

Course Outline
English 1A
David Good
Fall 1998

drop deadline

Office: A1
Hours: W-F 11:00-12:00, M 5:00-6:00, T-Th 8:00-9:00
Phone: 638-3641

Texts: The Contemporary Essay, A Lesson Before Dying, Nine Stories, and reference book such as English Simplified.

Other: One 3.5 HD or DD computer disk.

In this class you will be required to write five to seven essays (three to seven pages each) and a ten page research paper. You will also be required to read several essays from our text as well as essays I provide as handouts. Finally, you will be required to read a novel for the midterm exam and a collection of short stories for the final exam.

I believe the best way to improve writing skills is to read good writing, to discuss that writing, then to write. It is also important to learn to rewrite essays in order to make corrections and to add polish. Therefore you can expect to rewrite several of your essays based on your classmates' and my comments and your own good sense.

In the area of mechanical writing problems, I expect you to have most basic problems under control. Mechanical errors will have an adverse effect on your grade, and I will expect you to find the necessary corrections in your handbook. I will also be happy to help you individually during office hours, but we will not spend much time on these problems as a class.

Grades: All papers will be graded on a one hundred point scale and grades will be given in ten percent increments. The mid-term and the final exam will be worth fifty points each, and there will be several five to ten point quizzes. This will all add up to somewhere around a possible course total of 700 points; however, you can figure your own grade at any time by adding up the total possible at that time and the total you have received. The top ten percent of that will be an "A" the second ten percent a "B" the third a "C" and so on.

For example, if 310 are possible by Oct. and you have gotten 290, you would subtract 31 (10% of 310) from the total for 279. That means you would have an "A". If you have 245 points, you would have a "C".

Attendance: Because the vast majority of the learning in this course takes place in the classroom, it is important that you attend on a regular basis. Therefore if you

have more than three absences for any reason, I may drop you from the class or reduce your final grade for subsequent absences. In addition, arriving late and leaving early go into the grade book as an absence.

Late Papers etc.: I will not accept late papers. Quizzes cannot be made up, and other work can only be made up with my approval prior to the work being missed. Remember, we have drop date. After that date you must receive a grade for this class, so don't get behind.