

English 28: Intermediate reading and composition
Course files on LACC Moodle or www.snorko.org/lacc
Office hours 4:00—5:00 (alternating w/4:30-5:30) Mondays

LACC Spring 2012
Online section #0459
Instructor Ed O'Connell
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Course texts

Chandler, R. 1939. *The big sleep*. NY: Random House Vintage Crime.

Denevi, D. and J. Campbell, eds. 2004. *Profilers: leading investigators take you inside the criminal mind*. Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.

Optional: Shakespeare, W. and R. A. Braunmuller, ed. 2000. *King Lear*. New York: Pelican Shakespeare.

alternate editions for Chandler and Shakespeare are available, including...

Shakespeare, W. and I. Pollack, illustrator. 2006. *King Lear*. NY: Black Dog and Levanthal Graphic Shakespeare.

Welcome to English 28. Students receive instruction in techniques of writing at the college level with an emphasis on grammar and various essay writing modes. Students develop reading skills through an analysis of fiction and non-fiction materials. This syllabus briefly outlines basic requirements for the course. More details, explanation, practice, research, and discussion, plus additional department and campus information will be provided in weekly lessons and the online site at LACC Moodle (or through www.snorko.org/lacc). All coursework should be posted on the course Moodle site, not sent to the instructor by email. Students may send email on personal issues (eng101lacc@yahoo.com). As this is an English course, computer requirements are minimal, but as this is an online course, students are expected to be able to manage using the Moodle site.

Warnings: Late essays will receive increasingly severe penalties. Essays are due at 9 am Saturdays. Don't be late. Students are encouraged to submit drafts early on the course online site to avoid being late due to emergencies, as well as to ask revision questions or to print on campus. Students *may* submit essays late, but then penalties apply (-1/2 pt. if submitted between noon—midnight Sat; -1 pt. Sun—Fri; -2 pts. after one week late). Plan ahead, post a draft on the message board early as back up for partial credit, and avoid late penalties. **Attendance** is required, and as per college policy, students may be dropped after missing a week of class time. To remain active in the course, students must post at least once each week on the course website. Students will have essays and journal work to post most weeks but may also include responses to other students' work on any weeks without other assignments.

Essay 1: Analysis and refutation (4 pages total, due in two 2-page parts: e1.1 due 2/18 and e1.2 due 3/10, with an optional bonus 1.b due 3/17)

Write two separate 2-page analyses of assigned text arguments contrasted with newspaper editorials, opinion columns, and persuasive essays or speeches. The two separate parts of essay 1 are due on different days, but the different scores are averaged into one grade. The essay project overall compares arguments from *Profilers* with complementary/contrasting essays, columns, or arguments, and students will select points to argue both for and against. See the weeks 1—2 and 3—4 research and journal activities online at the LACC Moodle site for essay preparation and practice which will be incorporated into the essay. Students should check online the complete essay assignment instructions, grading rubric, and online posting procedures. The optional bonus can replace the lower score of e1.1 and e1.2, and an additional bonus is available for completing all three parts.

Essay 2: Social/political analysis, contrasting academic non-fiction and short story fiction styles (4 pages total = 2-page academic analysis + 2-page short story; half-done draft due 3/31; complete final draft due 4/21)
Research and evaluate a specific crime or criminal and compare your analysis to your evaluation of arguments in *Profilers*. Students should not use the same Loughner case of e1.2 but may continue working on the same case used for e1.b, if done. Review a wide variety of information and opinion on the case and related ideas. Analyze at least three newspaper articles, editorials, opinion columns, or government speeches (these may include two sources previously used for essay 1, if desired). At least one source should be a Congressional bill. Judge the value that at least two arguments from *Profilers* offer to understanding the student's conclusions on the conflict. Outline, draft, and revise a 2-page formal academic persuasive analysis of the conflict with clear introduction (including thesis and outline of argument), fully explained body of argumentation (perhaps structured around the Criminal-profile-generating process of chapter 1), and conclusion (restating thesis and summarizing argument). Prepare in-text references and reference page in APA format. Consider how various films and novels of historical fiction and dramatic interpretations of crime and criminality relate to arguments from *Profilers* and the student's selected focus. Create an original, fictional character who experiences and evaluates important aspects of the situation or event in a 2-page short story. Fictionalize researched details into a plot. Use rubric presented in class to help organize and revise both halves of essay project. More details and practice will be provided in class research and journal activities.

