critical thinking at the university level; it bears little resemblance to the literature and writing classes you may have taken in high school.

A college educated writer must acquire and develop the ability to create argumentative/persuasive compositions, supported by logical appeals and research. The skills involved in this are not just applicable to humanities majors; they are skills that all of you will use throughout your undergraduate years and beyond. This semester you will continue developing these skills by discussing ideas, by analyzing rhetorical modes (such as process analysis and compare & contrast), and by writing lots of essays. Ideas and the various means of communicating those ideas are the primary focus of this course, as they will be in the various content courses you take as you move forward in your college career. Although we will discuss grammatical issues, this is primarily an idea class, NOT a grammar class. Essays that showcase wonderful grammar in support of a poor argument or idea will not receive a good grade.

Some Important Dates

Our class will meet a total of four times over the course of the semester. These meetings are for our orientation and for testing. They are mandatory! If you cannot attend these meetings, you should look for a class that can better accommodate your schedule.

Orientation - 8/23 –

CRN 10374: 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in Room 801

CRN 10375: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM in Room 801

Midterm 1 – 10/11 –

CRN 10374: 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in Room 2721

CRN 10375: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM in Room 2721

Midterm 2 – 11/8 –

CRN 10374: 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in Room 2721

CRN 10375: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM in Room 2721

Common Final – 11/22 –

CRN 10374: 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in Room 2721

CRN 10375: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM in Room 2721

The Online Classroom

If this is your first online course, I want to dispel any notion you might have that this class will be easier than if you took an on-campus course. You will be earning the same number of units as an on-campus course and you will therefore be required to complete the same amount of work. I am not trying to scare you away, but I do want to prepare you for what lies ahead. You will need to be very disciplined and keep up on the work because the weekly assignments will be due on a certain date and you won't be able to submit work after the deadline. Working on your assignments at the last minute will not allow you to do your best work and that will affect your grade.

If you are unsure if you are ready for a distance education course, it would be a good idea if you went first to the Imperial Valley College Distance Education homepage, and thoroughly read the information it contains about online learning, computer requirements, and communication skills. If you need further clarification on this issue, email me and I will be glad to explain in more detail.

Class Atmosphere and Requirements

The majority of our class activities will involve virtual discussions of assigned readings, issues related to reading topics, and other topics relevant to us. We may be discussing controversial issues; please remember to keep an open mind and be respectful of the diverse backgrounds, opinions, and ideas of your peers in your contributions to these discussions.

Required Texts

Most of the required texts for this class will be posted through online links provided along with your weekly assignments. I would like you to obtain a copy of a handbook with MLA formatting instructions and a works cited guide. This will help you with grammatical issues that come up in your writing. You can order this book online to save some money, (it won't be at the bookstore) and I don't expect you to have it until the fourth week.

Contact

The fastest way to reach me will be by email or through the "Messages," tool on our Blackboard course menu (on the left side of your screen after you log into the class).

Grammar

This is a college level writing course. This means that you should be able to write at a professional level, with few errors in grammar or sentence structure. Therefore, if any submitted work demonstrates a lack of understanding of the fundamentals of English writing, its grade will suffer.

Office Hours

I want you to pass my class. If you are having trouble, COME TO MY OFFICE, OR SEND ME AN EMAIL/MESSAGE SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS IT!

Plagiarism

IVC expects honesty and integrity from all students. A student found to have cheated on any assignment or plagiarized will receive a zero for the assignment. A second occurrence of cheating or plagiarism may result in dismissal from class and expulsion from IVC as outlined in the General Catalog.

If you have any questions about how to quote or document sources, please feel free to ask me. In an average semester (six composition and literature classes) I usually fail between 5-10 students for plagiarizing. DON'T LET THIS BE YOU! If you aren't sure, ASK!

If I am not confident that a submitted work of writing is representative of your true capabilities, I may arrange an alternative, timed writing assignment to replace or supplement the original assignment.

