

**English 110: Composition, Literature & Critical Thinking
Kababayan Program**

T Th 11:10 am – 12:25 pm • Section AK • 8-220
Fall 2007

SYLLABUS

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| Instructor: | Liza Erpelo | Office: | Building 8-214 |
| Office Phone: | (650) 738-4119 | Mailbox: | Building 8-112 |
| E-mail: | erpelol@smccd.edu | Office Hours: | Monday & Friday 12-1 pm Tuesday & Thursday 10-11 am Wednesday 2-3 pm |
| Web Page: | http://www.smccd.edu/accounts/erpelol/ | | |

PREREQUISITES

ENGL 100 or 105 with a grade C or better. **Transfer:** UC; CSU (A2, A3, C2). CAN ENGL 4. ENGL 100 or ENGL 105 + ENGL 110 = CAN ENGL SEQ A.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Welcome! The Kababayan Program consists of several components: English, literature, history, music, sociology, and cultural production courses with a focus on the Filipino/a experience in America; access to a supportive counselor/study skills instructor and tutors, collaboration with peer mentors; and outside activities that complement the mission of our program.

Our primary goal for this course is to provide you with strategies for thinking critically and expressing your thoughts effectively. Our goal for you is that you make these strategies your own, so that by the end of the course you are able to:

- Write an essay which responds to or interacts with a text.
- Formulate a thesis based on your understanding and evaluation of the text.
- Support your thesis with relevant and well-focused arguments.
- Develop your ideas at the sentence, paragraph, and essay levels using references from the text as well as your personal insights.
- Proofread for and correct errors in usage, writing mechanics, and spelling.

We will use a variety of texts — poems, short stories, novels, and films — to examine the process of storytelling and the relevance of stories to our lives. Your concern, as a reader of a particular text, will be to examine what that text says, to decide what it means to you, to evaluate that message, and to communicate your evaluation to the rest of us.

Please note that this is not a lecture course: we will work together to *explore* ideas and *experiment* with different ways of expressing them. The success of the work we do together — our class discussions and work with partners or in small groups — will depend upon the effort each of us makes individually. Part of that effort is simply being prepared, having done the reading, thinking, and writing assigned. Another part of that effort, an essential part, is to be willing to investigate your opinions, to share them, and to respect the right of your classmates to express opinions that are different from your own.

TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS NEEDED

American Son by Brian Ascarion Roley
Mayor of the Roses by Marianne Villanueva
Primetime Apparitions by R. Zamora Linmark
One Tribe by M. Evelina Galang

1. **Pocket Style Manual** by Diana Hacker
2. **A dictionary of your choice**
3. **English 110 Course Reader and Workbook:** Contains some of the readings, reference material, and homework exercises for this class.
4. **A “Student Record Folder”:** You will need this folder to document your lab hours.
5. **One folder with two pockets:** When you turn in each final draft of an essay, you will also need to turn in this folder, which will include your rough draft, peer review sheets, and any homework you have completed for that unit.
6. **E-mail account:** Please join the Kababayan Program Yahoo! Group by visiting us at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kababayan_SkylineCollege and subscribing to the list.
7. **LiveJournal account:** Some of our activities will take place on this online journal.
 - (1) Visit <http://www.livejournal.com> and create a free account if you do not already have one.
 - (2) Once you have created your account, visit http://community.livejournal.com/engl110ak_fa07/ then click on “Join this community” at the top of the page. Submit your request, and I will verify your account. You will be notified by e-mail when your account has been approved.

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| COURSE REQUIREMENTS |
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1. Essays (60%)

Essays will usually be between three and five pages. **Due dates are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.** All essays must be typed in black ink, double-spaced, on white 8.5” x 11” paper in a standard font — no exceptions. Margins should be 1” all around. Please staple all of the pages together and number the pages; you do not need a title page. I will provide a sample essay to show you the format conventions you should follow. When each essay is due, you will need to turn in a folder which includes **two clean copies** of the final draft, your peer review sheets, your rough draft, and any homework/worksheets we have done during that unit. If you are missing any of that work, the essay will be marked down by 1/3 of a grade.

You must turn in all of your essays in order to pass this class. Absolutely no late papers will be accepted for the final essay.

