

Syllabus Fall '10

High-Advanced Composition

ESL 160 Section 003 CRN 78152 MWF 9:30 - 11:00 am Bngl 712

ESL 160 Section 006 CRN 77602 MWF 1:00 - 2:30 pm Art 212

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Office Hours: M 2:30–4:00 pm; W 12-1pm (or by appointment)

Prerequisites: Placement in ESL 160, or completion of ESL 150 (final grade C or higher)

MAY BE TAKEN CONCURRENTLY WITH ESL 85

Required

Textbooks:

Richmond, Kent and Zimmerman, Cheryl Boyd. Oxford Press
Inside Reading 4: The Academic Word List in Context

Gladwell, Malcolm.

The Tipping Point

Steer, Jocelyn and Shmid, Dawn

The Advanced Grammar Book: WORKBOOK

You must have an English-English (ONLY) dictionary, preferably a Learner's Dictionary such as Longman's Advanced.

NOTE: *The ESL department does NOT allow the use of electronic dictionaries in the Final Exam. I do not allow their use for any in-class graded assignments.*

Welcome to ESL 160.

In this class we will focus on improving the skills you need to pursue your studies at any American college or university. These include critical thinking skills, reading comprehension, and writing skills.

We will devote a lot of time to reading skills this semester. Your reading skills are closely connected to your writing skills; reading ability also tends to predict academic success more than any other skill. In order to read and genuinely understand the author's intent you need vocabulary, cultural knowledge, familiarity with organizational patterns, and more. To develop your reading skills, you will read one non-fiction book and some shorter readings, mainly news articles, this semester. Your analysis of these readings will be developed in the papers you write.

You are probably already familiar with the use of various pre-writing techniques to achieve clear organization, a strong thesis statement, and credible support for your ideas in any composition you write. This semester you will practice and refine these techniques, while doing more in-depth research and writing papers on more complex topics than you have in the past. We will work on a writing process to help you write better papers.

We will work on paragraph development and essay construction, as well as on proper citation and bibliographic format. We will also work on your research skills, examining different information sources, and evaluating sources with critical thinking.

An important element of this course is that you learn to edit and revise your own papers. I expect you to understand your errors and learn to correct them. You will be responsible for correcting your errors, and for explaining your corrections. I am available to discuss and help you with this, and you have many other options (CLAD tutors, WSP tutors) to find help.

You will be challenged in this course to express some of your own complex ideas in English – in a strong, clear and organized fashion. In order to do this, you must be able to *think in English*. If you are still translating most of your ideas from your native language, you simply will not be able to write successful papers. One way to develop your ideas in English is to discuss your ideas with others. The class will often break into small discussion groups to share ideas and practice using new vocabulary. Participating in these groups, as well as in class discussions, is required.

You will have the opportunity to work on any and all of these skills in a variety of lab settings. In particular, the labs are designed to help you strengthen your areas of greatest weakness. It is up to you, with my help, to determine which labs will be most helpful to you.

As you can imagine, everything described above takes a lot of time. *Your English skills will only improve if you devote time to their study and practice.* There will be a number of reading and writing assignments, including exercise work, essays, and research papers. You will also need to study and learn to use new vocabulary words regularly. To learn and improve from these assignments, you must give yourself time to think about them carefully.

Spend time thinking about and planning when and where you will do your homework for this course.

Lab Hours Lab Hours Lab Hours Lab Hours Lab Hours Lab Hours

As part of the requirement to pass ESL 160, you must do one hour each week of independent learning, in one of the CLAD (Center for Language Acquisition and Development) labs in the Multi-Use Building. You will need to show proof of attendance to receive credit.

I will pass out your Lab Record soon, at which time I will discuss the various options you have to fulfill this requirement. Your lab work can be one of the most valuable parts of your learning experience, since it is individualized: it is a time for you to work on the skills where you need the most help. You should devote as much effort to your lab work as you do to your class work. If you do, you will find it extremely helpful in improving your English and in passing the class. You will be asked to report on your lab work, both in writing and orally.

You MUST show proof of 15 hours of lab work in order to pass the class.

You MUST attend at least 2 workshops, work with a tutor at least twice, and work in the computer lab at least twice.

In addition, you may attend Library Workshops, to complete *up to 2 hours* of lab work. Show proof of attendance of any workshop (A, B, C, D, G, P, W) for one hour's credit.

DUE DATE for Lab Cards: Monday, Nov. 22, 2:30 pm. No exceptions.

WSP (Writing Success Project)

Section 003 is linked with the WSP. This means that tutor Jay Jesson will be attending most classes, and will lead study groups open to students in both sections 003 and 006. These groups are an opportunity for students to gain a deeper understanding of the readings, and to practice expressing ideas about the readings.

The final grade for this course will be based on the following:

	Mdtrm	Final
In-class essays (<u>must pass one</u>)	50%	40%
At-home essays	35%	20%
HW/ Lab card/ Attendance/ Class participation	15%	15%
ESL Dep't final exam	---	25%

Attendance: Regular attendance is extremely important. You are responsible for all assignments given during any class you miss.

If a student is absent from more than 3 classes, the instructor may drop her/him from the class or lower her/his final grade.

** You are responsible for the completion of all assignments. I may accept late assignments, but only if you speak to me about it. No assignment is ever accepted more than one week late. Lateness will affect essay grades.

**** If a student is absent on the day of an in-class graded assignment:**

Any student who calls in her or his absence (leave a message on my office phone) will be permitted to complete the assignment at home and receive a "homework grade" for the work. The assignment must be turned in within one week. Any student who does not call in her or his absence will receive a 0 ('F') for the assignment. You should speak to me personally any time you miss an in-class graded assignment. You should also speak to me if an at-home graded assignment will not be turned in on time.

Classmates to call in case of absence (or if you have a question):

1. (Name/ phone/ email address)

2.

Essays are graded based on the following:

Content: 35 points

Clarity of main idea 10 points

Strength of support and
development of main idea 15

Depth of content 10

Language: 35 points

Grammar

Complexity 10

Accuracy 10

Vocabulary

Complexity 5

Spelling 5

Length/completeness
of paper 5

Organization: 30 points

Introduction/conclusion 10

Clear/well-organized
body paragraphs 10

Use of assigned structures 10