Essay 3: Literature's lessons on today's world (4 pages: half-done draft due 5/5; final draft due 5/26)
Create and argue a thesis comparing the metaphoric lessons at least two different characters from Chandler's *The big sleep* offer toward understanding a specific crime or criminal case (not the same as used for e2). Identify in your thesis how the two characters can be interpreted to represent different aspects of or perspectives on the case. Research a wide variety of editorials and news stories. Include in body of argumentation analysis of at least three newspaper articles, editorials, or opinion columns not previously used for essay 1 or 2. Judge the value that short quotes from three different chapters of *Profilers* (not previously used for essay 1 or 2) offer in understanding the student's determined proper course of action in the situation. Prepare in-text references and reference page in APA style. Use rubric presented in class to help organize and revise essay. More details and practice provided in class research and journal activities.

Journal: Prepared weekly (collected throughout the term, neatly organized, and reposted as one by final exam, 6/2)
The journal is comprised of all written evidence of study for the course: all class notes, ideas posted to the course website, including weekly research, ideas for upcoming essays, responses to instructor's notes on the texts and assignments, responses to other students' ideas. All rough and final drafts of essays should also be organized on an ongoing basis and included as part of the journal. To help students prepare their research and drafts of essays, journals should also include at least one APA format annotated bibliographic reference for each week of class (see details <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>). For full credit, students' journals should include all weekly journal and research activities completed on schedule and total at least two pages of combined class notes and essay drafts for each week of class. At the end of the semester, students should neatly organize all work for the course and repost it as one by the final exam due date, Saturday, June 2.

Final exam: Online essay exam (test posted by 5/29, due Sat 6/2)

The final exam will be an online writing assignment similar in nature to essay 1 but will build upon the reading and research of the course as a whole. The final will be posted by the first day of final exam week, 5/29, and students' work will be due on Sat, 6/2. As per college policy, all students are required to take a final exam during final exam week.

Grade weights and scales: (all assignments are scored on 4-point rubric; these scores are then weighted to their designated percentage of 100 total for the course)

Essay 1: 25% of course grade (4-point rubric score x 6.25 = student's weighted score points of 25 possible)

Essay 2: 30% of course grade (4-point rubric score x 7.5 = student's weighted score points of 30 possible)

Essay 3: 30% of course grade (4-point rubric score x 7.5 = student's weighted score points of 30 possible)

Journal: 10% of course grade (4-point rubric score x 2.5 = student's weighted score points of 10 possible)

Final: 5% of course grade (4-point rubric score x 1.25 = student's weighted score points of 5 possible)

Total: 100% (100 weighted score points possible)

A = 90—100% (4-point scale scores 3.6—4.0)

C = 70—79% (4-point scale scores 2.8—3.19)

B = 80—89% (4-point scale scores 3.2—3.59)

D = 60—69% (4-point scale scores 2.4—2.79)

Calendar of readings and assignments

Week 1: 2/11	<i>Profilers:</i> Intro, Chs. 1, 2 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 1—2	weeks 1— 2 research & journal	Week 10: 4/14	<i>Profilers:</i> Chs. 8, 9, 15 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 23—25 (<i>Lear II</i>)	e2 final draft due
Week 2: 2/18	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 21 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 3—5	e1.1 due	Week 11: 4/21	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 14 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 26—28 (<i>Lear III</i>)	weeks 11— 13 research & journal
Week 3: 2/25	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 12 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 6—8	weeks 3— 4 research & journal	Week 12: 4/28	<i>Profilers:</i> Chs. 16, 22 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 29—32 (<i>Lear III</i>)	
Week 4: 3/3	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 12 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 9—10		Week 13: 5/5	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 17 (<i>Lear IV</i>)	e3 half done draft due
Week 5: 3/10	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 3 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 11—12	e1.2 due	Week 14: 5/12	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 18 (<i>Lear IV</i>)	weeks 14— 16 journal collection
Week 6: 3/17	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 4, 7 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 13—15 (optional: <i>Lear I</i>)	weeks 5— 7 research & journal	Week 15: 5/19	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 19 (<i>Lear V</i>)	
Week 7: 3/24	<i>Profilers:</i> Chs. 10, 11, 13 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 16—18 (<i>Lear I</i>)	e1.b due	Week 16: 5/26	<i>Profilers:</i> Ch. 20 (<i>Lear V</i>)	e3 final draft due
Week 8: 3/31	<i>Profilers:</i> Chs. 5, 6 <i>Big sleep:</i> Chs. 19—21 (<i>Lear II</i>)	e2 half done draft due	Final exam: 5/29— 6/2	final exam posted by 5/29 due 9:00 am, 6/2	
Week 9: 4/7	LACC Spring break 4/2—9	weeks 8- 10 research & journal			

