

Eng 50 Introduction to College Composition Guidelines
Fall 2017, CRN 71740, TTh 8-10:05 a.m. Humanities 20
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Welcome to Eng 50

Thank you for enrolling in our class. I look forward to working closely with you throughout the semester. This course will teach you how to think and write about an issue using proper citation of sources and prepare you for Eng 1A, the research paper class. Because this is a writing course that asks a lot of you, it also offers a great deal of help through homework assignments in the PLATO grammar lab, BC Tutoring, the Writing Center, and the BC library. Students who seek help from these campus services usually have a much higher pass rate than students who do not. You will learn by writing and rewriting, which helps you improve your work and your grade. 😊

Required Books and Supplies

Eng 50 Texts:

- Fister, Barbara. *Quick Reference: Working With Sources: Using MLA, Eighth Edition Style*. 8th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016. ISBN: 9781319088354.
- Lopez, Steve. *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music*. New York: Penguin, 2008. ISBN: 9780425238363.
- Carlson, Kamala. *Supersonic Writing Tips: Grammar Cards*. ISBN: 2810050011370. (These cards can be purchased only at the BC bookstore.)
- A college-level dictionary or college-level electronic dictionary also is recommended.

Supplies:

- A stapler with staples.
- A three-ring binder with pockets and dividers. You will use this to take notes, write drafts, and collect handouts to create a Writer's Notebook. This should be a binder that you can open and close since you will add and remove papers from it and reorganize the notebook at the end of the semester.
- Loose-leaf, college-ruled binder paper.
- Blue or black pens; a pen with different colored ink for corrections; several No. 2 pencils; and Whiteout.
- Two large envelopes (10 x 13 inches).
- One packet of Scantrons, Form 815-E (15 questions).
- A BC e-mail account; a flash or thumb drive; and a BC student I.D. card. BC pays for a Turnitin.com account for you.
- Access to a computer and printer with Internet access to print handouts from the class website.

About the Class

Eng B50 Course Description: Emphasizes the writing of expository and argumentative essays and the comprehension and analysis of readings. Prepares transfer students for English B1a. This is a pre-collegiate, basic skills class. **Prerequisite:** ENGL B60 or EMLS B60 with a grade of "C" or writing one level prior to transfer.

Hours: 72 lect. **CCS:** Credit course. **Not Transferable:** Not degree applicable.

Eng 50 emphasizes the connection between reading and writing while providing the tools to strengthen both. Writing assignments include exercises, essays, and a short, argumentative research paper as you are introduced to MLA format. You also will learn how to improve your reading, writing, organization, editing, and study skills so you can succeed in college. **You must earn a "C" or better to pass Eng 50 and become eligible for Eng 1A.**

Eng 50 Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Read and think critically about at least one book-length work in addition to selected readings.
2. Evaluate and establish the credibility of an author's work.
3. Demonstrate the legitimate use of credible sources by
 - summarizing and paraphrasing sources.
 - synthesizing multiple sources.
 - avoiding plagiarism.
4. Write essays and papers that
 - demonstrate the use of expository and argumentative or persuasive forms of writing.

- demonstrate MLA form and citation.
- show evidence of drafting, editing, and revision to reflect an academic style and tone.
- use a variety of sentence patterns appropriately and correctly.
- use the standard conventions of written English—spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Class Disclaimers

Class Content: Topics may include controversial issues such as homelessness, poverty, crime, mental illness, addiction, violence, death, racial discrimination, government, media, and sex. Film clips may depict these issues in graphic detail, and some people interviewed may use profanity. If topics like these offend you or make you uncomfortable, you should take this course from someone else. Due to our discussion of mature topics, children should not be brought to class, so please arrange for childcare.

Attendance: My attendance policy is simple: Be at class on time and plan to stay the entire class session. BC regulations state that students who miss two weeks of instruction throughout the semester should be dropped. In our class, that is four absences. **If you are absent four times, you will be dropped.** If you believe you have a legitimate personal emergency that will force you to miss two weeks of class, please put yourself and your loved ones first and drop this class now. You can take it at another time when your life isn't so stressful.

If You Do Miss a Class, Do Not E-mail Me to Ask, "What did I miss?" It is your responsibility to read the syllabus and know what is being discussed. Exchange phone numbers with several classmates so you can find out what you miss if you are absent. As a college student, you should keep track of your assignments, grades, and enrollment status. If you are absent numerous times and have not dropped by the last drop date, you probably will receive a failing grade in this class.

