



Speaking of English

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT Newsletter Volume 1 | Issue 4 | Winter 2021

Winter 2021 Updates

Enrollment Update

Winter enrollment was great. However, we are seeing a huge drop in enrollment this Spring 2021. So far, we have had to cancel 18 classes and we have reassigned several adjunct faculty. We have also been unable to assign hourly assignments to full-time faculty. However, we have been able to allow for classes to run with 10 students due to other departments and colleagues who have been willing to increase capsizes in English 102/103 to 45 to help balance out efficiency targets campus-wide. These capsize increases are temporary and in no way intended to undermine our efforts to decrease them, but due to the state of emergency in which we find ourselves, this increase helps to keep lower enrolled classes open. For more details on how this works, please see **Dean Jimmy Kenny** or **VP Ruben Arenas** who manage these decisions.

Outreach efforts

Special thanks to those of you who helped with phone banking and outreach efforts (via social media and word of mouth). Our Outreach Department led a massive PR campaign to promote all classes, and we put on our PR hats to assist them in their efforts. They have been working diligently to ensure our classes are advertised and promoted. Low enrollment is a state-wide issue during this pandemic.

Fall 2021

We will be online in Fall 2021. This will present another enrollment challenge, so please be prepared. Let's brainstorm as a department on some strategies for encouraging students to return, even though we will be online. Taking action early is the key to helping students build the confidence and the stamina to continue. We got this!

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**English Department Meeting
Dates:
12:10-1:30pm**

- **2/11 (optional informal huddle)**
- **2/18**
- **3/18**
- **4/15**
- **5/20**
- **6/17**

REGISTER IN THE VRC

A message from the President

DR. ALBERT ROMAN

This month, I encourage all of you to take steps towards continuing to make ELAC a leader in advocating for students' rights and opportunities. I invite you to take a moment to learn something new about the rich history of African Americans. Not neglecting that there is more work to be done in the area of social justice and racial equity, I also encourage you to reflect on the many contributions of those who fought to bring justice and equality to our nation. Let us speak up and continue to be social agents of change. As the great Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." In closing, I encourage you to commemorate this month by engaging in the following activities: To sign up for one or all of these events visit the following URL:

www.tinyurl.com/ELACBlackHistoryMonth

Black History Month Kickoff,
February 11th, 12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Speaker Series Panel: "The Power of Our Stories",
February 18th, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Movie Screening: "Black Wall Street Burning",
February 24th, 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

HBCU Student Panel: "How Black Creativity Influences Social Transformation"
February 25th, 12:15pm-1:45pm

"Our lives begin to end the day we stay silent about the things that matter."

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING





(OEI) Online Education Instruction Update

Join us for online instruction workshops, updates, and all things on teaching online:

Here are the meetings dates/times for the semester:

- Tuesday, February 16th @ 12:10-1:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 16th @ 12:10-1:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 20th @ 12:10-1:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 18th (if necessary)

Contact Nancy Ramirez or the VRC for more info
@ramirenn@elac.edu

English 101 Update

Students appreciate **OER (Online Education Resources)** or Zero Cost texts more than ever before! Contact **Krishana DeSilva-Hodgson** for info @hodgsok@elac.edu

Message from Rita Suarez, Librarian and English Department Cheerleader:

Our library workshop series is now available in the Canvas Commons! If you have been assigning library workshops as credit or extra credit and would like your students' responses to be seamlessly integrated into your Canvas gradebook, please consider importing the "ELAC Library Workshops" module into your Canvas shells.

We are offering a total of 60 English 101 sections in the Spring of 2021! Our committee is open to all. Please join us on Tuesday, February 23rd at 11 am. The zoom link will be on the VRC!

Cosmic Renewal

I come to you like a mendicant
 my bowl in my
 trembling hands,
 a bowl not made
 of silver
 or brass
 or gold,
 but of cracked and fading clay,
 yet it can hold you should you give me a tiny
 secret
 a bit of light
 a key to why I have stood silent under the blue
 harvest moon and why I sing
 into the dark sky and why I dream
 of emptiness seeking the source,
 yet, the bowl is empty.
 Fill me with
 the cosmos
 the stars
 the moon.
 My bowl, my trembling hands
 long to hold
 just one tiny kernel
 of why?

by Nadia Swerdlow





ESL Committee Update

Spring 2021 ESL committee meetings:

Thursday, February 11, 12:30-1:30pm
Thursday, March 11, 12:30-1:30 pm (**Guest: President Roman!**)
Thursday, May 13, 12:30-1:30 pm

ESL committee Zoom Link: <https://laccd.zoom.us/j/99126766268>

Literature Committee Update

As part of an effort to strengthen our English Major community, we invite you to participate in a new project: We will be highlighting profiles of professors, staff, current English majors, and alumni via social media and our department webpage.

To participate in the community project, please provide answers to interview questions (via the link you will be sent) and then email a photo of yourself to **Professor Gleason** [@gleasorl@elac.edu](mailto:gleasorl@elac.edu).

Literature Committee Meetings will take place on Feb 9th, March 9th, April 13th, and May 11th from 12:10-1:30 pm. Register in the VRC. Also, join us for the first annual English Major Forum/Career panel in Spring 2021!

