

English 25:

Writing Skills for College

Fall 1995

MW, 6:00-7:50 pm (Selma, room 409)

Instructor: Gail Melikian

Required Texts: Eschholz, Paul and Alfred Rosa. *Themes for Writers*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994.

Ellsworth, Blanche and John A. Higgins, *English Simplified*. Seventh Edition. New York: HarperCollins College Publishers, 1994.

An up-to-date **dictionary** of your choice.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 25 is a course designed to teach sentence structure, punctuation, paragraph development; the process of writing, revising and finishing short papers; avoiding common writing errors; and the logical development and organization of ideas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Essays: You will be required to write short essays in class and six essays out of class. The final drafts of your out-of-class essays, along with all freewriting and rough drafts will determine the majority of your final grade. You must keep all of the work you do for each essay. Do not throw freewriting or rough drafts away. **All final drafts of essays should be typed and double-spaced** and have a one-inch margin on all sides of the page.

Homework: You will keep a **journal** of summaries of all assigned readings. Each entry should include a list of sentences created from the vocabulary words designated for that reading. Journals are graded on a cr/nc basis. If you show me you've thoroughly considered the ideas of the essay, then you'll receive a credit (cr). If it's obvious you haven't read the essay and have not done the vocabulary, then you'll receive no credit (nc). You will also have **grammar** homework. *All homework is due at the beginning of class.* I do not accept late homework. If you are absent the day homework is due, I'll allow you to turn it in the following period.

EXAMPLE CLASS SCHEDULE: WEEKS 1-5

Writing Assignments: Diagnostic essay
Freewriting
Journal entries (reading summaries, vocabulary usage)
In-class writing
Grammar exercises

Narrative Essay (out of class)

Descriptive Essay (out of class)

(Includes freewriting, rough draft and final copy)

Reading Assignments: "How it Feels to be Colored Me" (*narrative*) p. 57
"Freewriting" p. 382
"Daddy Tucked the Blanket" (*narrative*) p. 79
"Hispanic, USA: The Conveyor Belt Ladies" (*descriptive*) p. 212
"My Mother Never Worked" (*descriptive*) p. 212

GRADING

- 70% Essays, which include all freewriting and rough drafts. Note: the freewriting and rough draft will be a part of your final grade for each essay.
- 10% Homework (Journal and grammar/punctuation exercises)
- 10% Class participation (which includes in-class writing, grammar exercises and student response)
- 10% Final exam

Absences: If you have more than four absences before the drop date, you will be immediately dropped from the class. For overall course, if you have more than five, you will receive a D or F in the class.

Note: All work submitted in this course must be your own and written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct in your Schedule of Classes. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students must be able to:

1. Write complete, appropriate, varied English sentences, using coordination, subordination and modification to clarify meanings.
2. Use punctuation, capitalization, abbreviations, etc., conventionally and spell correctly.
3. Differentiate between standard dialects and community dialects and slang, and use dialects appropriately.
4. Use standard dialect noun, verb and pronoun forms and verb tenses correctly.
5. Write in paragraphs that develop topic sentences with adequate, detailed support.
6. Use various patterns of paragraph development.
7. Initiate and carry through appropriate use of the writing process; recognize the effect of purpose and audience, discovering topics, selecting and ordering ideas and the evidence to develop the topic, writing and revising, and editing and finishing the paper.
8. Write with coherence and unity, paying attention to reference, agreement, consistency and transitions.
9. Use basic library sources to find information and avoid plagiarism in the preparation of a limited paper based on published sources.
10. Use critical thinking skills in writing, with attention to avoiding fallacies, relating structure to ideas, developing logical support for generalizations, following logical orders and differentiating between statements of fact and opinion.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, August 25	Last day to drop a semester-length course and qualify for refund
Friday, Sept. 1	Last day to register for fall semester-length classes
Friday, Sept. 1	Last day to drop a class and not have it appear on transcript
Monday, Sept. 4	Holiday--Labor Day
Friday, Sept. 15	Last day to change class to or from CR/NC grading option
Friday, Oct. 13	Last day to drop a semester-length course (letter grade assigned after this date)
Monday, Dec. 11	Final Exam