English 21 – English Fundamentals Course Syllabus

Instructor: Tom Amano-Tompkins Term: Fall 2013 Section: 0208 – MW 12:15 pm -1:40 pm Location: CSB 101

Office hour: M 11:40 am - 12:10 pm in Instructional Building, Faculty Office Area, Adjunct Area

Email: tomp99@earthlink.net (best way to communicate with me outside of class!)

This course in reading and writing is designed to strengthen the student's basic communication skills, including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence construction. Emphasis is placed on the writing of competent paragraphs and short essays.

Prerequisite: DevCom 1, or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the English assessment process or by permit.

English 21 is graded pass/no pass.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Recognize and correct basic errors in grammar.
- Produce an essay of at least 250 words, which has a thesis, an introduction, body, and a conclusion. Sentence structure will be diversified.
- Self edit and correct grammar, spelling and punctuation errors in his/her essays.
- Differentiate fact from opinion, identify and paraphrase the main ideas and supporting points in a reading, generalize meaning by recognizing and interpreting inferences, and predict meaning of vocabulary through contextual clues in readings.

ADA Statement:

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please let me know. You may speak to me after class, during my office hours, or by email. Your privacy will be protected. You are also encouraged to contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) on campus (www.lamission.edu/DSPS/ OR 818-364-7732) to discuss what accommodations and services are available.

Required Texts: (available at the campus bookstore)

- *The Mercury Reader* by– ISBN: 978-0-558-06212-5
- English Simplified Pkg Lamc ISBN 978-1-2694-1142-4
- You will also need to purchase a blue exam book for the final exam.
- Bring your books, a notebook (or notebook paper), and a pen to every class meeting.
- You also need to set up a three-ring binder containing the syllabus, class handouts, assignments, classwork, notes, outlines, drafts, and essays and bring it to each class.
- To complete some assignments, you will need access to the Internet and to a computer word processor. If you do not have a computer, use one in the LRC or public library. If you do not know how to type or use a computer, you should drop this class, gain the skills necessary to

succeed and then sign up for the course. Not having computer access, word processing skills or the materials needed for the class will not dismiss you from completing assignments.

This course is managed online at the following URL. You must register online immediately. To do so: <u>Go to http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/students/get-registered/index.html</u>

Click the Register button for students. Follow the on-screen instructions to

Enter your student access code _____

Enter your instructor's course ID: amano-tompkins87146

Enter the school's zip code (91342)

Provide contact information, and

Create a login name and password. Email this information to yourself.

Then you will see the name of your class, and you're ready!

Please note: You will need to login to and check Course Compass frequently. You will sometimes be required to download and print handouts to bring to class. Not having access to Course Compass (or a working printer) or missing class is not an excuse for not being prepared for class. This is your responsibility.

The goal of a college education is to help students be objective and analytical about positions and beliefs, which may be in contrast with their own. All students are expected to approach course materials in an open-minded and objective manner. Political, religious, and other belief systems may not be used as an excuse for being exempted from activities, discussions, and homework assignments. If you are uncomfortable with viewpoints, which may differ from your own, you should consider taking another class. Also, given the language and content of some of the texts read, this class is not appropriate for minors.

Students who succeed in English 21 usually choose to:

Read carefully!

- Make a serious commitment to succeeding in this class.
- Come to class on time and prepared.
- Get the required texts as soon as possible.
- Do all the assignments, including readings, and keep up with the class schedule.
- Participate in class discussions and activities.
- Refrain from using their cell phones during class.
- Let me know immediately if they experience a problem with the class or if other areas of their lives seriously interfere with their ability to do their class work.
- Seek out all legitimate help with their course work, if they need it, including the Academic Success Center, Disabled Student Programs and Services, campus librarians, their textbooks, and me.
- Maintain academic integrity by doing their own work. They do not plagiarize; they do not cheat. (See box on plagiarism on next page.)
- Treat their classmates and instructor with respect and consideration.
- Recognize that real learning is difficult it involves making mistakes and taking risks.

If you are not willing to make these choices, you are not likely to succeed in this class!

Plagiarism can mean copying, word for word, all or part of something someone else has written and turning it in with your name on it. Plagiarism also includes using your own words to express someone else's ideas without crediting the source of those ideas and reusing your own papers written for another class.

Plagiarism is a very serious form of academic misconduct. It's both lying and stealing, and it's a waste of time for students and teachers. College and departmental policy on plagiarism will be strictly enforced: Any student caught plagiarizing will automatically receive a zero for that assignment, with no possibility of making it up, and may be subject to a formal reprimand and/or suspension.

Cite your sources! Please retain all notes and drafts of your papers until grading for the course is completed.

<u>Attendance</u>: Students are expected to attend every class, on time and for the entire class period. Students are eligible to be dropped for non-attendance on the first/second day of class and/or after more than three class absences. Arriving late and/or leaving early will count as an absence.

Grading:

Your final grade in this class will be computed as follows.