Please consider every piece of writing you do for this class to be “public property.” Part of becoming a good writer is learning to appreciate the ideas and criticisms of others, and in this course, our purpose is to come together as a writing community. Remember that you will often be expected to share your writing with others, so avoid writing about things that you may not be prepared to subject to public scrutiny, or things you feel so strongly about that you are unwilling to listen to perspectives other than your own. This does not mean that you are not entitled to an opinion but that you adopt positions responsibly, contemplating the possible effect on others.

Essays will be graded as follows:

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| Essay #1 (Writing Sample) | | 5% | |
| Essay #2 | <i>American Son</i> | 10% | <i>*This essay can be revised.</i> |
| Essay #3 | <i>Mayor of the Roses</i> | 15% | <i>*This essay can be revised.</i> |
| Essay #4 | <i>Primetime Apparitions</i> | 15% | |
| Essay #5 | <i>One Tribe</i> | 15% | |

As you can see, the bulk of your grade comes from actual writing, and although you may attend class every day, do all of your homework, participate, and turn in all your essays on time, if your writing is not passing, you will not pass the class. **You must earn an average of at least a “C-” on your essays to pass the course.**

Proofreading: This is a college-level course and requires careful proofreading. An essay with excessive proofreading errors on the first page will be returned ungraded for correction and will be counted as late. Feel free to mark up the final draft even after the essay is printed out; I'd rather get a marked-up final draft than a clean rough draft.

Late Essays: All essays are due **at the beginning of class** on the assigned date — any time after is considered late. Absence on the due date is not an excuse. Hard drive failures, corrupted word processing files, e-mail problems, or printers which have broken down or are out of ink are also invalid excuses. You may turn in only one essay late in the semester, and “late” means by the next class meeting; for instance, if an essay was due on Tuesday, you can turn it in late on Thursday. Use the “late essay” coupon attached to the end of this syllabus. When papers come in late, I will still grade them, but may not be able to provide any written feedback on the essay itself. If you turn your essay in any later, you will be penalized one full letter grade for each class meeting that it is late; otherwise, your essay will be graded “pass/fail,” at the instructor’s discretion.

Revision: Revision is a significant step in the writing process that involves much more than mere proofreading. You may revise essays 2 and 3 for a better grade, regardless of your original grade; I especially urge you to revise any “not passing” (D) papers. Essays 4 and 5 cannot be revised. You must schedule a revision conference with me for any paper you plan to revise; revisions are due one week after we meet. When you turn in your revision, include the original essay with feedback and please highlight the changes you made on your revision. Your revision grade will be averaged with the original grade, unless the revision grade is lower.

Plagiarism: At all colleges, plagiarism is unacceptable. Plagiarism refers to passing off another person’s ideas or words as your own, from copying someone else’s words or ideas without citing that source to having people write or excessively edit your essays for you. According to the Skyline College “Student Handbook,” plagiarism is:

- Incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts of another person's writing, without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as your own work.
- Representing another’s artistic/scholarly works (such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, or sculptures) as your own.
- Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service.

Any assignment that has been plagiarized will receive an “F” (no credit) and we will meet to discuss your status in the course. You may also be required to meet with the Dean of Language Arts for disciplinary action.

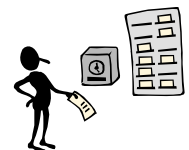
2. Attendance/Participation (10%)

Because all the work we do in class is directly related to your writing development, it is crucial that you come to each class prepared and ready to participate. I will take roll at every class meeting. If you cannot make a particular class, call me to let me know. You will also need to call a classmate and be sure to get the homework assignment and any materials from him or her. You are responsible for all homework whether you’ve been in class or not. Missing more than three class meetings will affect your grade, and missing more than six class meetings is unacceptable and will result in a failing grade for attendance, participation, and homework. While you are in the classroom, please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, Walkmans, etc. before class begins. It is disrespectful to me and to your classmates.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE ***

To keep your spot in this class, you must attend all class meetings during the first two weeks. If you are absent without notifying me during this time, you will be dropped from the class.

I expect all of us to get started on time and not be interrupted by late arrivals which invariably produce distracting paper shuffling and repeated directions/conversation. We will use the entire class period — from 11:10 am – 12:25 pm. Three “late arrivals” (defined either as coming in after I take roll or more than 10 minutes into the class) will be considered an absence; early departures carry the same consequences. Both will count toward the maximum of six absences permitted.



