



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Subject:	PASS
Course Number:	536
Descriptive Title:	Beginning Language Arts
Division:	Library and Learning Resources
Department:	Pathways to Academic Success
Course Disciplines:	Academic Strategies, English
Catalog Description:	This beginning-level noncredit composition and reading course introduces students to the fundamentals of clear written communication and active reading. Students practice constructing sentences and paragraphs with correct grammar, mechanics, and spelling, while developing confidence in expressing ideas in writing. The course also builds reading skills through strategies for vocabulary growth, comprehension, and critical analysis. Designed to strengthen essential academic skills, this course prepares students for success in higher-level classes, the workplace, and everyday communication.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	.66 - 3.55
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	1.33 - 7.11
Total Course Hours:	12 - 64
Course Units:	0
Grading Method:	Pass/No Pass/SP
Credit Status:	Noncredit
Transfer CSU:	No
Effective Date:	
Transfer UC:	No
Effective Date:	
General Education ECC:	
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	
Term:	

Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	By the end of the course, students will be able to: 1. compose a coherent paragraph with a clear topic sentence, supporting details, and correct grammar, mechanics, and spelling. 2. apply reading strategies to identify the main idea and supporting details in a short passage. 3. use context clues to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and demonstrate basic comprehension through discussion or written response.
Course Objectives:	1. Develop basic sentence structure skills, including subject-verb agreement and punctuation. 2. Practice writing unified and coherent paragraphs with clear organization. 3. Apply editing and proofreading strategies to improve grammar, mechanics, and spelling. 4. Strengthen reading comprehension skills by identifying main ideas, supporting details, and themes. 5. Expand vocabulary through the use of context clues and word analysis strategies. 6. Build critical thinking skills by responding to and analyzing short readings. 7. Increase confidence and fluency in both written and spoken academic English.
Major Topics:	I. Fundamentals of Sentence Writing (lecture) A. Parts of speech and basic sentence structure B. Common grammar and punctuation rules II. Paragraph Development (lecture) A. Topic sentences and supporting details B. Unity, coherence, and transitions III. Writing Mechanics and Conventions (lecture) A. Spelling, capitalization, and usage B. Editing and proofreading strategies IV. Reading Comprehension Strategies (lecture) A. Identifying main ideas and supporting details B. Making inferences and drawing conclusions V. Vocabulary Development (lecture) A. Using context clues and word parts (prefixes, roots, suffixes) B. Applying new vocabulary in reading and writing

	VI. Critical Reading and Analysis (lecture) A. Responding to short readings through discussion and writing B. Recognizing tone, purpose, and audience VII. Building Academic Confidence (lecture) A. Developing study habits and self-monitoring strategies B. Applying skills to academic, workplace, and everyday contexts
Total Lecture Hours:	12 - 64
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	12 - 64
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
Primary Method of Evaluation:	3) Skills demonstration
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Sentence Practice Write five complete sentences about your daily routine. Each sentence must begin with a capital letter, use correct subject–verb agreement, and end with proper punctuation. Example: <i>I wake up at 6:30 in the morning.</i> After writing, check your sentences for spelling errors and make corrections.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	Paragraph Writing Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) about your favorite food. Start with a topic sentence (Example: <i>My favorite food is pizza.</i>). Add supporting details such as where you eat it, how it tastes, and why you like it. End with a concluding sentence. Be sure to use complete sentences and check your spelling.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	Reading and Comprehension Read the short story “<i>The Tortoise and the Hare.</i>” After reading, answer the following questions in writing: 1. Who are the main characters? 2. What is the problem in the story? 3. What lesson does the story teach? Then, write two new vocabulary words you learned from the story and use each in a sentence of your own.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Embedded Questions, Objective Exam, Presentation, Quizzes, Reading Reports, Written Homework
If Other:	
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Required reading, Skill practice, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Monteverde, Gay. <i>1, 2, 3 Write!</i> Pressbooks (MHCC Library OER Press), 2020. URL: https://mhcc.pressbooks.pub/monteverde/ License: Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite	
Category	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). if applicable	
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Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). if applicable	
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Matthew Kline
Date:	9/3/2025
Original Board Approval Date:	12/16/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026