

Kevin J. Bessenbacher
Los Angeles Pierce College
Course Syllabus

English 101 – College Composition

Office Hours: By Appointment

Website: www.profkev.com

email: kjb@profkev.com (put “English” as the subject)

Required Texts:

- ***Interpreter of Maladies***, Lahiri, ISBN# 0-395-92720-X
- ***Lessons in Writing***, 2nd Edition, Goodwell, [link](#)
- ***Ethics for the New Millennium***, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, ISBN# 1-57322-883-4
- ***Readings***, downloadable from the schedule page (linked by Author’s Last Name)

Course Description:

- Prerequisite: completion of English 28 (C or better) or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the English placement process.
- Emphasizes expository writing and research, demonstrating rhetorical organization, range of diction, clear sentence and paragraph construction, and command of the conventions of English usage. Develops analytical and interpretive reading skills. Applies to the Associate Degree.

Course Procedures and Policies:

- Attendance:
Enrolled students WILL BE DROPPED if they do not show up for the second class meeting (or email me at least one day in advance asking to stay in the class).

Allowed absences (those free of penalty) will be equal to the number of meetings in one week of the semester. Each subsequent absence will result in a 10 percent drop in Participation grade. Students with excessive absences may be removed from the roster. A student who leaves during a break will be counted as absent thereby losing any points accrued prior to departure.

- Grading:

Three Research Papers (MLA Format)	=	300 (100 ea.)
Participation	=	75
Reading Quizzes	=	75
Presentation	=	50
Total	=	500

Research Papers are essays of varying length, following strict MLA format.

Approximately one week before the papers are due, students are required to bring a three page draft for peer review. Students who neglect to bring in a sufficient draft will lose one letter grade from the paper. The assignments for each paper can be found on the [class schedule](#) page of the website. Late papers will lose twenty percent the first week after which they become a zero grade; no emailed papers will be accepted; papers MUST be turned in to me or my mailbox before the end of class the day they are due. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Paper grading is based on the following scale:

Thesis	20
Structure	20 (intro, conclusion, transitions, arrangement)
Grammar/Punctuation	20
MLA Format	20
Content	20 (quality of information and backup: evidence, quotes)

ALL Papers will be turned in to www.turnitin.com on or before the dates they are due. Please see the [class schedule](#) page for login information. Papers not submitted online will be subject to the same penalties as stated above.

Participation consists of contributions to class discussion. For every class meeting, students shall be prepared to orally demonstrate knowledge of the readings. Occasionally, various assignments will be counted toward this grade.

Reading Quizzes take place at the beginning of class every day for which a reading from the text has been assigned. They are based on the assigned readings. These cannot be made up under any circumstances (tardiness, excused absence, etc.). The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Presentations will take place during the last days of class and should meet the time frame of **7 to 12** minutes. Points will be deducted for those who exceed or fall short. Students will be graded on **content** (the quality of information provided), **presence** (how well the content is conveyed), and **time**. Any extra props, though not necessary, are welcome.

- **Plagiarism:**
All assignments must be the student's own work and can never have been turned in for a grade in any other class. Any plagiarized work will receive a zero grade which may result in removal from the college. There will be no discussion on the matter. Any copying that is not clearly quoted and referenced will be counted as plagiarized. See me, plagiarism.org, or [Google it](#) for more information.
- **Conduct:**
Talking out of turn will **NOT** be tolerated. A student who talks while another is addressing the class will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period thereby losing any points accrued during the portion of time before removal. A student who persists in talking will be dropped from the roster without exception.

ALL electronic devices (Cell Phones, iPods, Tablets, Laptops, etc.) will be turned OFF at the beginning of class. Vibrate mode is not considered off. A student whose device disrupts the class will only be allowed back accompanied by **cookies** for all class members on the day of the following meeting. A student who uses an electronic device while class is in session **WILL** be removed from the roster. See me **prior to class** for emergency cases (pregnancy, illness, etc.).

I hereby reserve the right to alter any of the conditions found herein as I see fit to ensure a prosperous learning environment throughout the semester.