

English 90 – Spring 2012
Integrated Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking

Instructor: Karen Nakaji

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Student Hours: M 12:30 – 2, T 2 – 3:30,

Th 3 - 4, **Online** Wed. 9 - 10

Class Website: <http://teacherweb.com/CA/LosMedanosCollege/KarenNakaji>



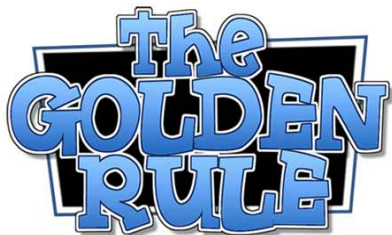
Welcome to English 90! This is an intensive, five-unit course that meets six hours each week to prepare students for college-level reading, writing, and thinking. Students will learn skills for reading, comprehending, and remembering passages of various lengths and styles while also writing effective summaries, responses, and essays.

Tools for Success (Books and Materials):

- *English 90 Handouts*, Hobbs and Nakaji, LMC Bookstore only
- *Hunger Games*, a novel by Susan Collins, available both at the LMC Bookstore or online
- *Quick Access*, ISBN #125628825X, LMC Bookstore only for Pearson Café access code
- Three ring binder (at least two inches) with loose-leaf paper and dividers
- Blue or black pens, pencils, highlighters, stapler
- Flash drive to save work
- Copy card for printing in Computer Classroom
- 3 x 5” index cards for roll

Clues for Success:

- Complete all reading and writing assignments, mid-term and final. You cannot pass the course if you do not submit all major writing assignments with a 70%
- Attend weekly lab sessions
- Communicate with professor: Research indicates that students who are able to communicate effectively with their professors have greater educational success. To facilitate communication with faculty, emails should begin with a salutation such as “Dear” or “Hi” or “Ms.” as appropriate and the person’s last name. These communications should similarly conclude with a closing line such as “Thanks”, “Best”, or even “See you in class”! Then, and perhaps most importantly, you should include your full first and last name. Furthermore, the body of the message should be written in Standard American English
- Find and use The Center for Academic Success
- Ask questions: of each other and the professor
- Stay organized with notebooks and handouts.



Class Etiquette:

- Treat each other with respect. The Golden Rule rules here. Although we may have different perspectives or opinions about issues, we can respect these differences and sometimes even learn from them.
- Food is not allowed in class. You will have a break during class if you must eat or drink.
- Turn off and store all electronic devices. I don't listen to my ipod or text my friends during class, so neither should you.
- One person at a time speaks. Listening is a skill we all need to practice.

Written Work:

All out-of-class work, summaries and essays specifically, must be typed, doubled-spaced, using a 12-point font, on one side of the paper in MLA format. Multiple drafts with my comments must be submitted when being re-graded. Any hand-written work must be in blue or black ink only and also written on one side of the paper. Work not submitted in either manner will be returned to students for corrections and thus considered as a late paper. Lastly, for your own benefit, make or save copies of all your work.

Evidence of Success (Assignments & Grading):

Assignments are graded on the point system, using standard grading percentages. You may check your points and grade at any time in the semester on the class website.

<http://teacherweb.com/CA/LosMedanosCollege/KarenNakaji> You must earn at least 70% overall to pass the course and earn at least an average of 70% on all essays.

The following assignment categories will be weighted:

- 35% **Reading** (quizzes, journals, summaries)
- 55% **Writing** (paragraphs, four essays, grammar quizzes, summaries)
- 10% **Student Skills** (Labs, reflections, roll responses, group work)

Course Policies:

- **Late Work:** All work must be submitted on time, but emergencies do occur. Consequently, students may submit one late essay or summary up to one week after the due date; no excuse necessary. Please do not ask for exceptions to this rule, or we will both end up feeling badly. No electronic submissions are accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.
- **Attendance:** Your success in this class is dependent on your attendance, so I do take roll and notice when you are not present. Because of the interactive nature of the class, you are expected to attend every class and stay the entire class period. If you are occasionally absent, please do not ask me if you missed anything "important." All we do in class is important; furthermore, you will be able to

access an outline of topics covered and homework due for the next session via the class website <http://teacherweb.com/CA/LosMedanosCollege/KarenNakaji>. Handouts and readings should be picked up outside my office **before** attending the next class. If you continue to miss up to five classes, you may be dropped from the course or receive an F. Ditto for leaving early.

- All major papers must be submitted to the Pearson Source Check for originality review and tutor feedback.

Accommodations:

If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please inform me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as possible after documentation has been received. Students with documented disabilities may receive reasonable classroom accommodations and/or testing. Last minute requests may not be determined to be “reasonable”.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using another person’s words or ideas as your own. This may also include buying papers, copying portion of papers, or simply failing to cite your sources. The penalty for plagiarism is a zero on the assignment with no chance for make-up. This will seriously affect your ability to pass the class. And for the second instance, you will be dropped from the class with an F.



What to Expect From Me: Aside from all these rules, policies, and warnings, I hope you will both enjoy and learn much from the class. This is not a lecture course and instead involves a great deal of student participation. I’ve been teaching full-time at LMC for 14 years and still look forward to every semester, every new class of students. I try to keep up with the latest educational technology while also searching for new reading materials and teaching ideas. I work hard to read, comment, and return student papers within one and no more than two weeks, providing critical yet supportive feedback. Often throughout the semester, I’ll check in with students for feedback from them about the class, assignments, and activities. Overall, I love teaching, working with students, and being here for you all in another step to reaching your goals.