Essays (2)	28%	280 points (140 points each)
Prewriting/Outlines & Drafts	4%	40 (10 points per outline/draft)
Research Paper	20%	200
Prewriting/Outline, & Draft	2%	20 (10 points each)
Reading Analysis Presentations (5)	19%	190 (1 @ 30 points + 4 @ 40 points each)
Creative research project	10%	100
Final exam	10%	100
Quizzes	3%	30 (12 quizzes worth 2-4 points each)
Participation	4%	_40 points
Total	100%	1000 points

A = 90%	900-1000 points	B = 80%	800-899	C = 70%	700-799
D = 60%	600-699	F = 50%	0-599		

All assignments are required. Presentations, quizzes, and in-class work cannot be made up. Missing assignments can significantly impact your grade and prevent you from passing the course. For example, if you do not turn in Writing Assignment 2, including outline and draft, (worth 120 points) and miss one quiz (worth 10 points), you will need to complete every other assignment with an average score of at least 83% in order to pass the class with a C (70%).

No late assignments will be accepted, unless an extension has been arranged with the instructor in advance. Papers may **not** be submitted by email except by special permission, and when permitted, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that the paper is received and readable.

Reading Journals: A reading journal response of 200-400 words is due almost every class session. The purposes of the reading journals are to respond to class readings and to practice your writing. When you write your reading journals you should feel free to respond to the reading in any way you wish, as long as you demonstrate to your instructor that you have done the reading. Your reading journals will not be corrected or graded for grammar or spelling; instead, you will be scored on the

effort you put into your work. Reading journals may be typed or handwritten (as long as they are legible). Late reading journals will not be accepted for any reason!

Reading Analysis Presentations: You are required to prepare a written analysis and present it (along with a small group of your classmates) for **two** sections of the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. There will be a sign-up sheet for the various sections; in some cases, you may be assigned to analyze a specific reading. You must do your analysis on the reading you signed up for (or were assigned) – you may not switch to another reading without clearing it with your instructor. Your written analysis is due the day we discuss it in class (see Schedule), and you will present your findings to the class during our discussion of the reading. Late reading analyses will not be accepted. Guidelines for the reading analyses will be distributed separately.

<u>Writing Assignments</u> must be double-spaced and typed on a computer work processor. Papers may not be submitted by email except by special permission, and when permitted, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that the paper is received and readable. Late papers will receive an automatic 10-point deduction and will not be accepted later than one week after the original due date. Writing Assignment 4 will not be accepted late!

Explanation of Essay Grading:

An "A" paper is an excellent essay and is free from careless grammatical, spelling, and organizational errors. It begins with a clear thesis. It has seamless transitions from paragraph to paragraph, never losing sign of its focal point. It draws a logical conclusion that answers a problem stated in the thesis. It meets the length requirement of the assignment. It has an original point of view that is lively and interesting to read. It has no format errors and is turned in on time. An "A" represents a writing level of unusual polish and style, and often takes a surprising angle in developing the thesis. This level of writing is rare because it shows consistent excellence. It always surpasses assignment expectations.

A "B" paper is a good essay and has many of the qualities found in an "A" paper, but it might have too many writing errors. It often lacks the depth of explanation and originality seen in an "A" paper. It represents solid, readable writing that does what the assignment asks. "B" level writing demonstrates concrete support for claims, fine organization, and substantive thoughtfulness.

A "C" paper is an adequate essay. It may have errors but not enough to hurt its clarity. It shows some of the qualities of an "A" or a "B" paper, but it does not develop the idea to its fullest. It is adequately organized but is rather simplistic. It satisfies all of the requirements of the assignment, but it lacks sufficient, concrete support needed to illustrate its assertions or prove its point. It also shows lapses in editing proficiency and contains careless errors.

A "D" paper is inadequate. It contains all or some of the following problems; it is too short, has many errors, lacks clarity and focus, lacks logical organization, rambles, is too general, or doesn't satisfy the requirements of the assignment.

An "F" paper is off topic and/or does not address the assignment. It may also be poorly written and contain too many errors. A paper that does not include proper MLA in-text citations and/or a Works Cited page will receive an "F."

Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Written Assignments (subject to change)

Date	Readings and homework to be completed before class	Major assignments
	Week 1— Introduction	
Mon. 8/26		Writing diagnostic
Wed. 8/28	Read Op-Ed Piece by LAPD Chief Charlie Beck http://www.lapdonline.org/newsroom/content_basic_view/47211/	Grammar diagnostic
	Homework due: Writing journal on Chief Beck's Op-Ed	
	Week 2 –	
Mon. 9/2	LABOR DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
Wed. 9/4	Read "City Can't Afford to Ignore LAPD Audit: Editorial" by Los Angeles New Group http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20130703/city-cant-afford-to-ignore-lapd-audit-editorial	In-class prewriting for Writing Assignment 1
	Homework due: Writing journal on "City Can't Afford to Ignore LAPD Audit"	
	Download, print, complete, and bring to class Subjects and Verbs handout from course site	
	**Sept. 8 is last day to drop classes with a refund and without a "W"	
	Week 3—	
Mon. 9/9		Draft of Writing Assignment 1
Wed. 9/11	Read on chompchomp.com => Terms => Sentence (http://chompchomp.com/terms/completesentence.htm) => Terms => Fragments http://chompchomp.com/terms/fragment.htm Homework due: Download print, complete, and bring to class Fragments Exercise 1 http://chompchomp.com/handouts/frag01.pdf	
	Week 4 –	
Mon. 9/16	Read on chompchomp.com => Terms => Comma Splice http://chompchomp.com/terms/commasplice.htm => Terms => Fused Sentence http://chompchomp.com/terms/fusedsentence.htm	Writing Assignment 1 due
	Homework: Download, print, complete, and bring to class Comma Splices and Fused Sentences Exercise 2	

