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	W—9:30-10:30
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Class Policy—English 1A—Fall 1998

Objective: College-level skills in reading and writing

Texts/Supplies: *Sophie's Choice*, Styron; *Selected Stories*, Munro; *A Writer's Reference*, 3rd Edition, Hacker (recommended, but not required); a 3½" diskette; a dictionary is also highly recommended

Attendance: After the sixth absence the student will be dropped.

Late Papers/Missed Exams: I will accept no late papers (nor will I schedule any make-up exams) unless you have contacted me or the school nurse prior to class time.

Grades: There will be one test on sentence writing and four out-of-class papers. The sentence writing test will be objective in nature; the essays will be judged on the basis of style, organization, and content. No essay seriously deficient in the area of mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation) will receive a passing grade. The point scale is listed below. In addition, you will write exercises in the computer lab every other class session; they will be graded pass/fail and their total value will be 100 points. A total of 600 points is possible for the semester. Grades will be computed on a strict percentage basis: 540-600=A; 480-539=B; 420-479=C; 360-419=D.

Plagiarism: Use of another's work as though it were your own will not be tolerated.

Extra Credit: During the course of the semester there will be several readings sponsored by Reedley College and the Fresno Poets Association. Following your attendance at a reading you must turn in a response sheet to receive as many as ten points per reading. I will give you notice of dates and times.

Paper Format: All out-of-class papers will be typed, double-spaced. Use of word processors outside of class is acceptable and encouraged.

Tentative Schedule:

August 24	Diagnostic Essay (50 points)
September 4	Sentence Structure Test (50 points)
September 28	Rhetorical Mode Essay #1 (100 points)
October 19	Rhetorical Mode Essay #2 (100 points)
December 11	*Sophie's Choice* Essay (200 points)

<u>*Syllabus—Fall 1998*</u>
Note: this syllabus is subject to change as circumstances warrant.

August 17 Introduction (Policy, Diagnostic Writing Assignment)

21 Discussion of the first chapter of *Sophie's Choice* and "Walker Brothers Cowboy"; beginning discussion of sentence writing handout

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24 **Diagnostic Writing Assignment Due**; *Computer Lab Exercise #1*

28 Discussion of "Dance of the Happy Shades" and "Something I've Been Meaning to Tell You"; continued discussion of sentence writing handout

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31 *Computer Lab Exercise #2*

September 4 **Sentence Structure Test**; discussion of "The Ottawa Valley" and "Royal Beatings"; discussion of rhetorical modes

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7 *No class—Labor Day*

11 Discussion of "The Beggar Maid" and "The Turkey Season"; continued discussion of rhetorical modes

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14 *Computer Lab Exercise #3*

18 Discussion of "Labor Day Dinner" and "The Moons of Jupiter"

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21 *Computer Lab Exercise #4*

25 Discussion of "The Progress of Love" and "Miles City, Montana."

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28 *Open Lab;* **Mode Paper #1 Due**

October 2 Discussion of "Meneseteung" and "Friend of My Youth"

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5 *Computer Lab Exercise #5*

9 Discussion of "Carried Away" and "Vandals"

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12 *Computer Lab Exercise #6*

16 Initial discussion of *Sophie's Choice* (28-167); *last day to drop a course*

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19 *Open Lab*; **Mode Paper #2 Due**

23 *Sophie's Choice* (168-273)—discussion

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26 *Computer Lab Exercise #7*

30 *Sophie's Choice* (274- 376)—discussion

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November 2 *Computer Lab Exercise #8*

6 *Sophie's Choice* (377-562)—discussion

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9 *Computer Lab Exercise #9*

13 "The Reach of Fiction: Narrative Technique in Styron's *Sophie's Choice*"—discussion

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16 *Computer Lab Exercise #10*

20 "A Family Romance: Dreams and the Unified Narrative of *Sophie's Choice*" and "Styron's Choice: Hawthorne's Guilt in Poe's Palaces"—discussion

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23 *Computer Lab Exercise #11*

27 *Thanksgiving Holiday*

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30 *Computer Lab Exercise #12*

December 4 *Sophie's Choice* Wrap-up

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7 *Open Lab*

11 *Sophie's Choice* **Paper Due**

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December (8:00) *Final* (MF 8:00-9:50)—pick up papers in office A-1
December (10:30) *Final* (MF 10:00-11:50)—pick up papers in office A-1

Diagnostic Writing Assignment (50 points)

Read the first chapter of *Sophie's Choice*(3-27). Respond to the following prompt in a three-page (typed, double-spaced) essay:

> **In the first chapter of *Sophie's Choice*, the narrator, Stingo, provides us with an overview of his aborted career in publishing. What does he learn about himself—as a person as well as a writer—during the five months he works for McGraw-Hill?**

Provide a thesis that is a direct response to the prompt. You should provide at least three distinct and identifiable points. Use quotations to support your ideas; however the quotations should be short (no more than two lines long) and documented as follows:

> Quotations are the exact words of a writer or speaker. They are marked by quotation marks and documented by an in-text citation that is included within the sentence in which the quotation occurs. When writing about a single story or novel, the in-text citation only needs to include the page number where the quotation can be found. Look at the following example:

> ```
> About his job as a manuscript reader at McGraw-Hill,
> Stingo comments that "...I treated these forlorn
> offspring of a thousand strangers' lonely and fragile
> desire with the magisterial, abstract loathing of an ape
> plucking vermin from his pelt" (6).
> ```

For further information consult page 275 of *A Writer's Reference* (3rd edition).

I will be evaluating this essay in the following ways:

- mechanics (spelling, punctuation, grammar)
- sentence structure (variety of construction, rhythm, lengths)
- diction (appropriateness of vocabulary)
- organization of ideas (a statement of thesis; three distinct and identifiable reasons)

Due: August 24, 1998