Discipline Policy

“Imperial Valley College is maintained for the purpose of providing students in the community with programs of instruction in higher education. The College is concerned with the fostering of knowledge, the search for truth and the dissemination of ideas. Students shall assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college's function as an educational institution. Misconduct while on the college campus, or at a College-sponsored function for which students and student organizations are subject to disciplinary action.

An instructor MAY REMOVE a student for the day of removal and the next class meeting. Such action must be immediately reported to the Superintendent/President. During the period of removal the student MAY NOT return without the consent of the instructor.”

Show Me What You've Learned!

Because this class focuses on improving your writing skills, you will be learning a variety of writing strategies throughout the semester. You should always incorporate these strategies into your essays. A large portion of your grade depends on your ability to prove that you have learned something about the writing process. THEREFORE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO WRITE A COMPELLING ESSAY WITH FEW GRAMMATICAL ERRORS AND STILL RECEIVE A POOR GRADE! (yes, I yelled it!). Show me what you have learned.

Special Needs

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have information to share with me, please let me know as soon as possible.

“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 is located in the Health, Room 2117. (760) 955-6312 Sciences Building

Netiquette

Netiquette, as you probably know, is a combination of the words "network" and "etiquette". Basically, it describes things you should and shouldn't do while communicating with other people online. This is especially important in a classroom environment. Here are some examples:

- * Never use profanity or make hurtful comments toward someone or when referring to someone's work. This is considered flaming.
- * Be careful when using humor or sarcasm; you never know how someone else will interpret it.
- * Be respectful of diverse opinions.
- * Choose an inoffensive avatar. Feel free to pick something funny or weird but avoid violence, profanity, or sexuality. Remember that this is a college class, not a personals site. Show us the beauty of your mind, and save the sexy stuff for EHarmony.

Overall, please be courteous to me and to your classmates. Working within a safe, friendly learning environment will be beneficial to everyone. If you see postings that are inappropriate, please bring them to my attention, and I will deal with the situation.

Assignments and Grading

This class is divided into separate weeks of lesson content (the equivalent of lectures in a live class) and accompanying assignments. Each week will involve various activities and tasks. Each week's new lesson materials and accompanying assignments will open on Sunday at 8:00 a.m. (with the exception of the first and last lesson and assignments). Once open, a lesson will never close, but the tasks associated with it will be available to you for only one week. Most assignments will close at 11:59 p.m. on the Sunday following the week they opened (the only exceptions are the essays, which you will usually have multiple weeks to complete). You will get additional time for the first week in order to allow us to meet at our orientation.

Every Sunday after 8:00 a.m. you may go into the content area for the new week to access the lesson materials, discussions, and assignments.

On the due date of each lesson, the accompanying assignments, discussions, and quizzes required for that lesson will close and cease to be accessible, so don't get behind. You will still be able to see the lessons throughout the semester for review. Students who get behind in their coursework often end up failing the course as a result.

Weekly Reflections

Your final task each week will be to access the weekly reflection assignment, and respond to a few reflection questions. I expect a response of at least half a typed page to each question. This will be an opportunity for you to reflect on the things that we went over that week. This assignment will be graded primarily based upon your use of that week's concepts and the effort you put into your response.

Always be as specific as you can in your writing. Make sure to answer all parts of the questions. If you use material from outside sources (like websites), make sure to cite them in your assignment response. Points will be deducted for inadequate responses. I will give you feedback on some of these assignments.

Essays

The essays will be the main form of assessment for the class. I will post two assignments for each essay. One will be for the first draft, and the other will be for the final draft. I will provide ample feedback on your first drafts, but will only assign a grade to the final drafts. I will include the due dates with each essay assignment, since they are the only assignments that do not follow the standard of opening one Sunday and closing the next.