Conferences

Conferences are a major part of this class. They provide opportunities for us to work together on your growth as a writer. Please keep your appointments with me; if you have to miss a conference with me, call me ahead of time to let me know. Otherwise, your missed conference will count as an absence.

- *Introductory Conference:* I will hold a short conference with each of you within the first two weeks of class to go over your first essay and talk about what you would like to accomplish this semester.
- *Revision Conferences:* You may revise essays 2 and 3 within one week of receiving the graded essay. You must come prepared for the discussion — read my comments carefully and be ready to tell me specific ideas you have for revising the essay based on my comments.

Peer Review Days

On peer review days, you and two of your peers will get together and read each other's essays and comment on them. These workshops are here to help you, by providing feedback from your readers and allowing you to reread and rethink about your work. You will need to **bring three copies of your draft to class** on these days. Your essay must be a "good-faith draft": it should be at least two pages long and shows careful thought and planning even though it may be unfinished. You may miss one peer review day without penalty; use the "missed peer review day" coupon at the end of the syllabus. If you do not attend a workshop for a given paper, your final grade for that paper will drop by one grade.

Class Discussion/Readings

Many times in class discussion, it becomes fairly obvious who has done the reading and who has not, who is willing to speak their minds and who chooses to disengage; get your words out there. Convince me that you are prepared for class, have thought about these ideas, and are ready to participate.

3. Homework (15%)

Grading: Homework consists of sentence or paragraph exercises, smaller writing assignments, worksheets, freewrites, LiveJournal entries, and any other assignments. We will go over homework in class the day after it is assigned; I expect everyone to have completed the homework before coming to class. Homework is a large part of your responsibility as a student and will greatly affect how much you learn in this class and how well you do on the essays. Each homework assignment is worth three points. Late homework will be accepted by the next class period and carries a point penalty.

| Points | Meaning |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| 3 points | excellent work |
| 2 points | good work |
| 1 point | incomplete or needs improvement |
| 0 points | turned in late |
| -1 point | not turned in |

*PLEASE NOTE THAT NOT TURNING IN HOMEWORK EARNS YOU **NEGATIVE** POINTS.*

Submitting Assignments by E-mail: I will only accept homework electronically if you are absent on the day that the work is due or if we have made previous arrangements; otherwise, your work will be considered late. Keep in mind, however, that if you e-mail me your homework, you do so at your own risk and I cannot guarantee that I will receive it on time. Please send your work in Microsoft Word format (.doc) or in rich text format (.rtf) as an attachment. **NOTE:** I do not accept essay assignments via e-mail.

Quizzes and In-Class Work: You may not make up a missed quiz or in-class activities; you lose points entirely.

Lab Work

A required activity for English 110 is 16 hours of lab time during which you work on assigned activities in The Learning Center or attend other workshops and events on campus. During this time you may work on the following types of activities:

- Tutoring with an instructional aide on homework assignments for English 110.

- Work in text materials in The Learning Center to develop specific skills, such as vocabulary development, main idea, notetaking, textbook reading, etc.
- Work in text materials in The Learning Center to more generally practice comprehension.
- Attend instructor-approved campus events, such as Learning Center or Writing and Reading Lab workshops, poetry readings, plays, lectures, etc. Proof of attendance is required with either a signed attendance slip or a written one-page summary/reaction paper of the event.
- Participate in any of the other activities described inside the “Student Record Folder.”

You must purchase a “Student Record Folder” to document your lab attendance. I will collect your lab folder from time to time to check on your progress. Your lab work will count towards your homework grade, with each lab hour worth 6 points, for a total possible 100 points. If you are doing your lab work in The Learning Center, you may schedule the lab hours for your convenience. The Writing and Reading Lab in the Learning Center is open as follows:

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| Monday - Thursday | 8:00 am – 10:00 pm |
| Friday | 8:00 am – 4:00 pm |
| Saturday | 10:00 am – 2:00 pm |

Any hours in excess of your required 16 hours (up to 10 hours) for the semester can be counted as extra credit towards your homework grade.

4. Final Exam (15%)

The final is required to pass the course. Please do not take the course if you cannot take the final at the scheduled time; no finals will be given early. The date for the final exam is Tuesday, December 18 from 11:10 am – 1:40 pm.