Department and campus information

Prerequisite: ESL 6A or English 21 or equivalent or appropriate placement score.

Advisory: English 67 and English 68.

English 28 provides instruction in techniques of writing at the college level. It emphasizes grammar, essay writing, and reading assignments which reinforce writing skills.

ENGLISH 28 COURSE OBJECTIVES (EXIT SKILLS)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Reading: Identify and evaluate focal ideas and structures of entry-level college texts. Synthesize and compare ideas and concepts encountered in different kinds of reading selections. Apply note-taking techniques (dialoguing, scanning, and highlighting) to the reading process.

2. Writing: Write focused, organized papers (600-800 words, i.e., approx four handwritten or three or more typed pages) that present well-structured responses to academic readings, have well-structured introductions, bodies, and conclusions. Use quotations, detailed reference to texts, and effective paraphrase as forms of paragraph development. Write essays that analyze, compare, question, synthesize and evaluate main ideas

3. Writing Process: Apply working knowledge of the writing process (brainstorming, clustering, free writing, and other pre-writing techniques) to the planning, drafting, and revising of formal academic papers

4. Syntax: Use a variety of sentence structures, including compound and complex sentences employing coordinate and subordinate clauses.

5. Grammar: Use all verb forms and tenses correctly, and punctuate sentences effectively, avoiding comma splices, sentence fragments, and run-on sentences. Use a variety of sentence structures, including compound and complex sentences employing coordinate and subordinate clauses.

SLO FOR ENGLISH 28

Outcome: The student will:

Plan and write an essay of 800 - 1000 words

Criteria: To the following standard:

-- Accurate response to academic readings

-- A structured essay with introduction, body, and

conclusion.

-- Use of quotations, reference to texts, and paraphrase as forms of paragraph development

-- Proper use of verb forms and tenses, correct punctuation of sentences, lack of comma splices, sentence fragments, and run-on sentences

Assessment: As measured by the following method:

Embedded assessment: Random samples of student work from the department exam will be examined by a group of faculty from the department.

Rubric: And scored by the following rubric:

Exemplary:

A paper in this category has the following criteria:

-- response is substantial, well-focused with clearly defined introduction, body, and conclusion.

-- summaries of academic texts are accurate

-- important points, arguments, and examples are accurately paraphrased

-- student's opinions are well-developed

-- paragraphs are clearly focused

-- grammar errors are infrequent and do not distract or interfere with meaning

Acceptable:

A paper in this category has the following criteria:

-- response demonstrates general understanding of introduction, body, and conclusion.

-- summaries of academic texts may not be focused and may lack relevant detail.

-- important arguments and examples are paraphrased, but may be inaccurate or slight important points

-- grammar errors occur but do not detract from comprehension of essay as a whole

Unacceptable:

A paper in this category has the following criteria:

-- response lacks introduction, body, or conclusion

-- summaries reveal misunderstanding of academic readings

-- student's personal opinion may not pertain to writing topic

-- grammar errors interfere with comprehension of essay

Office of Special Services

Students with a verified disability who may need a reasonable accommodation(s) for this class are encouraged to notify the instructor and contact the Office of Special Services (CH 109, 323-953-4000 X2270) as soon as possible. All information will remain confidential.