

English 28 (0249)  
Intermediate Reading and Composition  
Spring 2017  
Theme: Nature vs. Nurture

**Instructor:** Mike Urquidez

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00-9:25am

**Classroom:** JNPR 0801

**Primary Office Location:** 1601 #2

**Office Hours:**

Mon. 9:30-10:30am & 12:40-1:40pm

Tues. 9:30-10:30am & 11:40am-12:40pm

Wed. 9:30-10:30am

Thurs. 9:30-10:30am

\*I am also available by appointment. Please email or come see me to request a meeting time that is not listed above.

**Email:** urquidml@piercollege.edu

**Phone:** 818-719-6478

**English Dept.:** 2500

**Required Materials:**

*Nurture Shock* by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman

*Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* by Victor Rios

Handouts may be distributed in class or emailed for students to print on their own

One double-pocket folder

**Course Description:**

Students demonstrate the ability to use elements of composition and critical reading. The course is designed to assist the student in making a successful transition to English 101. Students focus on grammar, sentence structure, and paragraph and essay writing. *Prerequisite:* English 21 with a grade of "C" or better, or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the English placement process.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**

Upon completion of English 28, students will be able to:

1. Analyze college level reading assignments by composing unified, coherent essays with clear thesis statements and specific, relevant support.
2. Compose unified, coherent essays with minimal errors in Standard English grammar and mechanics.

**Grading Policy:** This course is based on 1,000 points available for the entire semester.

Essays: 550 points (55%)

During the semester you will write a total of five essays, including one in-class final for which you will need a blue book. All essays, except the final, **must be typed** in Times New Roman, 12 point font. Use 1” margins on all sides. All final drafts must be accompanied by first drafts, any pre-writing assignments, and peer responses, and placed in a double pocket folder. Please note the following breakdown:

Paper #1: 100 Points (10%)

Paper #2: 100 Points (10%)

Paper #3: 100 Points (10%)

Paper #4 (light research paper): 150 Points (15%)

Paper #5 (in-class final exam essay): 100 points (10%)

Late policy: all papers will be due on the day designated on the prompts, and must be submitted in person, during class time, unless an arrangement has been made beforehand to submit an essay through email. An essay handed in one class meeting late will be graded half a letter grade (5%) down. Essays handed in two class meetings late will be graded a whole letter grade (10%) down. Essays later than two class meetings will be graded 2 letters (20%) down, and the student will forfeit the opportunity for a revision.

Note on revisions: Essays 1, 2, and 3 can be revised at any time during the semester, but you must make a formal request in a timely matter in order to do so. If you wait until the last weeks of class I may deny your request for a revision if I feel that we have too much that still needs to get done. You must first meet with me during office hours to discuss a plan for revision.

Homework, the final exam, and essay #4 cannot be revised. Turning in a revised essay does not guarantee a better grade.

Homework: 175 points (17.5%)

During the course of the semester you will complete a number of assignments at home. These will vary, and will include double/triple journal entries, pre-writing assignments (including outlines), grammar worksheets, definitions, critical thinking questions, and basically anything we do outside of class that is not the first or final draft of one of the above essays. Each homework assignment will be worth 10 points. You should expect to have an assignment due with every reading.

First Drafts: 125 Points (12.5%)

Each assigned essay will have two due dates. The first due date will be for a “good faith” rough draft, which will be assessed by the instructor as well as your fellow students during peer review. You will revise these drafts to be turned in the following week. **They are worth 25 points each, except the rough draft for the light research paper which is worth 50 points.** Late rough drafts will not be accepted.

### Peer review: 100 Points (10%)

For every rough draft we complete, we will meet in small groups to discuss what we see as the strengths and weaknesses of our peer's essays, and also our own writing. **Each session is worth 25 points.** Even if you do not have a rough draft, you can still earn credit for showing up and participating. Those without drafts will be given a chance to get suggestions from their fellow students about how to start an outline and/or establish a thesis.

### Quizzes: 50 points (5%)

Over the course of the semester we will take five short answer quizzes based on the readings and/or grammar lessons. They will be worth 10 points each.

**Grading Breakdown:** 1000-900=A, 899-800= B, 799-700=C, 699-600=D, 599-0=F

\*Please note that Pierce College does not use pluses or minuses for final grades, but pluses and minuses will be used in class to assess individual assignments.

