Los Angeles Mission College
English 101: College Reading and Composition
Fall 2015 Course Syllabus

Section #: 0802
Schedule: T/TH 12:15pm – 1:40am
Location: CMS 236
Instructor: Eric Barnhart
Email: Barnhaes@lamission.edu
Course Site: barnhart101.weebly.com
Office Hours: By Appointment Only

“[We read books to find out who we are. What other people, real or imaginary, do and think and feel... is an essential guide to our understanding of what we ourselves are and may become.]”

Ursula K LeGuin

About this Class:
College Reading and Composition I develops proficiency in college-level reading and writing through the application of the principles of rhetoric and the techniques of critical thinking. During this course, you will be engaging in reading and writing that meets the requirements of transfer-level English credit.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1) Produce a unified essay of 1,000 words that shows a mastery of critical thinking, logical organization, and mechanics.
2) Analyze and evaluate academic articles and literature. Identify and analyze the logical fallacies in academic articles, literature, and other media.
3) Produce a 6 to 8 page word research paper which utilizes library research materials and documents evidence.

Required Material:
Policies

Attendance and Participation:
This class is committed to the process of creating and maintaining a scholarly community. Each class period will include active discussion/lecture as well as graded, in-class exercises. Your attendance and participation are vital to your success and the success of your classmates. Because a semester only lasts sixteen weeks, this is all the more important. If you miss even one class, you risk missing out on integral moments in your learning process and potentially falling behind in your work. If you fall behind, your grade is in danger of dropping. Additionally, lateness is a distraction, not only for yourself but your classmates, and not acceptable. For this reason, tardiness will count as half of an absence. Please be here at the start of class, ready to work, participate, and learn.

If you do arrive late, it is your responsibility to check with me at the end of class to make sure you are not marked absent.

I expect you to not only be on time, but also fully present. This means that you are responsible for fulfilling all readings and assignments before you get to class and that you bring the essential materials needed to participate. You will only get out of college what you are willing to put into it. Respect your time, as well as that of your classmates and my own. If you commit yourself to the process, we will be able to use this classroom as an environment to grow in.

Students who are absent during the first class session will be dropped from the class. If you are unable to attend the first class but wish to remain enrolled, contact me immediately via email. Additionally, students who miss more than three classes before the drop date may be dropped from the class.

Classroom Conduct:
Be respectful and you will be respected.

Please keep in mind that while I promote and encourage a free exchange of ideas and information, side-conversations or other disruptive talking when either a fellow student or myself is speaking is inconsiderate. Furthermore, all commentary needs to be respectful of the beliefs, opinions, and ideas of others. Inversely, all ideas expressed in this class should be received as a part of the overall conversation (even if you disagree). Students that do
not comply with these guidelines will be asked to leave for the day, resulting in an unexcused absence. If the problem continues, further action will be taken.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:**
While there are many forms of plagiarism, the broadest definition would be: using words and ideas of other people as your own.

In other words: all work that you submit for this course must be your own and must be written exclusively for this course. The use of all sources (other people’s ideas, quotations, and paraphrases from published work) must be properly documented. The consequences of plagiarizing can be extreme.

Some students may worry that they may accidentally plagiarize, which can hinder the writing process. Don’t worry, this course will teach you how to incorporate outside sources and document them properly.

A good general rule to follow is: if they aren’t your words/ideas then you need to cite them or do not include them in your assignment.

**Email:**
Email will be the primary means in which I will communicate with you outside of class. It is your responsibility as a college student to check your email everyday. I will only respond to emails sent from an LAMC email account. When you do email me, please include your name and the class you are in (ex: Eric Barnhart: English 101). Please keep in mind that it may take me up to 48 hours to respond to your emails. Do not wait until the last minute if you have questions.

**Late Work:**
Because each assignment is designed to build up to each of the four essays, there is little point in doing them after the essay is written. Therefore, late work will not be accepted. Late essays will be accepted (final drafts only), but will be reduced ½ letter grade for each day they are late (this includes days that we do not meet). If you are having trouble with an assignment, discuss it with me; I am here to help.

