

Course: College Writing 9L (Summer 2014)
Time: T/TH 2-4:30
Location: 111 Kroeber Hall

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Spanbock
Email: spanbock@berkeley.edu
Office: Wheeler Hall 118A
Office Hours: T/TH 1-1:30 and by appointment

College Writing 9L: English Through Film
“At Home in America”

Course description:

American English reflects the diversity at the heart of the American experience. This course will introduce students to the variety in written and spoken American English through several films which share the theme of embracing America as home. While viewing the films, we will practice vocabulary and writing skills designed to help non-native English speakers engage with American English as a living language. In addition to our work in the classroom, students will be expected to complete homework assignments and participate in several “fieldwork” projects in which they will be asked to visit different sites throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Course Website:

<http://www.benspanbock.net/summer-9L.html>

List of Materials:

Grammar for Writing 1: An Editing Guide to Writing Joyce S. Cain
Merriam-Webster’s Advanced Learner’s English Dictionary (optional)
Seeing the Big Picture Summerfield and Lee (optional)
A notebook for journal writing
A folder to keep handouts and other course materials

Films and Film Viewing:

Far and Away (Ron Howard, 1992)
Dead Man (Jim Jarmusch, 1995)
Cesar Chavez (Diego Luna, 2014)
House and Sand and Fog (Vadim Perelman, 2003)
The Joy Luck Club (Wayne Wang, 1993)

Note: Some films will be shown in class while others may require students to watch the film on their own. Please consult the weekly schedule for details.

Course Goals:

- To improve speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills
- To introduce regional and cultural variations in American English, as well as essential vocabulary and concepts in academic English
- To introduce major themes in American Studies and the diversity of American culture

Course Policies:

Students will be responsible for coming to class ready to discuss all readings assigned to them for that meeting. This means bring all books and materials necessary for the day's class. You will be expected to engage in informed discussions pertaining to a text's content, its formal features, its cultural context, or other relevant aspects as deemed necessary. **You are also required to check your email twice daily** for messages related to this course.

Late and incomplete assignments:

All work is expected to be handed in on time unless an extension is arranged in advance with the instructor. Last minute extensions will generally not be awarded. Keep in mind that any incomplete assignments will be marked down accordingly, negatively impacting your final grade and your ability to successfully complete the end of semester portfolio assignment.

Attendance and participation:

Attendance and participation are critical to successful completion of this course. You do not get credit for simply attending class, but absences count against you. That said, participation does have the potential to lift your grade. Because the summer semester is so short, you are expected by the Summer Language Program to attend at least 90% of all classes. Regardless of your reason for missing class, you will want to keep up with your work. Punctuality is also important. Chronically arriving to class late or leaving early is disruptive to your classmates and will damage your final grade.

- Be respectful of the rights, opinions, and differences of others.
- Please take advantage of my office hours and/or email whenever you have a question, or if you just want to talk about something related to the course.
- Academic integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UC Berkeley community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and can be very serious academic offenses. With consequences that range from a failing grade on an assignment to suspension from the University. This quarter we will address research and citation methods that will help you avoid plagiarism, however you should also review the university's Rules of Conduct regarding this matter to help inform your study at: http://uga.berkeley.edu/sas/rtf/guide_student.rtf.

Breakdown of Grade:

Quiz 1:	15%
Quiz 2:	15%
Participation:	10%
Journal writing:	30%
Fieldwork assignments:	30%

If you are ever concerned about your grade, come speak with me ASAP. It is always best to address these issues earlier rather than later!

Week 1: Welcome

Tuesday:

Student assessments. Introductions. Distribution of syllabus

Thursday:

Group discussion of course themes and American immigration. Screening of *Far and Away* Pt. 1

HW due:

1. Buy textbooks.
2. Activate student ID cards.
3. Complete vocabulary sheet for *Far and Away*

Week 2: In Search of a Home

Tuesday:

Screening of *Far and Away* Pt. 1 Group discussion of film. Overview of English composition and language use. Journal Writing.

HW due:

1. *Grammar for Writing 1* (GW) chapter 1

Thursday:

Group discussion of Native Americans in the American “West”

HW due:

1. Research Ishi and complete a journal entry on your findings.

Week 3: Losing Home

Tuesday:

Group discussion of fieldwork. Journal Writing

HW due:

1. Vocabulary Sheet for Dead Man.
2. Visit “Lines on the Horizon” Exhibit at the De Young Museum in San Francisco (\$6 with student ID)
OR California History exhibit at Oakland Museum of California (\$10 with student ID).

Thursday:

Group discussion of film. Review of grammar exercises. Quiz One.

HW due:

1. Watch Dead Man
2. *GW* chapters 2+3

Week 4: Claiming a Home

Tuesday:

Watch Cesar Chavez, Journal writing

HW Due:

1. Vocabulary sheet for *Cesar Chavez*
2. Visit The Mexican Museum in SF OR the Balmy Street murals in the SF Mission District and complete journal writing assignment.

Thursday:

Discussion of film. Grammar Review. Journal Writing

HW Due:

1. *GW* Chapters 4 +5

Week 5: Protecting Home

Tuesday:

Presentation and activities using prejudice articles. Grammar Review. Watch *House of Sand and Fog* Part One

HW Due

1. Sentence structure and Punctuation (*GW* pgs. 81-90)
2. Bring in one English language news article on prejudice in America

Thursday:

House of Sand and Fog Part 2. Discussion of Film. Journal writing.

Week 6: Home and Memory

Tuesday:

Discussion of film. Final journal entry. Submit Journals.

HW Due:

Visit San Francisco Chinatown, and complete Journal Entry. Vocabulary sheet for *The Joy Luck Club*. Watch *The Joy Luck Club*.

Thursday:

Class Wrap-up. Quiz #2.