

Imperial Valley College – Fall 2013

English 110  
Composition and Reading

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Room 304B  
Mon/Wed 7:30 am – 9:35 am

In this course you will have the opportunity to develop critical writing and reading skills, as well as the rhetorical tools necessary to create a college level research-based essay. Lectures, discussion, and assignments will provide instruction and practice in the following

- multi-page essay organization
- pre-writing strategies, including brainstorming and outlining
- creating and supporting a thesis statement
- ability to recognize and identify fallacies
- ability to recognize and identify various audiences
- understanding cognitive meaning and figurative language
- ability to analyze, critique, interpret various texts, primarily novels, essays and poems
- effective research strategies, including the appropriate use of research materials
- synthesizing ideas and information from various sources
- defining plagiarism
- competent use of rhetorical modes found in various types of academic essays

Aspects of the City

The majority of our readings (outside of composition theory) will be focused on aspects of the city. We will use issues raised in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* coupled with a few short essays as a starting point to ask questions about cities in general. Some of these issues are as follows: the politics of race and class, immigration, urban planning, gentrification, utopian/dystopian ideas of the city, the use of public space, industry and distribution.

Peer Critique

This course will act as an introduction to the college level workshop style of peer review. For the first three essay assignments, 8-10 students will be picked either at

random or voluntarily to have their work reviewed in class by the group. Peer review worksheets will be attached to student essays and both will be distributed a week beforehand. Failure to fill out peer review worksheets or participate will impact your overall participation grade.

### Presentation

Towards the end of the semester each student will give a 4-6 minute presentation of his or her research topic. Students who are researching similar ideas may perform the presentation as a small group. The presentation can come in many forms, from traditional methods we are familiar with to more experimental ones, such as creating a music video, a dramatic play, a documentary/mocumentary, a display of artifacts, etc. Guidelines will be established a few weeks beforehand.

### Final Essay/Research Essay

Stemming from our overall arching theme of the city, our final essays will be geared toward researching/investigating similar topical issues in the Imperial Valley. Most writing assignments leading up to the final will act as practice, preparation, sometimes templates, to the many facets college level research papers need in order to be successful.

### **Required Texts**

*Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison

*They Say, I Say*, Graff, Birkenstein, Durst

### Readings on Blackboard

"Why Writing is Important to the Profession", Karl Terryberry

"Engineers and Writing", David F. Beer

*Writing Public Policy: A Practical Guide to Communicating in the Policy-Making Process*, Chap. 2, Catherine F. Smith

*A Marble House Divided: The Lincoln Memorial, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Politics of Memory, 1939-1963*, pgs. 135 – 157, Scott A. Sandage

"A Collosal Fracking Mess", Christopher Bateman

*The Flowers of Evil*, selected poems, Charles Baudelaire

### Film

*Reyner Banham Loves Los Angeles*, 1972 (directed by Reyner Banham)

*Gasland*, 2010 (directed by Josh Fox)

*Food Inc.*, 2008 (directed by Robert Kenner)

### Course Requirements

15%: Participation and Attendance

15%: Quizzes, unannounced

10%: First assignment

10%: Second assignment

10%: Third assignment

10%: Fourth assignment

10%: Presentation

20%: Final

**Note:** there will be a number of ungraded, in-class writing assignments that are required and integral to the class. It is your responsibility to come prepared with a notebook and writing instrument. Please be sure to complete and submit all in-class writing assignments at the end of class. Failure to do so will affect your participation grade.

### Grading system

90 – 100=A    80 – 89=B    70 – 79=C

60 – 69=D    <59=F

### Policies

-**All assignments** must be turned in and **completed satisfactorily** to earn a passing grade for the course.

-Barring emergencies, late papers or emailed papers **will not be accepted**. If you have unusual circumstances discuss them with me.

-Our classrooms are protected spaces for open, thoughtful exchange and respectful communication. Disruptive behavior or offensive language will not be tolerated.

-If a student generates more than 5 absences they will receive 0% for their participation and attendance grade. Each consecutive absence drops them another full letter grade.

-Please avoid coming late to class. Consistently being tardy will be treated as an absence. If for any reason you have to leave early inform me before lecture. Consistently leaving early will also be treated as an absence.

-Please turn off all cell phones during class. Please do not text or go online during class. If you find it necessary to use a laptop, you must sit near one of the front rows.