**Technical Difficulties:**
This class will rely on both in-class and Internet activity. I will use the class website and email to disseminate readings and information, and you will need Internet access to post your assignments. If you have trouble accessing the Internet, please let me know. There are computer labs on campus that you can use for free. If you are going to be traveling and know you won’t have access to the internet, plan ahead so you can still get your work done on time. If your internet stops working and you are supposed to post something online but can’t, print it out and bring it to class so I can see you did the work, even if you couldn’t post it. “I didn’t have Internet” is not an acceptable excuse for not turning in your work.

**Students with Disabilities:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact me at the beginning of the semester to discuss any such accommodations for this course.
Course Overview:

Assignments and Grades:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment(s)</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
<th>Total Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>• 10%</td>
<td>• 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Journals</td>
<td>• 10%</td>
<td>• 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1 (Social Literacy)</td>
<td>• 15%</td>
<td>• 150</td>
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<td>Essay 2 (Don’t Let Me Be Lonely)</td>
<td>• 20%</td>
<td>• 200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 3 (How to Live Safely in Science Fictional Universe)</td>
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<td>Essay 4 (Transfer Essay)</td>
<td>• 10%</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>• 50</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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Grading Scale:
I will use the following grading scale. There are, as you can see above, a total of 1000 points for the semester. Grades are determined as follows:

(A) 900 – 1000   (B) 800 – 899   (C) 700 – 799   (D) 600 – 699   (F) 599 or below

Essays:
Essays will be 4-5 (essays 1 and 2), 8-10 (essay 3), and 2-3 (essay 4) complete pages in length and based upon a prompt I will distribute in class and on the class website. Each essay needs to be accompanied by an MLA-style Works Cited page (not included in page requirements).

On each essay prompt, there will be a list of minimum requirements that you need to meet. If your essay does not meet these minimum requirements, you will receive an “Incomplete,” and you will have until the next class period to resubmit your essay (with a full letter grade deduction) before the Incomplete turns into an “F.” To avoid this complication, please read all prompts in their entirety and don’t be afraid to ask questions.

Exercises:
For each essay you will complete activities and assignments leading up to your final draft. These will include: prewriting exercises, first drafts, peer reviews, among others. The exercises are designed to assist you as you develop ideas for your essays. They are also required activities that need to be completed in order for you to complete each “essay block.” The required exercises for each essay will be included on the essay prompt.
**Reading Journals:**
We will regularly engage in reading journals where you will be responsible for writing to a response to a given prompt on the assigned reading. You will be required to turn these reading journals in prior to the start of class on the day they are due. You will receive full credit on these journals as long as you do the reading, follow the prompt, and post them on time. Since these journals are an integral part of your reading and writing development, you will only be allowed to miss one journal assignment.

**Important Dates:**
September 1st: First day of Class
September 11th: Last day to add a (sixteen week) class
September 13th: Last day to drop w/out a W; refund
November 22nd: Last day to drop with a W
November 26th: No Class — Thanksgiving
December 9th: Last Day of Class

**If You Ever Need Help:**
I encourage you to plan ahead and give yourself enough time to complete each reading and assignment. If you find yourself having trouble with class, or if you are experiencing problems that are affecting your schoolwork, please contact me as soon as possible. If I don’t know what’s going on, I can’t help. I want all of my students to succeed and will do as much as I can to facilitate your success.

“And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to creativity is self-doubt.”

*Sylvia Plath*

*Syllabus developed by Eric Barnhart and Trista Payte*
*Adapted from a Syllabus developed by Melissa Filbeck*
**Tentative Class Schedule**

Essay 1: Social Literacy  
Begins: September 1<sup>st</sup>  
First Draft: September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Final Draft: September 29<sup>th</sup>

Essay 2: *Don’t Let Me Be Lonely* (Rhetorical Analysis)  
Begins: September 24<sup>th</sup>  
First Draft: October 20<sup>th</sup>  
Final Draft: October 27<sup>th</sup>

Essay 3: *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe* (Research-Based Argument)  
Begins: October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
First Draft: November 17<sup>th</sup>  
Final Draft: November 24<sup>th</sup>

Essay 4: Transfer Essay (Personal Statement)  
Begins: November 19<sup>th</sup>  
First Draft: December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Final Draft: December 2<sup>nd</sup>

Final (Reflection Letter): TBA

These dates are tentative.