English 101/72 and 100 Committee Update

The English 72/100 committee will be meeting on the (workday) Tuesday of the month during college hour. **Please join us to share best practices and to discuss how to shape and strengthen these courses. Register at the VRC or contact Elena Tinker Diaz** [@tinkerre@elac.edu](mailto:tinkerre@elac.edu)

- Tuesday, February 9 from 12:10-1:30 pm
- Tuesday, March 2 from 12:10- 1:30pm
- Tuesday, April 13 from 12:10-1:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 4 from 12:10- 1:30 pm

Reading Committee Update

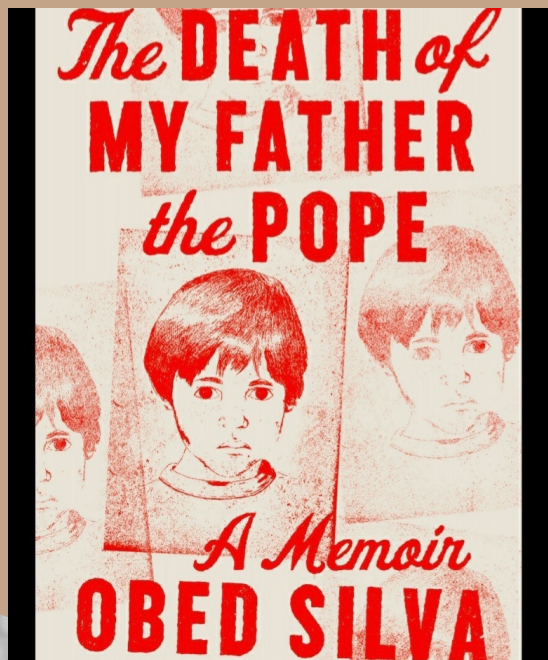
Join us for Reading Committee meetings on **Feb 16th, March 9th, April 13th, and May 11th from 12:10-1:30 pm.** Visit the VRC to register. Contact Lauren Figueroa [@figuerld@elac.edu](mailto:figuerld@elac.edu)

Embedded Tutors and Supplemental Instruction

We have increased the number of embedded tutors and SI Leaders in a variety of classes. If you would like an **ET** or **SI** or both, contact **Greg Mena** [@menagm@elac.edu](mailto:menagm@elac.edu) or **Gisela Herrera** [@herrergm@elac.edu](mailto:herrergm@elac.edu). They are eager to assist you in placing them in your classes. Peer interaction in the form of **SI** or **ET** has become **essential** to helping to keep students engaged, especially in asynchronous classes.

Announcements

Coming in Spring 2021



EQUITY AUDIT DIALOGUES

WINTER:

FRIDAY JANUARY 22 FROM 1:00 PM - 3 PM

SPRING & SUMMER:

FOURTH FRIDAYS FROM 10:00 AM - NOON

FEBRUARY 26

MARCH 26

APRIL 23

MAY 28

JUNE 25

JULY 23



This dialogue series will foster critical space for students, faculty, and staff to deepen our understanding of and commitment to anti-racist and equity-minded educational frameworks. We will work to build a campus culture that emphasizes education as a space rooted in empathy, allyship, solidarity, and empowerment.

For faculty/staff flex credit, register in the Vision Resource Center

<https://bit.ly/EquityAuditFlex>

East Los Angeles College Office of Professional Development, Academic Senate, & The President's Office For disability accommodation requests, please contact: professionaldevelopment@elac.edu

STAND for Mental Health

THE ELAC HEALTH CENTER HAS PARTNERED WITH UCLA TO HELP STUDENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH.

VISIT: [HTTPS://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/G.UCLA.EDU/STAND-COACH-TRAINING/HOME](https://sites.google.com/g.ucla.edu/stand-coach-training/home)



Teaching and Learning Series

TO JOIN, VISIT THE VRC FOR OUR CULTURALLY RELEVANT WORKSHOPS!

February

Date & Time	Title & Description	Presenters
11 February Thursday 12:15pm - 1:30pm	Creating Culturally Relevant Assignments Students do better in classes with faculty who acknowledge student backgrounds with culturally relevant lessons, readings, and assignments. In this workshop, participants will learn to identify culturally relevant practices and develop a culturally relevant lesson or assignment.	Luis Orozco
16 February Tuesday 12:15pm - 1:30pm	Using Technology in the Classroom: Transform Your Lectures Participants will be introduced to the features of Notability, a note-taking app, and Google Docs for the purpose of elevating their lecture presentations. Using Notability, workshop participants will explore how to present lecture topics and step-by-step problems more dynamically with animations and even how to incorporate student work samples. Participants also will learn how to use Google Docs to increase participation in their classroom, to answer multiple-choice problems, and to have students practice justifying their reasoning.	NaRi Baek
24 February Wednesday 12:15pm - 1:30pm	Growth Mindset Strategies in the STEM Classroom Dr. Carol S. Dweck in her book <i>Mindset: The New Psychology of Success</i> describes growth mindset, the idea that with help and effort we can grow our basic qualities such as aptitude, interest, and temperament. In this workshop, participants will discuss research conducted on the importance of growth mindset specifically in the STEM classroom and brainstorm ideas for implementing growth mindset in STEM classes.	Raymond Oropeza
25 February Thursday 12:15pm - 1:30pm	Harmony and Discord: Creating Class Community Through a Social Media Platform Whether from students or teachers, the lack of community or bonding is a common complaint about the transition to fully online instruction. But there are options. One that is gaining traction in scholastic circles is the social media platform Discord. This platform offers students a place to build a class community, largely for themselves, in a virtual space. This workshop's goal is to shed light on this emerging technology that will be used to create "the virtual quad" for individual classrooms. Participants will learn how to start their own account, populate a server for a class, organize that server into distinct channels, post vital class content, directly chat with students, and navigate the automated features of the platform.	Nick Barkawitz