## ADA

If you have a documented disability or condition (see the campus office for Disabled Student Programs and Services for documentation) for which you require modifications, adjustments, or accommodations, please inform me as soon as possible. If, due to your disability you find that you will not be able to meet the requirements of the course, inform me of that within a week of receiving this syllabus.

## Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, and colluding will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in this type of conduct will receive a failing grade for the course. Depending on the severity of the incident they may be reported for further investigation and disciplinary action.

## **Schedule**

### Week 1

**August 19 Intro to course** /effective communication, writing in the workplace

**August 21** persuasion, expertise and authority /**assignment #1 handout, example and discussion**

(readings: "Why Writing is Important to the Profession", Karl Terryberry

"Engineers and Writing", David F. Beer

*Writing Public Policy: A Practical Guide to Communicating in the Policy-Making Process*, Chap. 2, Catherine F. Smith)

**Note:** all readings will be discussed/quizzed the week after they are assigned, therefore must be completed the following Monday, unless otherwise specified.

### Week 2

**August 26 Syllabus quiz** /creating introductions

**August 28** structuring paragraphs /diction and tone

(readings: *Invisible Man* pgs. 1 – 70)

### Week 3

**September 2 no class - holiday**

**September 4** introduction to peer critique /learning about "analysis"

**assignment #1 due /assignment #2 handout, example and discussion**

(readings: *Invisible Man* pgs. 73 – 136)

### Week 4

**September 9 Peer review**

**September 11** understanding fallacies

Week 5

**September 16** arguments/counterarguments

**September 18** audience and emotional appeals /structuring conclusions

Week 6

**September 23** understanding figurative language

**September 25** diction and tone cont. /**assignment #2 due** /assignment #3 & 4  
**handout, example and discussion**

Week 7

**September 30 Peer review**

**October 2** creating a thesis statement

Week 8

**October 7** warrants, thesis statement cont.

**October 9** choosing a topic /conducting research

Week 9

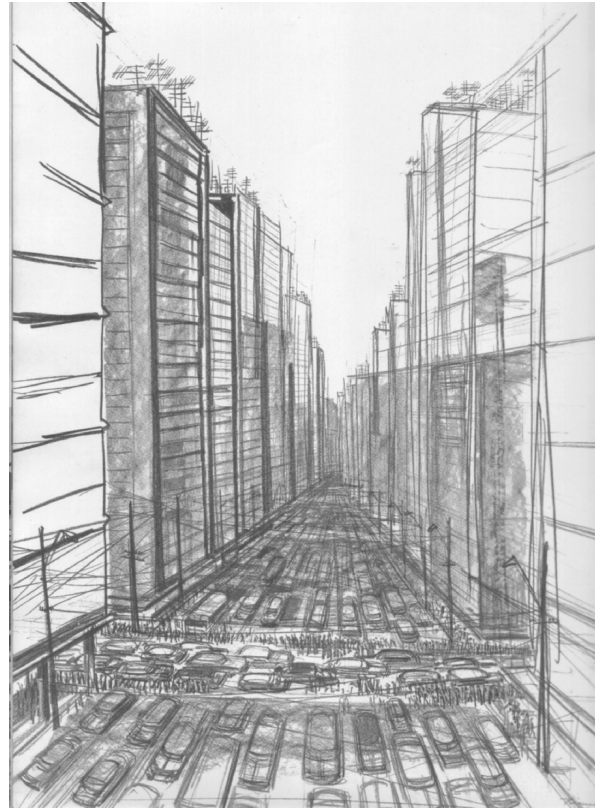
**October 14** evaluating sources and facts

**October 16** plagiarism /creating a bibliography

Week 10

**October 21** moves of revision, sentences and paragraphs

**October 23** moves of revision cont., revising verbs /**assignment #3 due** /**final assignment handout, example and discussion**



Week 11

**October 28 Peer review**

**October 30** introduction to presentations, handout, examples and discussion

Week 12

**November 4 - 6** aspects of the city

Week 13

**November 11 no class - holiday**

**November 13 *Invisible Man* final (bring blue/green book)**

Week 14

**November 18 - 22**

**presentations**

Week 15

**November 25** review, essay organization

**November 27** review, "analysis", "context", "interpretation"

Week 16

**Finals week**

**December 2** open office hours

**December 4** final essay/research paper due, last day to turn in assignment 4, make-up/extra credit quiz

**Note:** instructor reserves the right to change any scheduled instruction depending on needs or speed of class