



Imperial Valley College • Course Syllabus

• English 110 • Composition & Reading

Spring 2025

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2025	Professor Name:	Scott Simpson
Course Title & #:	ENGL 110 Composition & Reading	Email:	scott.simpson@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20116 & 20117	Units:	4
Classroom:	Online - asynchronous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the weekly activity schedules posted on Canvas No real-time instruction Zoom is not used. No on-campus work for this course 	Office #:	There are no meetings in the office this semester.
Class Dates:	February 10 to June 7	Office Hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M/T/W/TH: 10:00 - 11:00 AM PST via email on Canvas, but contact me via email whenever you have a question. Don't wait for office time.
Class Days:	Online - asynchronous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the weekly activity schedule in Canvas 	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6164 • However, email is a much more efficient way to reach the instructor.
Class Times:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the weekly activity schedules posted on Canvas No real-time instruction Zoom is not used. 	Emergency Contact:	<p>IVC Student Resources https://imperial.instructure.com/courses/15311/pages/ivc-student-resources • • • • • • • • • •</p> <p>Canvas Help https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Canvas/ct-p/canvas • • • • • • • • • •</p> <p>If there is an emergency that affects completion of assignments, keep the instructor informed on a timely basis.</p>

Course Description

The standard first-year English course. 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. Limitation on Enrollment: Course not open to students with a C or higher in English 105. (C-ID: ENGL 100) (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

Eligibility for English 110 as determined by the college's multiple measures assessment process.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Compose college-level essays that contain clear thesis statements, effective support, and unified organization.
2. Synthesize information from multiple sources to produce a research paper that is formatted and documented according to MLA guidelines.
3. Demonstrate an ability to comprehend and interpret a variety of college-level texts, including complex arguments and at least one full-length novel, play, or non-fiction book, without relying on outside sources for assistance.

Course Objectives

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

1. Write multiple essays—including one research paper and one final exam—that, together, add up to 6,000 words of formal writing
2. Demonstrate a command of the writing process, which may include pre-writing, drafting, revising, self-editing, peer group editing, and proofreading
3. Compose error-free essays that avoid sentence-level and grammar problems
4. Compose unified essays that include support for the thesis statement, clear development, and effective transitions
5. Demonstrate a command of writing patterns by effectively integrating various rhetorical modes, such as compare/contrast, definition, cause/effect, and argumentation together to produce sophisticated, college-level essays as appropriate
6. Demonstrate an ability to adapt writing strategies to the requirements of the writing situation (e.g. in-class writing, research writing, reflective writing) or to tailor a written assignment to address specific audiences (both general and academic)
7. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of research strategies and library skills (including electronic databases) to identify and evaluate resources for a research paper
8. Synthesize information from multiple sources to produce a research paper that is formatted and documented according to MLA guidelines
9. Demonstrate a command of rules regarding plagiarism and academic ethics
10. Read actively, using metacognitive strategies to monitor comprehension, build vocabulary, and improve analysis of college-level texts
11. Analyze the rhetorical context when reading by identifying genre, medium, purpose, audience and tone
12. Analyze and evaluate the strategies an author uses to make and support a claim, including the use of fallacies
13. Synthesize knowledge by relating texts to personal experience, to past and present events, and to other texts

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

1) Title of Book: Asking the Right Questions-- A Guide to Critical Thinking (12th edition)

Be sure to purchase the correct edition, the **12th** !

Authors: M. Neil Browne and Stuart M. Keeley ISBN-13: 9780134425665

To get this book now, click on the link below or you can get it from the IVC Bookstore:

<https://www.pearson.com/store/p/asking-the-right-questions-a-guide-to-critical-thinking-rental-edition-/P100001425252?viewAll=true>

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

- This class is focused on writing essays and reading. Information in the readings (and sometimes video lectures and interviews) serve as support for the essays. Largely what separates college writing from other types of writing is incorporating trustworthy information as core support of a thesis.
- Development of college-level reading and writing skills are the emphasis.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grade Scale by % A: 90 - 100 B: 80 - 89 C: 70 - 79 D: 60 - 69 F: 0 - 59

Note: You never have to add up points; Canvas keeps tracks of all points for you automatically.

Grading rubrics for major assignments like essays are posted on Canvas.

Deadlines and late work: Check upcoming deadlines regularly. All deadlines are posted there. A **short** grace period of one day can be requested if I am contacted in advance of the due date with a reasonable explanation for the request. Expect any late work to be docked points. Don't expect work completed more than two days late to be awarded any points. If not contacted in advance of the due date about work arriving late, don't expect the assignment to be accepted. In general, don't expect late work to be accepted.

- There are no "do-overs" for any reason on any assignment. Everyone gets one shot to complete each assignment. We prepare in stages for each assignment, so there is absolutely no reason to hand in any work that is far off target.

- Also note that the instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of zero to any previous class assignments if the quality of writing is not similar to the quality of writing shown in the final exam.

Special note for grading and stating enrolled in the course over the first two weeks:

Any form of cheating will not only result in a grade of zero for the assignment, but you will be dropped from the course. This includes any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to entering a meaningless discussion response in order to see classmate's responses and/or using AI (Chat GPT and similar).

- **If you are missing any five assignments after the first eight weeks, you will be dropped from the course due to lack of participation.**
- **If you are missing any ten assignments after the first fourteen weeks, you will be dropped from the course due to lack of participation.**
- **If you are missing two essays before the drop date (date after which you will get a grade other than "W"), expect to be dropped from the course.**
- **If at the conclusion of the course you are missing any essays, there will be no possibility of passing the course regardless of what your grade on Canvas says.**

Major Writing Assignments • 600 points

1. The Underground History of Chinese Mexicali Essay	100 points
2. Social Media Influencers Essay	200 points
3. Critical Thinking Oriented Essay Critiques	200 points (2 of them; 100 points each)
4. Write Your Own NY Times style Op-ed	100 points

Note: If all of the above major writing assignments are **not** handed in, there will be **NO** opportunity to pass the course. Period.
These are not optional assignments, regardless of the number of points you will have accumulated or what Canvas shows your grade to be.