Tardiness: If you arrive late or leave class early three times, this counts as one absence. If you miss half of a class, that counts as an absence. Tardiness disrupts class and can result in you missing a quiz, which costs you points. I also collect homework at the beginning of class, so if you are late to class, your homework loses points.

Late Work Policy: If you walk in after the work has been collected, expect your work to be marked "late" with points deducted to be fair to those students who have done the work on time. If you are late to class or if you turn in essays or papers late the day they are due, you lose 5 percent. If you miss a due date completely, you lose 10 percent for each calendar day the work is late, including Fridays and weekends. Excuses such as car problems, parking problems, childcare problems, printer problems, or drinking problems are not acceptable.

Books and Supplies: You are expected to acquire the required texts and supplies to pass this class.

Student Conduct: I expect mature and respectful behavior. Disruptions such as tardiness, talking, cell phones, sleeping, rude or offensive comments, outbursts, text-messaging, fighting, making out, and just overall weird behavior will not be tolerated. This is rude and disrupts class. Cell phones are to be turned off during class. You are encouraged to ask questions and respectfully share opinions. You have the right to express your point of view on any topic discussed in class, but you also must respect the right of others to express their opinions even though they differ from yours. If we listen, we can learn from each other.

Homework Determines Most of Your Grade: While we complete some in-class writing, most of your grade is based upon completing homework assignments. Even if you do well on in-class work, if you do not complete homework assignments, you will fail the class. A "D" or "F" grade forces you to repeat this course. If you are overloaded with work, other classes, or family obligations, please consider taking the class later when your schedule is lighter. As part of your homework, you will be asked to print handouts from the class website and bring these to class for points. Handouts sent to tablets, laptops, or phones can't be used in class.

PLATO Grammar Lab: Homework also includes completing and passing four assigned PLATO grammar lab assignments. This can be done here at BC in the Student Success Lab in SS 143 or online at home. Your grade will be based upon assignments completed successfully by the homework due dates. We will visit the lab for a PLATO orientation. Students also are encouraged to seek the help of a peer tutor at the BC Tutoring Center or to make an appointment at the Writing Center for assistance with their writing.

Library Research Workshops: You also are expected to attend two BC library research workshops by Tues., Nov. 14, as part of your homework. Workshops are offered in the afternoons, evenings, and on weekends. If you can't attend these workshops, you must request an alternative research assignment by Thurs., Aug. 31.

In-Class Writing Conferences: I work with students individually during class. This means that as others work quietly, I may walk around the room and ask you questions at your desk, or we may meet at my desk to discuss your work. I will confer with you, read drafts of your work, offer suggestions, share examples of good writing, and try to clarify anything that you do not understand. If discussing your work during class makes you uncomfortable, please take Eng 50 from someone else.

Your continued enrollment in Eng 50 after reading this implies your acceptance of these class disclaimers: class content; attendance, your responsibility to know what is due; tardiness; late work policy; required books and supplies; student conduct; homework, including PLATO assignments and two library research workshops; and in-class writing conferences.

State Limit on Repeating Classes

You can't take a class more than three times if you received a "W" or a poor grade. After the third attempt, you must take the class outside of the Kern Community College District. If you are taking a class this semester and want to drop it, please do so before the drop deadline of Sept. 3 to avoid having the class count.

Class Policies

Academic Honesty: Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of a writer without giving that writer credit. While plagiarism is a serious academic offense that can result in a failing grade as well as college disciplinary action, it also is easy to avoid. In this class, you will learn how to avoid plagiarism through proper introduction and citation of sources before you cite facts from them.

Other Forms of Cheating: Some students may cut and paste information from the Internet, copy work from friends, or ask relatives to complete their work. I expect the assignments that you turn in to be yours. If you turn in work that isn't yours, allow others to copy your work, talk during quizzes, or have your cell phone out during quizzes or tests, you may receive an automatic "F" for that assignment and be reported to college administration.

Supportive Services: Students with disabilities needing accommodation, including those who had an IEP in high school, should make requests to Disabled Students Programs and Services in CSS 10, or in Delano Room 1001 (661-395-4334, (661-720-2000 in Delano). All requests for accommodations require appropriate advance notice to avoid a delay in services. Please discuss approved accommodations with me so we can work together to ensure your access and success at BC.