### Class Policies:

**Attendance Policy (direct from the Pierce College Catalogue):** "Any student who has unexcused absences equaling one week's worth of class time prior to census date may be excluded. Students may drop the class online, before the last day to drop. Students should never rely on the instructor to exclude them. Do not call the college offices to report absences; call the course instructor...Students who are registered in a class and miss the first meeting may lose their right to a place in the class, but the instructor may consider special circumstances" (21).

Attendance in this class is required throughout the semester. You can miss a total of 4 classes before you risk being dropped by the instructor. If you have to miss back to back classes please contact me.

**Academic Integrity:** The work you submit/present must be your own. All paraphrases and quotations must be cited appropriately. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing another person's work, you may be disciplined in one or more of the following ways:

1. You will be given an F (0 points) on the assignment and not be able to revise
2. You may be referred to the College Disciplinarian for further sanctions

Please note: if you have any questions about appropriate ways to cite sources or if you are unsure how to incorporate your own ideas with ideas you read, please ask.

**Available Support Services:** The Center for Academic Success (CAS) is located on the first floor of the Library and Learning Crossroads Building, room 5130. They offer *FREE* tutoring in many different subjects to currently enrolled students. They can be reached at (818) 719-6414.

### **Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a disability and need special accommodations, please let me know within the first week of class. To receive accommodations, all disabled students must first visit Special Services for proper documentation. They can be reached at (818) 719-6430 or

<http://piercecollege.com/stuinfo/Special/> . They are located in the Student Services Building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that

they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact the office of Special Services as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Authorization, based on verification of disability, is required before any accommodation can be made.

**Class Conduct Policy:** Disobedient, disruptive or disorderly behavior exhibited by any student may result in disciplinary action in accordance with district policies and procedures. Please do not use cell phones in class. If you have an urgent matter, please respect your classmates by conducting your calls or texts in the hallway.

*Please note that this syllabus is a contract between you and me. Staying in this class means that you are aware of and accept all class policies. You are responsible for knowing the material in this syllabus, and changes that may be made. I may change assignments and the schedule as appropriate to meet our class's learning needs. I will, of course, give you adequate notice for changes in the course and assignments.*

**Schedule (subject to change):**

**\*Homework will be assigned in class**

**Week 1**

2/7/17: Intro to class/ syllabus

2/9/17: Intro to Reading strategies; HW: "In the Unlikely Event of a Water Landing" by Slater (handout); complete DEJ

**2**

2/14/17: Reading strategies continued; Discuss Slater

2/16/17: Essay number 1 assigned; intro to writing process;

**3**

2/21/17: Creating thesis statements and intros

2/23/17: Body Paragraphs (PIE)

**4**

2/28/17: **Rough Draft due;**

3/2/17: Peer Review (bring 2 extra copies of rough draft to class); revision strategies

**5**

3/7/17: **Final Draft for essay #1 is due;** Introduce new unit on *Nurture Shock* (book)

3/9/17: Discuss "Inverse Power of Praise"

**6**

3/14/17: Discuss "Why White Parents Don't Talk About Race" and "Why Kids Lie";

3/16/17: Discuss "The Science of Teen Rebellion"; Grammar

**7**

3/21/17: Discuss "Can Self Control Be Taught?" and "Plays Well with Others"; I will assign essay #2

3/23/17: Revisit intros and thesis statements: what is the "so what?"

**8**

3/28/17: Rough Draft Due for essay #2; revision strategies; grammar

3/30/17: Peer Review

**9**

4/4/17: Spring Break (No Class)

4/6/17: Spring Break (No Class)

**10**

4/11/17: **Final Draft due for essay #2;** Intro to the book *Punished* by Victor M. Rios

4/13/17: Chapter 1; What is paraphrasing?

**11**

4/18/17: Chapters 2 and 3; Golden lines

4/20/17: Chapter 4; review how to quote in class

**12**

4/25/17: Chapters 5 and 6; I will assign essay #3

4/27/17: Chapter 7 and Conclusion; Continue work on essay #3; grammar

**13**

5/2/17: Rough Draft due for essay #3; revision strategies

5/4/17: Peer Review

**14**

5/9/17: **Final Draft due for essay #3;** Assign essay #4 (research paper); discuss research strategies

5/11/17: Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)

**15**

5/16/17: Proposal due; continue research strategies

5/18/17: Rough draft due; peer review

**16**

5/23/17: Continue working on research paper

5/25/17: Final draft for essay #4 is due; Final exam prep

**17 (final exams week)**

Final exam for this class will be held Tuesday, May 30 from 8:00am-10:00am