Special Accommodations: In coordination with the DSPS office, reasonable accommodation will be provided for eligible students with disabilities. If you do not yet have an accommodation letter, please contact the DSPS office at (650) 738-4280.

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| IMPORTANT DATES |
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| Last day to ADD | Wednesday, September 5 |
| Last day to DROP without appearing on record | Friday, September 14 |
| Last day to WITHDRAW (“W”) | Tuesday, November 20 |

HOLIDAYS

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| Labor Day | Monday, September 3 |
| Veteran’s Day | Friday, November 9 |
| Thanksgiving | Thursday, November 22 – Sunday, November 25 |

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| GRADING POLICY |
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This course is graded A-B-C-D-F with no plus or minus grades. You may choose to take the class Credit/No Credit, but you will need to sign up for this option with me. Grades are assigned as follows:

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| A or Credit: | 90-100% average on tests and assignments |
| B or Credit: | 80-89% average on tests and assignments |
| C or Credit: | 70-79% average on tests and assignments |
| D or No Credit: | 60-69% average on tests and assignments |
| F or No Credit: | below 60% average on tests and assignments |
| W (Withdrawal): | a requested grade which can be assigned only if requested before <u>November 20, 2007.</u> Use college withdrawal procedures. |

Note that the “W” is a requested grade. A “W” will not be assigned unless you follow the official college WITHDRAWAL procedures. If you wish to drop this class, you must initiate the process using the WebSMART system. Students will not be automatically dropped for missing class. If you simply disappear from class without going through the withdrawal process, you will receive whatever letter grade you deserve at the end of the semester, most likely an “F.”

Essays are graded A-B-C-D (Not Passing). Unsubmitted or late work will earn a F (No Credit) grade. I will include in your course reader a detailed grading criteria sheet that will help you understand what I and the department regard as excellent work (A), good work (B), adequate work (C), and not-passing work (D). **You must turn in all of your essays in order to pass this class.**

Don’t expect to get excellent grades on your first essays — this class is here to coach you towards more complex and sophisticated writing, not to simply validate what you already know how to do. And don’t despair — writing is difficult, and English 110 can hardly teach you everything there is to know. We will work together to strengthen your skills and confidence. Your attendance, participation in class, and homework will all contribute to your overall grade, but your essays compose the bulk of your grade, 60%. If you are on a borderline between grades, an overall upward trend in your essay grades will help you.

FINAL NOTES

A few important things to remember about this class:

- Always make and keep a copy of your essay for your records before you turn it in.
- Save all essays and homework until the end of the semester.
- Exchange phone numbers/e-mail addresses with at least two of your classmates so that you can contact them for assignments if you are absent.
- This class is often in high demand — if you miss the second class meeting without notifying me or if you do not submit the required first essay, student information sheet, and syllabus contract on time, **you will lose your spot in this class.**
- Always see me any time you have questions or concerns.
- Come to class prepared, but come to class even if you aren’t.

My goal is to help you discover ways to develop and support your opinions so that you will be able to think critically and write effectively when expressing your own voice as a member of the academic community. You, however, are responsible ultimately for your success in this class, and the best way to ensure that success is to come to class every day, come to class prepared, and come see me as soon as you have a question or problem. I look forward to working with you!



Please note that the above schedules and procedures in the course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

LATE ESSAY COUPON

Attach this form to your late essay.

Name: _____

Essay Number: _____ Paper Topic: _____

Original Due Date: _____ Date Submitted: _____



Reminder: You may submit only **ONE** late essay during the semester, including revisions. A late paper must be turned in by the next class meeting after the due date. (For instance, if a paper was due on Tuesday, you have until Thursday.)

You cannot use this coupon for Essay #5.

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MISSED PEER REVIEW DAY COUPON

Attach this form to your final draft when you turn it in.

Name: _____

Essay Number: _____ Paper Topic: _____

Date of Missed Peer Review Day: _____

Reminder: You may miss only **ONE** peer review day without penalty.

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Please sign and return to class by Tuesday, August 28, 2007.

SYLLABUS CONTRACT

I, _____, have read the course syllabus for English 110 AK
Print full name

for the Fall 2007 term. I understand that by signing this contract I am agreeing to abide by all the rules and requirements described in this syllabus and that my failure to comply can result in my failing this course. If I have any questions concerning the requirements, I will first consult my course syllabus and then contact the instructor for further assistance.

Signature

Date