

[Texts](#) | [Grades](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Calendar](#)

## English 25

Fall, 1998

**Tues.** - -Room INC 1 9:00-10:50, **Thurs.** Room HUM 62

**Instructor:** S. Bowie

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### Required Textbooks :

*Mosaics - Sentences in Context*, Flachmann

*Captains Courageous*, Kipling

*A Christmas Carol*, Dickens

Notebook for journal, 3 1/2" computer disk, a good dictionary

**Catalog Description :** Development of writing skills in sentence structure and punctuation; paragraph development; the process of writing, revising, and finishing short papers; avoiding common writing errors; and the logical development and organization of ideas.

**Attendance Policy :** Attendance is required. Absences will lower your grade and limit your understanding. Students who miss more than four classes will be dropped or receive a failing mark.

**Grading Policy :** A quarter of your final grade will depend on your participation in the classroom, homework, and assignments in the computer lab. Participation also means reading the class assignments before coming to class; joining in the exchange of opinions in groups; starting appropriate new items for discussion; and perhaps most important of all, asking questions. Half the course grade will be based on your written papers. The remaining quarter will be based on exams, mainly requiring memorization--of authors, grammatical terms, lecture notes, and the requirements of Standard English introduced in class and in your texts. In addition, passing the final (essay and multiple-choice) is a requirement for English 25 (Please note the explanation under [Frequently Asked Questions](#)).

**Using the computer :** We will spend half our class time in the computer lab. If you're comfortable using computers, you'll have no problem. If you're not, I will work with you as much as you like to help you get used to it. It takes practice and a willingness to experiment, but in every class where I've tried it, I've found that almost all students end up with quite a favorable opinion about what this technology adds to their learning.

**Last day to drop without a grade :** 16 October

**Frequently asked questions (FAQ's):**



*Is this a hard class?* I don't think so, but students do a lot of writing and rewriting. Writing takes time, and there is quite a lot of reading to do as well.

*Is there a lot of homework?* There are assignments due at each class meeting. Homework counts as part of your class participation grade. It is read, corrected and recorded, but not graded.

*May I turn in late papers?* Not unless there is an emergency.

*Are we going to do much grammar?* Probably, unless you are more prepared than most. Certainly we will review parts of speech, sentence grammar, punctuation and correct use of English.

*Do you give "pop" quizzes?* Sometimes.

*What can I do to get a good grade?* Attend class, participate, and turn in your compositions.

*How can I tell how I'm doing?* See me after class or during the office hours, especially at the beginning of the semester. Students may also leave phone messages or e-mail me. By the way, I've noticed that most students who drop the class never come to an office hour to discuss their work.

*What does English 25 qualify me for?* Passing English 25 is a requirement for graduation from Reedley College. If you have the required reading test score, passing also allows you to take English 1A, the transfer level freshman composition course.

*Anything special about the final?* Yes. Passing the final is necessary to pass the class, that is, to receive a "C" or better. The final consists of an in-class composition (graded by another teacher) and a multiple-choice test on accurate use of English.

*What good is this class?* This is a good class to take because students who take the class do much better in English 1A (and I suspect many other classes) than students who don't. Also, the skills taught here (careful reading and accurate writing of Standard English) are exactly those needed for good jobs.

*What is your role here?* My job is to help you acquire college-level language skills so you can compete with anybody.

## Calendar for Fall, 1998

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. 17 August       | Diagnostic paper               |
| 2. 24 August       | Kipling                        |
| 3. 31 August       | Kipling                        |
| 4. 8 September     | Kipling                        |
| 5. 14 September    | Kipling - Captains paper due   |
| 6. 21 September    | Short research paper           |
| 7. 28 September    |                                |
| 8. 5 October       | Journal check                  |
| 9. 12 October      | Dickens, Mid-term              |
| 10. 19 October     | Dickens                        |
| 11. 26 October     | Dickens                        |
| 12. 2 November     | Dickens                        |
| 13. 9 November     | Dickens paper due              |
| 14. 16 November    | Research paper, journal check  |
| 15. 23-25 November | Research paper                 |
| 16. 30 November    | Research paper                 |
| 17. 7 December     | Research paper due             |
| 18. 14 December    | Final - Essay, Multiple-choice |