Workshops

Each student will be required to have one of his/her essays workshopped by the class. These students will post their essays as a blog entry located in a special content area marked "Workshops." Then, the rest of the class will submit full page (typed, double-spaced) responses to the essays. These responses are intended to help those students improve their work and receive a better grade. I will inform students when it is their turn to be workshopped. If you wish to volunteer to be workshopped on a particular essay, please send me an email or private message about it.

Discussions

Discussions will center around questions posed by your instructor in the discussion forums for each week's content areas. These questions will primarily ask for your opinion and there will usually not be a "right or wrong" answer (although there are supportable and non-supportable answers).

Your discussion responses will be graded on whether or not they are well thought-out, whether or not it is clear from your responses that you did the reading, and whether or not your opinion is backed up with supporting evidence.

Discussion also means interacting with your fellow students, so it is important that you read all the other student responses and respond to your fellow students with meaningful comments. Don't just respond by saying "I agree with you." If you agree or disagree, you must have a reason why. Don't be afraid to engage in an argument, but just remember that you need to be respectful to all students.

For the most part, I will not be participating in these discussions, although I will be reading them and if I feel I have something to add, I will get involved. However, I want you to feel empowered to really engage in a conversation with your fellow students and not be afraid that your instructor will be critiquing everything you write. Basically, I am telling you to GO FOR IT! (with respect) If any student is disrespectful to another student, that student will lose points. Remember, this is a college class and the discussion should be academic in nature, so don't get off topic or you will also lose points.

You must post on our class discussion board at least three times a week (except for the first week, which only requires two posts) to receive full credit in discussions. Two posts should respond to our weekly discussion questions. The third should respond to someone else's post (contributing, hopefully, to a dialogue). Feel free to post more than three times, although it is not required to receive full credit.

Common Final Practice Exams and Common Final

The common final practice examinations (referred to as Midterms in our schedule) and real common final examination will be given live, on the dates posted earlier in this syllabus. They will consist of timed essays. These are very important assignments that make up a large portion of your grade, and it is very rare for any student to pass the class if he or she does not do well on the real common final. We will spend a great deal of time discussing and planning for these assignments.

Reading and Concepts Quizzes

Quizzes will be given along with each week's reading and lesson assignments. These are easy! They are basically free points given for having done the readings and for reviewing all of the lesson material, and I expect you all to do very well on them.

Here is the breakdown of the grading.

Quizzes: 100 points/10%

Essay 1: 100 points/10%

Essay 2: 100 points/10%

Essay 3: 200 points/20%

Workshops: 50 points/5%

Practice Common Finals/ Midterms (best of two attempts): 100 points/ 10%

Common Final 200 points/20%

Weekly Reflections: 100 points/ 10%

Discussions 50 points/5%

TOTAL 1000 points/100%

A > 90% B > 80% C > 70% D > 60% F < 60%

Failing to complete assignments or not participating in required class activities will lower your grade significantly. If you are worried about your grade, I encourage you to contact me throughout the semester.

Schedule

Week 1 – Pre-Writing and Introductions

Week 2 – Process Analysis and Thesis Statements

Week 3 – Introduction to Workshops – First Draft of Essay 1 is Due

Week 4 – Essay 1 Workshops. Topic Sentences, Introductions, and Conclusions

Week 5 – Audience - Final Draft of Essay 1 is Due

Week 6 – Compare and Contrast

Week 7 – Timed Writing – First Draft of Essay 2 is Due

Week 8 – Essay 2 Workshops. In-Text Citations. Finding Source Material.

Week 9 – Introduction to Argument. Final Draft of Essay 2 is Due.

Week 10 – Gattaca – Final Essay Topic Elections

Week 11 – Five Ways to Use Source Material in an Essay

Week 12 – Creating a List of Works Cited. Tricks of Argument: Responding to an Article. First Draft of Final Essay is Due.

Final Weeks - Final Workshops. Timed Writing Practice. Common Final Examination. The Final Draft of the Final Essay is Due.