

Instructor: Loren Palsgaard
Class: English 1A
Time: Mon-Wed. 6:00-7:50

English 1A is a course designed to teach the fundamentals of college writing so that you will be able to read and discuss critically and analytically and write descriptive and expository prose. The majority of your grade will be based on the six out-of-class essays you will write over the course of the semester. You can rewrite any out-of-class essay as many times as you like to receive a better grade. You will also have various homework assignments—reader responses, group presentations, other types of homework—and a mid-term and final.

Book: *Reading Critically, Writing Well*. Ed. Axelrod/Cooper.

Course Requirements:

- (1) Papers: You will write a total of six out-of-class essays throughout the course. The first two essays will be 2-3 pages; the other four essays will be comprised of three 3-4 page papers and one 5-7 page research essay. Since the 2-3 page essays are not as long, they will not count as much in your overall grade; on the other hand, since the research paper is 5-7 pages, it be worth more points. At the end of the course, you will be able to throw away one essay one 2-3 page essay and one 3-4 page essay. Thus, your grade for out-of-class essays will be based on one 2-3 page essay; two 3-4 page essays; and one research paper. You can rewrite out-of-class essays as many times as you like to receive a better grade. Notice: you do not have the option of discounting the research paper; it will be part of your final grade. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, and be written on 8 x 11 and ½ inch paper with margins of 1 inch on top and bottom, and 1 and ½ inch on right and left sides.
- (2) Homework: For each essay we will read from the book, I will expect a one page reader response. This does not have to be typed but can be written in pencil or pen. It does, however, need to be a complete page. I will give you a question for each essay we read, and you will write your thoughts about the question. Reader responses are graded on Cr/ Nc, Credit or No Credit, basis. If you show me you have thoroughly considered the ideas of the essay and you write a full page, then you will receive credit (cr). If it is obvious you have not read the essay or you did not write a full page, then you will receive no credit (nc). All homework is due at the beginning of the class. I do not accept late homework. However, if you are absent the day homework is due or assigned, I will allow you to turn it in on the following period.
- (3) Presentations: Your group (peer editing group) will have to do two presentations throughout the semester. They will consist of either leading discussions on two essays from the book (*Reading Critically, Writing Well*, or some other assigned essay) or peer edit student papers. You need to spend at least fifteen minutes for each essay.
- (4) Absences: If you have more than four absences, you will be immediately dropped from the class. This is the school's policy, not mine. If you have not dropped the class on the last day to drop (October 18), you will remain on my attendance sheet, and no matter what your attendance or work performance, you will receive a grade. However, if you

have six or more absences by the end of the term, you cannot receive anything higher than a C.

(5) Late Policy: If you are twenty minutes late to class, I will consider you late. If you accumulate four of these, I will count it as one absence.

(6) Late Paper Policy: If you do not turn in your essay on the day assigned, your paper will drop one letter grade for each class period missed.

Grades:

70%= Four out-of-class essays.

10%= Two tests: a mid-term and final; both will be in-class essays.

10%= Homework: reader responses, presentations, etc.

10%= Class participation.

Holidays:

September 2

September 3

November 11

November 28-29

Labor Day

Staff Development Day

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving

Last day to drop a semester length course is Friday, October 18.

Note: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult pp. 495-99 and pp. 506-08 of *The Bedford Handbook for Writers* for a definition of plagiarism and information of documentation. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the summary of the Code of Student Conduct in your Schedule of Classes. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.