Wait List and Drops: BC's policy is to use waitlists to ensure fairness in adding students. The waitlist will be used only during the first few class sessions and then this class will be closed.

Grading: All writers improve their skills through revision, so you will have the chance to correct or revise some assignments for additional points. I give feedback on what you write, provide occasional grade reports, and post grades on the class website so you know where you stand. While I don't assign extra credit, I do drop your lowest Scantron quiz grade and include a bonus question on most quizzes and tests. Due to the grading workload in writing classes, I may assign several exercises that you will complete, but I may grade only one of these. I also may confer with you on an essay and discuss how to improve it rather than mark it.

Why You Need to Use a BC E-mail Account: I send class updates through your campus e-mail account. We also have a lab orientation planned and you need to use a BC e-mail account for this. You should take advantage of free computer access at any school you attend. Computers and flash drives can be lost, stolen, or damaged. Protect your work by backing it up on the campus computer system and e-mailing it to yourself as an attachment.

Office Hours

Office hours are times set aside by teachers to meet with you to answer questions you may have. My office is located in Humanities 35. **My office hours this semester are TTh 10:10-11:25 a.m. and T 3:10-5:40 p.m. or by appointment.** If my office hours don't fit with your schedule, we can try to find another time that works.

Grades and Assignments

Grading: The grading scale is 90-100% = "A"; 80-89% = "B"; 70-79 = "C"; 60-69% = "D"; 59 and below = "F." The total number of points earned will determine your grade. You should keep all your graded work, handouts, and grade reports until the end of the semester since this is your record of what you've completed.

Here is a tentative point breakdown for Eng 50:

Assignments	Points	% of Grade
Study Skills	150	17
1. Exercises	30	
2. Articles of the Week (4x10)	40	
3. Writer's Notebook	20	
4. Note-Taking (2x15)	30	
5. In-class writing	30	
Quizzes/Tests	200	22
1. Scantron Quizzes (7x20)	140	
2. Other quizzes (2x10)	20	
3. Final Exam	40	
HW (PLATO, library)	100	11
1. PLATO (4x15)	60	
2. Library Workshops (2x15)	30	
3. BC Assignment (library book)	10	
HW (Essay)	150	17
1. Research Cards	30	
2. Research Peer Review	10	
3. Essay Draft w/ corrections	10	
4. Essay (MLA)	60	
5. Essay Peer Review	10	
6. Revised Essay	30	
HW (Final Research Paper)	300	33
1. Research Cards	60	
2. Research Peer Review	10	
3. Paper Draft w/ corrections	20	
4. Paper (MLA)	140	
5. First Page & Paper Peer Review	20	
6. Paper Conference	10	
7. Revised Paper	40	
Total points possible:	900	100

Habits of Mind

If you are looking for organizational tips, Bakersfield College has a program called Habits of Mind that provides planning and motivational tools to help students stay enrolled and pass their classes. Here is some information about Habits of Mind:

How will you succeed at BC this semester? What determines success is not circumstance, but habit. **Habits of Mind, it's POSSIBLE at BC** has many free tools intended to help you accomplish your goals in school. Only you can overcome the challenges you face this semester and in life. Start out successfully with these steps:

- Visit the Habits of Mind website under Student Services on the BC website.
- Download the app for Habits of Mind at Bakersfield College for power in your palm.
- Ask for help, do the work, and refuse to quit.

Success takes energy, planning, and strategies for both the expected challenges in school as well as the unexpected twists life can take. Ask your professor for more information. Now is the time to develop new habits.

Important Dates for Fall 2017

Aug. 21	Instruction begins for M-F classes.
Sept. 1	Last day to drop Eng 50 with a refund.
Sept. 3	Last day to drop Eng 50 without receiving a "W" grade.
Sept. 4	Labor Day Holiday. BC is closed.
Oct. 20	Last day to drop Eng 50 and receive a "W" grade.
Nov. 10	Veterans' Day Holiday. BC is closed.
Nov. 23-24	Thanksgiving Holidays. BC is closed.
Dec. 7	Eng 50 Final Exam 8-9:50 a.m.
Dec. 9	Fall semester ends.