

Kings River Community College, Selma Extension
English 1A, Composition and Reading
Vicki Martineau
Office: 294-1401
M/W 6:00 p.m.-7:50 p.m.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Axelrod, Rise B. and Charles R. Cooper., *Reading Critically, Writing Well*, third edition. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993.

Howell, James F. and Dean Memering. *Brief Handbook for Writers*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1993.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on critical and analytical reading, discussion, and writing of expository prose, including the research paper. Students will write in response to a variety of essay assignments and will also review correct grammar, punctuation, and mechanics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will learn to plan and write coherent paragraphs and essays and will achieve an understanding of the function of the thesis, topic sentences, methods of development, transitions, supporting sentences, as well as special paragraphs used for introductions and conclusions. Therefore, students will be able to identify and produce the characteristics of effective writing that demonstrate thoughtfulness, as well as an understanding of grammatical structures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading and exercises. Weekly reading/grammar quizzes will be given to test students on their retention of concepts studied in and out of class.

Four In-Class Essays (5 pts. possible for each)	20%
Quizzes	10%
Autobiographical Essay (3-5 pages)	10%
Process/Explanation Essay (4-6 pages)	20%
Position Paper (6-8 pages)	30%
Final Examination	10%

POLICIES: Due to the size and time constraints of this class, students who turn in their assignments late will be penalized by having the assignment grade lowered for each class past the due date. For example, an "A" paper that is turned in one class meeting past the due date will receive a "B."

WEEK 3 READING CRITICALLY

JANUARY 22: *Elements of the Essay: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion; **Reader, pp. 53-82; Brief, The Thesis, pp. 14-17 and Sentence Elements, pp. 62-72;** Exercises: Brief, p. 17, Activity 5; pp. 64-71, Activities 5, 6, and 7; Grammar review: Complements; Student/Instructor Conferences.

JANUARY 24: *Drafting the Essay: Introduction, Body, and Conclusion; *Creating an Effective Thesis; Exercises: Brief, p. 27, Activity 8; p. 74, Activity 10; Grammar Review: Sentence Structure; **Reading Due: Reader, pp. 47-52; Brief: Drafting, pp. 18-29; Paragraphs, pp. 242-257; Sentence Types, pp. 72-74;** Student/Instructor Conferences.

WEEK 4 AUTOBIOGRAPHY

JANUARY 29: *Creating an Effective Thesis; Grammar Review: Fragments, Run-Ons, and Comma Splices; Exercises: Brief: Revising, p. 12, Activity 12; Sentence Errors, pp. 80-85; Activities 1, 2, and 3; **Reading Due: Reader, pp. 53-61; Brief: Revising & Editing, pp. 30-37; Sentence Errors, pp. 76-86; Essay #1 Assigned: Autobiography;** Student/Instructor Conferences.

JANUARY 31: *Continuing to Revise the Essay; Grammar Review: Fragments, Run-Ons, and Comma Splices; **Reading Due: Reader, pp. 62-70; Brief: pp. 37-50;** Exercises: Brief, pp. 91-92, Activities 5 and 6; Grammar Review: Subject-Verb Agreement; Reading Due: Brief, Subject-Verb Agreement, pp. 86-92; **Quiz 2, Comma Splices, Run-Ons, and Fragments;** Student/Instructor Conferences.

WEEK 5 AUTOBIOGRAPHY

FEBRUARY 5: *Developing an Effective Introduction; Exercises: Brief, Pronouns, Activities 7, 8, 9, and 10; Grammar Review: Subject-Verb Agreement, Pronouns;

**Class Essay #2 Assigned:
Process/Explanation.**

FEBRUARY 28:

*Paragraph Development; **Reading Due:**
Reader, pp. 199-206; Brief, pp. 122-125;
Exercise: Brief, Activity 1; Grammar
Review: Coordination and Subordination;
Quiz 6, Adjectives and Adverbs.

WEEK 9 EVALUATION

MARCH 4:

*Paragraph Development; Exercise:
Brief, Activity 2 and 3; **Reading Due:**
Reader, pp. 207-236; Brief, Illogical
Sentences; Grammar Review: Illogical
Structure; **Draft of Out-of-Class Essay**
#2 Due; Peer Review (Bring a copy of
your paper).

MARCH 6:

*Paragraph Development; **Reading Due:**
Reader, pp. 237-260; Brief, Modifiers,
pp.130-132; Exercise: Activity 4;
Grammar Review: Parallel Structure and
Modification.

WEEK 10 EVALUATION

MARCH 11:

*Paragraph Development; **Reading Due:**
Reader, pp. 261-286; Brief, Sentence
Consistency, pp. 132-136; Exercise:
Brief, Activity 5; Grammar Review:
Avoiding Shifts; **Quiz 7, Parallel**
Structure and Modification.

MARCH 13:

*Creating a Memorable Conclusion;
Reading Due: Reader, pp. 287-304;
Brief, Emphasis and Variety, pp. 136-
146; Exercises: Brief, Activities 7 and
8; Grammar Review: Sentence Variety;
In-Class Essay #2/Evaluation (worth 5%
of overall grade).

WEEK 11 CAUSE AND EFFECT

MARCH 18:

*Creating a Memorable Conclusion;
Reading Due: Reader, pp. 305-338; Brief,
Sentence Variety, pp. 146-153;
Exercises: Brief, Activity 9 and 10;
Grammar Review: Sentence Combining;
Revised Out-of-Class Essay #2 Due:
Process/Explanation.

386-396; **Brief: Valid Arguments**, pp. 266-273; **Commas and Semicolons** pp. 165-169; Exercises: **Brief: Semicolons**, p. 169, **Activity 5; Fallacies**, p. 271, **Activity 4; Quiz 9, Commas**.

WEEK 15 TAKING A POSITION

APRIL 15: *Revision Strategies; **Reading Due: Reader, pp. 397-424; Brief, The Colon, the dash, and the Period**, pp. 170-178; Exercises: **Brief: Activities, 6, 7, & 8; Punctuation Review: Commas and Semicolons; Out-of-Class Essay #3 (Position Paper) Draft Due; Peer Review (Bring a copy of your paper.**

APRIL 17: *Editing; **Reading Due: Reader, pp. 425-441; Brief, The Exclamation Point, the Question Mark, Quotation Marks**, pp. 178-186; Exercise: **Brief, Activity 10; Punctuation review: Commas, Semicolons, and Colons.**

WEEK TAKING A POSITION

APRIL 22: *Editing; Revision Workshop: **Position Paper; Reading Due: Reader, pp. 442-452 and 511-525; Brief, The Slash, the Ellipsis, Brackets, and Parentheses;** Exercise: **Brief, Activity 11.**

APRIL 24: *Editing; **Reading Due: Reader, pp. 453-461; Brief, Essay Exams**, pp. 346-352; **In-Class Exercise: Instructor Handout; Position Paper Workshop.**

WEEK 17: CRITICAL READING STRATEGIES

APRIL 29: *Effective Reading; **Revised Out-of-Class Essay #3 (Position Paper) Due; Reading Due: Reader, pp. 462-480; Brief, Mechanics**, pp. 194-216; Exercises: **Brief, Activities 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5.**

MAY 1: *Diction; **Reading Due: Reader, pp. 480-490; Brief, Effective Language**, pp. 218-226; Exercises: **Brief, Activities 2 & 3; Review for Final Examination.**

WEEK 18 CRITICAL READING STRATEGIES

MAY 6: *Figurative Language; **Reading Due:**