

**Basic Course Information**

Semester	<b>Spring 2014</b>	Instructor Name	<b>Xochitl Tirado</b>
Course Title & #	<b>Composition and Reading</b>	Email	<a href="mailto:xochitl.tirado@imperial.edu">xochitl.tirado@imperial.edu</a>
CRN #	<b>20065</b>	Office	<b>2796</b>
Room	<b>3000</b>	Office Hours	<b>Tuesday: 9:45-10:15AM Wednesday: 11:00-1:00PM Thursday: 9:45-10:15AM Friday: 1:00-2:00PM (online)</b>
Class Dates	<b>1/21/14 - 5/16/14</b>	Office Phone #	<b>760-355-6188</b>
Class Days	<b>Tuesday/Thursday</b>		
Class Times	<b>7:30-9:35 AM</b>		
Units	<b>4</b>		

**Course Description**

**Required language:**

The standard course in freshman English. The course seeks to improve the student's ability to understand serious and complex prose and to improve the student's ability to write an exposition that is thoughtful and clear, including the production of a well-documented research paper. (CSU, UC)

**Student Learning Outcomes**

**Required language:**

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

- 1 Demonstrate mastery of research strategies, including appropriate use and correct documentation of research materials (ILO1, ILO4, ILO5)
- 2 Demonstrate mastery of pre-writing strategies, including brainstorming and outlining (ILO1, ILO2)
- 3 Develop an essay of multiple pages that effectively presents and strongly supports a thesis statement. (ILO1, ILO2)
- 4 Demonstrate command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics. (ILO3)

**Course Objectives**

**Required language:**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Read, analyze, and interpret a variety of written texts, including one single-author text.

2. Identify evidence, tone, purpose, and audience, and fallacies in a variety of written works.
3. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the writing process, from development and drafting to revising and editing.
4. Demonstrate a command of varying writing patterns, such as comparison and contrast, definition, and argumentation.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of connotative and figurative language while writing for an academic audience.
6. Adapt writing strategies to the requirements of the writing situation (e.g., to essay exam or other timed writing, research writing, reflective writing)
7. Examine and analyze their own writing and that of other students with a view towards improving the effectiveness of the written work.
8. Develop text analysis and interpretation supported by citations, synthesized with the study and application of documentation styles and library skills (including electronic databases) to produce a research paper.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the writing process by writing at least four essays using a variety of rhetorical modes, along with one research paper, composing a total of 8,000-10,000 words. Expository and argumentative papers constitute the bulk of student writing. However, revisions, summaries, journals, or other assigned writing may be used to meet the requirement.
10. Participate in a number of activities and areas of study as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

### **Textbooks**

#### **Required Information—discretionary language**

1. The St. Martin's Guide to Writing 10<sup>th</sup> Edition by Axelrod and Cooper ISBN: 1-45764081-3
2. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury ISBN: 978-1-4516-7331-9

### **Course Requirements and Instructional Methods**

#### **Instructor Expectations:**

- Students who are absent the first day of class are automatically dropped.
- If you stop attending class make sure to drop yourself from the class.
- Work is to be turned in on due date – no late work accepted.
- You are responsible for knowing and observing due dates for all assignments.

#### **Late Work:**

- No late work will be accepted under any circumstance.
  - Note: Incomplete assignments automatically receive a zero.

#### **Essay Grading Policy:**

- Papers are graded on a percent of 100.
- Grade reflects the overall quality of the work turned in, how complete the work is and whether the instructions from the assignment were properly followed.
- A rubric will be used to grade each essay.

- Missing or unsatisfactory work will be scored “no credit.” This is a 0 (F) and averaged into your grade.
- **Late essays are not accepted.**

### Essays & Plagiarism:

- You will be writing a total of four essays.
- Two essays will be completed in-class.
- Two will be completed out of class.
- All essays will be turned in to “Safe Assign” (a plagiarism checker).
- So that your essay is not cited for plagiarism, the “Safe Assign” report should be 15% or less.
- Recycling essays (essays that were used for another course) will be considered plagiarism and receive a zero.

### Journals:

- Journal entries will be written weekly.
- Be aware of journal entries due dates.
- Each journal entry must be a minimum of **200** words.
- Make sure to answer all questions asked of you in your journal entry.
- This assignment is designed for you to practice your writing skills. Think of it as a free write.

### Tests:

- Tests are given on a weekly basis.
- All tests will be completed through blackboard.
- Be aware of the due dates.
- No make-up tests!

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

**Your final grade will be composed of the following:**

Writing Assignments	65%
Quizzes	10%
Assignments	15%
Journals	10%

Breakdown of writing assignments:		
Essay 1	10%	} 65%
Essay 2	15%	
Essay 3	20%	
Essay 4	20%	

### Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

### Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

### Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question. Anyone caught cheating will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:
  - plagiarism
  - copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment;
  - communicating test information with another person during an examination;
  - allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment
  - use of a commercial term paper service

### Additional Help

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program

- **Library Services:** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

### **Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)**

**Required Language:** 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. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6312 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

### **Student Counseling and Health Services**

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student-health-center/>. The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

**Required Language:** Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at [http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=doc\\_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762](http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762)

### **Information Literacy**

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

**Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar**

**Unit I: READING, WRITING AND LEARNING (4 weeks)**

- Week 1: Thinking about Reading & Writing (Ch.1)
- Week 2: Remembering an Event (Ch.2 & **F451** 1-32)
- Week 3: Explaining a Concept (Ch. 4 & **F451** 33-68)  
Invention Strategies (Ch. 11)
- Week 4: Defining and Classifying (Ch.16,17, & **F451** 69-91)

Unit 1 Essay:  
Concept Essay  
600 – 800 words

**Unit II: READING, WRITING AND LITERATURE (4 weeks)**

- Week 5: Analyzing Stories (Ch.10 & **F451** 91-110)
- Week 6: Narrating & Describing (Ch.14, 15, & **F451** 111-139)  
Reading Strategies (Ch. 12)
- Week 7: Comparing & Contrasting (Ch.18 & **F451** 139-173)
- Week 8: Mid-term: In-Class Literary Analysis Essay

Unit 2 Essay: Literary  
Analysis Essay  
800 – 900 words

**Unit III: READING, WRITING, AND RESEARCH (4 weeks)**

- Week 9: Proposing a Solution & Planning a Research Project (Ch.7 & 23)
- Week 10: Speculating About Causes & Evaluating Sources (Ch.9 & 24)
- Week 11: Evaluating & Using Sources (Ch. 26)
- Week 12: Using MLA & Avoiding Plagiarism (Ch.27)

Unit 3 Essay: Research  
Paper/Proposal  
2800 – 3000 words  
Research Paper

**Unit IV: READING, WRITING, AND PERSUASION (4weeks)**

- Week 13: Reading & Analyzing an Argument (Ch.6)
- Week 14: Finding Common Ground (Ch.5)
- Week 15: Arguing a Position (Ch.19)
- Week 16: In Class Final – Persuasive Essay

Unit 4 Essay: Persuasive  
Essay  
800 – 1000 words

\*Note:

Chapters refer to *The St. Martin's Guide to Writing*  
**F451** refers to *Fahrenheit 451*