

## English 102: College Reading and Composition II (UC:CSU) – 3.00 Units

**Professor:** Jessica Mintz

**Welcome English 102 Students:** I invite you to enjoy an exciting journey this semester as you learn to analyze short stories, novels, poetry and plays. In the process of this journey you will write critical essays about the literary works you read for this class. The focus will be to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for literature as we explore how authors use language and themes and characters to convey various perspectives on life. In our exploration of a diverse group of authors, we will examine literary craft including such elements as plot, setting, symbol, style, and theme. Remember, whether you're an online class pro or a relative beginner, **please read this entire letter** to understand some specifics of the class. Students enrolled in the class are responsible for all information contained in this letter.

**Prerequisite:** English 101 with a grade of C or better. This course develops reading, writing, and critical thinking skills beyond the level achieved in English 101 and requires the writing of a minimum of 10,000 words in essays and a research paper throughout the semester. It emphasizes logical reasoning, analysis, and strategies of argumentation using literature and literary criticism. Evaluations of texts reveal the multicultural/global aspects of our society, which include traditional and contemporary forms in fiction, poetry, essays, and drama.

**General Information:** In this English 102 you will be reading literature that will help you to think in new and different and powerful ways; writing about it will help you express what you think. It will help you to know yourself and make yourself known to others. Your success in college will depend on your ability to write well, and the better reader you train yourself to be, the better you prepare yourself to become a better writer.

All of the writing assignments in English 102 will build on the writing skills you have learned in English 101. You will further develop your skills at making a claim and defending it with good examples and careful reasoning. All writing for this class should use vivid and effective language, as well as exhibit organized and developed ideas that support a thesis or main point.

The paired related goals of this class are (1) to read literature with understanding and (2) to write about literature with clarity and conviction. Additionally, the hope is that you will advance and hone your own creative abilities to write about these stories and poems and plays.

**Syllabus:** The syllabus for the course will be available the first day of class. Meanwhile, for those who want to get a jumpstart on the class, keep reading below. You can purchase your textbook early and begin reading.

**Textbook:** You are required to purchase the book before the class begins.

***Literature Craft & Voice* by Nicholas Delbanco and Alan Cheuse [second edition].** Either of the following two ISBN numbers will lead you to the correct textbook for the class: **ISBN-10: 0073384925** or **ISBN-13: 978-0073384924**

You are NOT required to purchase any type of 'access' or 'Connect' card with this textbook.

The textbook is available through the LAVC Bookstore. The textbook is also available online through a vendor of your choice (for example: Half.com, Textbooks.com, Amazon.com, or AbeBooks.com). Make sure to shop around online as you should be able to get a used book at a reasonable price. Many online

vendors also offer the option of renting the textbook for the semester. There is no eBook version of the textbook available at this time.

**Office Hours & Private Messages:** My office hours are conducted online. You may post questions in the Discussions area or send me a private message on the course site. I typically reply within 24 hours or less. Likewise, you are also responsible to respond in a timely manner to all Private Messages sent to you by the instructor. All communication during the semester should be conducted on the class site. Send any private messages through the Inbox on the Canvas site and not via my college email address.

**Time Management:** Avoid procrastinating with your assignments. Computers have an uncanny ability to crash when you least want them to especially when it's time to upload a paper or quiz. Technical difficulties, including temporarily 'down' servers, are unacceptable excuses for late or missed assignments (unless the Canvas site is temporarily down). Personal issues, including illness are also unacceptable excuses for late or missed assignments. The **best way to be successful in this class** is to manage your time and turn in assignments in advance of the due date and time.

**How to Begin Once the Class Opens:** Roll up your sleeves, watch your posture, set your hands to the keyboard and have a great time in the class.

1. Read the Syllabus
2. Review all Announcements
3. Familiarize yourself with the Modules (which contain the online lectures and important information)
4. Review any open Assignments
5. Complete the Treasure Hunt Quiz
6. Create your Profile (directions are given to you in the first week's module)
7. Read and participate in Discussion #1

**Canvas:** LAVC has moved to a new software system for online classes as of Fall 2016. The new system is **Canvas**. To learn more about Canvas, visit the Virtual Valley site's Canvas Resource area:

<http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/oei-and-canvas.html>

**Is an Online Class Right for You?** Some students find they prefer online classes; others prefer a traditional face-to-face class. You will have to decide for yourself. Visit the "Getting Started" site on Virtually Valley to see if online classes are right for you:

<http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/studentGettingStarted.html>

**An online class can be both challenging and exciting.** You need to have and make the time to complete all the assignments, participate in discussions, and be open-minded to learning. You also need to be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed. Please note that this English course requires a lot of reading and a lot of writing. You will need to make a substantial time commitment in order to be successful in this class. To learn more about online classes, view the tutorials on the Virtual Valley site:

<http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/tutorials.html>

**Important Note:** You must complete the first week's assignments in order to remain enrolled in the class. If you fail to complete the assignments by the end of the first week of classes, you may be dropped from the class.

**What You Need For An Online Class:** Make sure that you have easy and reliable internet access. And think about your ‘backup plan’ in the event your computer breaks down or has some malfunction. Check to make sure that your computer system is adequate, that you have all the needed software and that your settings are correct. Even if you have taken an online class before, please check your settings and make certain you are using only the recommended browsers and browser version. To learn what the basic computer specifications are for Canvas, visit:

<https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/1/82542-what-are-the-basic-computer-specifications-for-canvas>

Have a back-up computer (know the computer lab locations on campus) in case of problems. Technical difficulties will not be an acceptable excuse for late or missed work. Most public libraries have free computer access. The LAVC campus has several computer labs. And if all else fails, there are 24 hour computer/Internet rental services at places like FedEx Office.

**Do I need an email address?** Yes, important class announcements are sent to your email and posted on the class site. Announcements contain upcoming due dates, reminders, information about the quizzes, and other important class information. To check the email address you have listed with the college, go to the online student registration system –go to [www.lavc.edu](http://www.lavc.edu) and click on the “register for classes” link to login to the student system and view your email address. Once you login to Canvas you can also change or verify your email address again in the account/profile area. Make sure to check your LACCD email account regularly. Announcements containing important information are both posted on our online class homepage and sent to you via email.

**Is there a Canvas app for the phone?** Yes, but it should not be used to take the quizzes.

**Online Class Login Information:** To start, you will want to know the structure of the class: the class is entirely on-line. There are no required on-campus meetings. For information on how to login to the class visit the Virtual Valley site:

<http://lavc.edu/virtualvalley/oei-and-canvas.html>

**How to get Help:** If you have any technical issues, visit the Virtual Valley “**Help Desk**” page at:

<http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/help.html>

My hope is that you learn from this course, enjoy the experience, and have fun in the process. See you online!



Professor Jessica Mintz  
Email: [mintzjl@lavc.edu](mailto:mintzjl@lavc.edu)