	http://chompchomp.com/handouts/csfs02.pdf	
Wed. 9/18	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan, pp. 36-42	
J, 10	Homework: Reading journal on "Mother Tongue"	

	Week 5 –	
Mon. 9/23	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "The Fear of Losing a Culture" by Richard Rodriguez, pp. 17-20	
	Read "Making Subjects and Verbs Agree" https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/599/1/	
	Homework: Reading journal on "The Fear of Losing a Culture"	
	Subject-Verb Agreement Exercise 2 http://chompchomp.com/handouts/sva02.pdf	
Thurs. 9/25	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "Public and Private Language" by Richard Rodriguez, pp. 23-34 Homework: Reading journal on "Public and Private Language"	
	Week 6 –	
Mon. 9/30	Read "Using Pronouns Clearly" https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/595/1/	Outline of Writing Assignment 2
	Homework: Download, print, complete, and bring to class Pronoun-Agreement Exercise 2 http://chompchomp.com/handouts/proagree01.pdf	
Wed. 10/2	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "A Homemade Education" by Malcolm X, pp. 49-58 Homework: Reading journal of "A Homemade Education"	
	Week 7 -	
Mon. 10/7		Draft of Writing Assignment 2
Wed. 10/9	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "Girl" by Jamaica Kincaid, pp. 98-99 Homework: Reading journal of "Girl" Download, print, complete, and bring to class Pronoun Reference Exercise 1 http://chompchomp.com/handouts/proref01.pdf (If you find this exercise difficult or confusing, do the online interactive exercise as you fill out your handout!)	
	Week 8 -	

Mon. 10/14		Writing Assignment 2 due
Wed. 10/16	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "Letter to the President" by Jackie Robinson, pp. 14-15 "The Apostrophe" http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/621/01/ Homework: Download, print, complete, and bring to class Apostrophes Exercise 1 http://chompchomp.com/handouts/apostrophes01.pdf	
	Week 9 –	
Mon. 10/21	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "Black Men in Public Space" by Brent Staples, pp. 59-62	
Wed. 10/23	Read "Commas" http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/607/02/ Homework: Download, print, complete, and bring to class Commas Exercise 1 http://chompchomp.com/handouts/commas01.pdf	
	Week 10 –	
Mon. 10/28	Read on chompchomp.com => Terms => Semicolon http://chompchomp.com/terms/semicolon.htm Homework: Download, print, complete, and bring to class Semicolons and Colons handout from the course site	Outline of Writing Assignment 3
Wed. 10/30	Read in <i>Mercury Reader</i> : "No Name Woman" by Maxine Hong Kingston, pp. 167-178	
	Homework: Reading journal on "No Name Woman"	
	Week 11 –	
Mon. 11/4		Draft of Writing Assignment 3
Wed. 11/6	Read "Indisputable Torture" by the New York Times Editorial Board http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/17/opinion/indisputable-torture-of-prisoners.html?r=1& Homework: Reading journal on "Indisputable Torture"	

	Week 12 –	
Mon.	VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	
11/11		
Wed.		Writing Assignment 3
11/13	**Nov. 17 is last day to drop classes with a "W"	due
	Week 13 –	
Mon.	Read "Is Force-Feeding Torture?" by Joe Nocera	
11/18	http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/01/opinion/nocera-is-force-	

	feeding-torture.html	
	Homework: Reading journal on "Is Force-Feeding Torture?"	
Wed. 11/20	Read "Gitmo Is Killing Me" by Samir Naji al Hasan Moqbel http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/15/opinion/hunger-striking-atguantanamo-bay.html	
	Homework: Reading journal on "Gitmo Is Killing Me"	
	Week 14 –	
Mon. 11/25		Outline of Writing Assignment 4
Wed. 11/27	Read "The Ransom of Red Chief" by O. Henry http://www.online-literature.com/donne/1041/	
	Homework: Reading journal on "The Ransom of Red Chief"	
	Week 15 –	
Mon. 12/2		Draft of Writing Assignment 4
Wed.	Read "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"	
12/4	Homework: Reading journal on "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"	
	Finals Week	
Mon. 12/9	FINAL EXAM – 12:30-2:30 PM	Writing Assignment 4 due