

English 1A

Betty Higdon, Instructor

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Class Meetings: Monday, 2:00-3:50, Humanities 62 (computer lab)

Wednesday, 2:00-3:50, INC 2 (middle classroom)

Class will not meet Monday, September 7, Labor Day,
or Wednesday, November 11, Veterans' Day.

INTRODUCTION

English 1A is the writing and reading class that transfers to four year colleges and universities and is part of a general education. The class is designed to provide many opportunities to read for information and pleasure, to respond to the reading and class discussion, and to develop writing skills and processes to meet different writing needs. While the finished papers that are submitted are usually the basis of grades in the class, the whole process of thinking about reading and writing for understanding and communication is the subject of the course. The reading will range from the informal and personal to the more formal presentation of the conclusions of research. The writing assignments, too, will vary, including both personal and impersonal writing to discover meanings, to move or persuade others, to explain, to inform, and to evaluate. A carefully developed research paper is required. There will always be some choices in writing assignments so that you may utilize your own interests and experience in gaining writing skills.

The basic texts for the class are these:

Axelrod and Cooper. Reading Critically, Writing Well. Fourth Edition, 1996.

Howell and Memering. Brief Handbook for Writers. 1993.

In addition a novel, still to be selected, will be required reading for everyone in the class. (You will probably have some say in the selection.)

The textbooks are needed as soon as classes begin. In addition, a good college dictionary is also necessary (at home or wherever you study). **You need a 3.5" HD computer disk dedicated to this class (used only for this class).**

Grades for this class will be based 50% on the graded writing assignments, both developed and shorter papers; 20% on the research paper assignment; and 30% on the final essay examination. Quiz scores (if quizzes are needed) will be included in the writing grade. You will write at least six major graded papers in addition to the research paper and the final papers.

Tentative Schedule The time schedule and specific assignments will be adjusted to fit the students in the class as necessary. More detailed assignment sheets will be distributed every few weeks during the semester so that everyone may keep up and be prepared.

All references here are to the text Reading Critically, Writing Well, Fourth Edition, 1996. **BRING THE TEXTS TO CLASS MEETINGS.**

Weeks

One	Introduction to the class, the text, and the work to be done
Two	Reading and writing strategies, planning and process Autobiography (Chapter 2)
Three	More work with autobiography
Four	Observation and reflection (Chapters 3 and 4)
Five	More work with observation and reflection; revision and editing
Six	Explaining (Chapter 5)
Seven	Analyzing cause and effect (Chapter 7)
Eight	Proposals to solve problems (Chapter 8)
Nine	Position papers (Chapter 9)
Ten	Overview of research assignments (more work with Chapters 8 and 9 and with Appendix 2)
Eleven to Fifteen	Research process and work on papers Work with discovering source materials, note-taking, planning and outlining, drafting, documentation, finishing. Readings in the text may be assigned during these weeks, too.
Sixteen	Evaluation, analysis, criticism (Chapter 6) The novel
Seventeen	Reviewing and finishing up
Eighteen	Final examination

Writing Assignments:

- (1) Autobiography
- (2) Observation and Reflection
- (3) Explanation
- (4) Problem solving/Position Paper
- (5) Evaluation of a Short Work
- (6) Preliminary Brief Research Paper
- (7) Writer's Choice?
- (8) Research Paper
- (9) Analysis of the novel (part of the final exam)