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# English 1A, Fall 1998

## Reedley College

Instructor: S. Bowie

Office: Room 61 Phone: 638-3641, ex. 3273

E-mail: sydney.bowie@do1.scccd.cc.ca.us

### Class Hours:

#1391 Wednesday, Room INC 1; Friday, Room HUM 62; 10-11:50

#1392 Monday, Room AGR 2; Wednesday, Room HUM 62; 12-1:50



## Course Description and Texts

### Catalog Description:

Writing expository prose, including the research paper. Analytical reading and discussion of other writing. Designed primarily for transfer students.

### Required Textbooks:

- *Brief Handbook for Writers*, Howell
- *Oliver Twist*, Dickens
- *Mayor of Casterbridge*, Hardy
- a good dictionary and computer disk

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## General Policies and Grades

### Attendance :

Attendance is required. Students with more than four absences will be dropped. Students with more than two absences will have their grade lower by one/half grade per absence.

### Last day to drop class without grade:

16 October

### Grades

Grades in this class will be based on the written assignments and on class participation according to the

following ratios:

Four 500-word essays: 40%

Research paper: 30%

Midterms and Final exam: 20%

Participation: 10%

Participation means that students should be prepared to speak thoughtfully about the material at hand.

Exams require knowledge of class material: character names, grammatical and writing terms, research standards, and the qualities of Standard English introduced in class and your handbook.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of other people's words or ideas as though they were your own) is a serious offense against the ethics of study and scholarship. If you use someone else's paper, or have someone else write a paper for you, expect to receive an "F" for the course.

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### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Is this a hard class?* I don't think so, but students have to do quite a lot of writing. There are three major papers, a research paper, a quite a few response papers. Also, students need to do a considerable amount of reading. The class has two novels to consider, which require reading in depth, taking notes, and thinking. These kinds of activities can be difficult, but students who work will develop very useful skills.

*Is there a lot of homework?* There are assignments, reading and writing due at each class meeting. Homework counts as part of your class participation grade. It is read and corrected, if necessary, recorded and handed back.

*What skills should I have to take this class?* You should have taken English 25 and English 26 or scored sufficiently high on the placement test. Even so, English 25 is excellent preparation for this class. In addition, you should have ordinary computer skills, including keyboarding and word processing. If you do not have any computer experience, the class is that much harder, since you must learn two subjects at once.

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

*May I rewrite papers?* Papers may be rewritten until 1 April. If the paper is substantially improved, it will be regraded. Turn in the original paper with the rewrite.

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

*What can I do to get a good grade?* Attend class, do the reading, turn in thoughtful papers. I'll help you with the papers part--as much as you want.

*How can I tell how I'm doing?* Keep your papers and see me after class or during the office hours (which I keep). I have found that most students who drop the class never come to an office hour to discuss their work. That kind of behavior can be very wasteful in time and money.

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### **Resources**

- Computer Lab, Room 62: In the Help directory, various files for composition students, including sample papers. In the Lit directory, complete electronic version of *Oliver Twist* and *Mayor of Casterbridge*.

### **Internet Resources:**

- [Reedley College English Department Home Page](#). Information about courses, dates, instructors.
- [Columbia University: the Bartleby Project](#) Online works of literature and help.
- [The Literature and Poetry Page](#)
- [Literature Resources for the High School and College Student](#) Large collection of works, information and links for students and teachers. Thousands of authors and sources, but quite slow.
- [Literature and Writing Resources on the World Wide Web](#) University of California's collection of links and information for literature and composition students.
- [Univ. of Michigan OWL \(Online Writing Lab\)](#) Complete composition help with online handbook, samples, ideas.
- [Writing at Missouri University: the Online Writery](#)

## Calendar for Fall, 1998

1. 17 August Diagnostic paper due; research paper assignment
2. 24 August Dickens
3. 31 August Dickens
4. 8 September Dickens
5. 14 September Dickens
6. 21 September Dickens paper due
7. 28 September Research bibliography due
8. 5 October
9. 12 October Midterm
10. 19 October
11. 26 October
12. 2 November Research draft due
13. 9 November Hardy
14. 16 November Hardy
15. 23-25 November Hardy
16. 30 November Hardy paper due
17. 7 December
18. 14 December Finals

Email comments to [sydney.bowie@do1.sccd.cc.ca.us](mailto:sydney.bowie@do1.sccd.cc.ca.us)  
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