Other Assignments

- Discussion Boards (DB): approximately 5 (total: 48 points)
- Additional reading/watching video and answering questions assignments (approximately 100 points total)

Total: approximately 750 maximum points

- Number of assignments and point value of assignments are subject to change.
- **Deadlines and late work:** Be aware of deadlines. A **short** grace period of up to a few days for essays and some other assignments can be requested if I am contacted in advance of the due date with a reasonable explanation for the request. Expect ANY late work to be docked points. Don't expect work completed more than a few days late to be accepted. Keep mind you can start almost any assignment much earlier than the due date.
- Note that **plagiarism** results in a **zero** for any assignment and could lead to discipline by the college which could not only mean **dismissal** from the class but also **permanent expulsion** from IVC. A zero on a major assignment also makes it **impossible** to pass the course. Furthermore, plagiarizing a second time is an absolute guarantee of not passing the course, regardless of the overall grade. Yes, it's easy to cut and paste text from the internet. You should be very aware that due to technology, **detecting plagiarism is even easier for your instructors.** We don't even have to look. The system alerts us. If there is any plagiarism, I give you a 100% guarantee that this technology shall find it, whether it's from text on any page on the internet or another student's paper taking any class in any place on Earth. Yes, most students would never plagiarize. But that person who might try should know that being caught is a guarantee and major consequences will definitely be suffered.

If artificial intelligence (AI), like Chat GPT, is used in any way on any assignment, it will also easily be detected, and the grade will be zero for the assignment. Any use of AI will be treated as if it were plagiarism. The same policy for plagiarism seen above also applies for any use of AI in submitted assignments.

(Note: If you are retaking this course, **avoid self-plagiarism**; that is, you will need to within reason hand in a substantially different essay even though it may be on the same topic as before. Any essay that is substantially the same as the student's own previous work will be graded zero.)

To summarize:

- There are no "do-overs" for any reason on any assignment.
- Everyone gets one shot to complete each assignment.
- Plagiarism guarantees being caught and failing the course.
- The vast majority of students never plagiarize and sincerely seek to improve their skills.

- Also note that the instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of zero to any assignments, even previously graded assignments, if the quality of writing is not similar to the quality of writing shown in the final exam.

Advice on Grades • Success in Class

They say common sense isn't so common anymore, so here it goes! Absolutely do your utmost to **COMPLETE every assignment**. Hand in ALL the essays. Never consider doing otherwise. And do your best to complete ALL of the other assignments as (1) those assignments **prepare** you to succeed in the weightier assignments and (2) all those little points that may not seem so much at first definitely add up to a lot of points by the semester's end!

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools, such as Chat GPT and Grammarly, as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting 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 "cite a source" correctly, 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 that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing 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 Catalog](#) for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

How do I show academic honesty and integrity in an online "classroom"?

- **KEEP YOUR PASSWORDS CONFIDENTIAL.**
 - You have a unique password to access online software like Canvas. Never allow someone else to log-in to your account.
- **COMPLETE YOUR OWN COURSEWORK.**
 - When you register for an online class and log-in to Canvas, you do so with the understanding that you will produce your own work, take your own exams, and will do so without the assistance of others (unless directed by the instructor).

Examples of Academic Dishonesty that can occur in an online environment:

- Copying from others on a quiz, test, examination, or assignment;
- Writing a discussion post without substance (like “Hello” or a blank post) with the intent to see classmates’ posts/work;
- Allowing someone else to copy or be influenced by your answers on a quiz, test, exam, or assignment; this includes uploading course work to a website;
- Having someone else take an exam or quiz for you;
- Allowing another student to paraphrase your work without attribution to you;
- Paraphrasing another student’s work without attribution;
- Conferring with others during a test or quiz (if the instructor didn’t explicitly say it was a group project, then he/she expects you to do the work without conferring with others);
- Buying or using a term paper or research paper from an internet source or other company or taking any work of another, even with permission, and presenting the work as your own;
- Excessive revising or editing by others that substantially alters your final work;
- Sharing information that allows other students an advantage on an exam (such as telling a peer what to expect on a make-up exam or prepping a student for a test in another section of the same class); and
- Taking and using the words, work, or ideas of others and presenting any of these as your own work is plagiarism. This applies to all work generated by another, whether it be oral, written, or artistic work. Plagiarism may either be deliberate or unintentional. Sources you used even when paraphrased by you need to be cited.
- The first instance of plagiarism or other type of academic dishonesty will result in a zero grade for that assignment (the exception is if this happens during the first few weeks of the course-- see above). A second instance will result in a grade of “F” in the course and being reported to the college. If the plagiarism or another type of academic honesty is discovered after the course is complete, the instructor reserves the right to change the student’s final grade at any future time.

Course Policies

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others’ opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

Accessibility Statement

- Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if

you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through DSPS, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

* * * * *

- CANVAS LMS. Canvas is Imperial Valley College's main Learning Management System. To log onto Canvas, use this link: Canvas Student Login. The Canvas Student Guides Site provides a variety of support available to students 24 hours per day. Additionally, Canvas Support is available via the Help menu in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

The most up-to-date class schedule is in Canvas, so see that information there in great detail. That information is available when the semester begins.

- *The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus during the semester.*

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****