

The KRCC English Department's English 1A Honors course is equivalent to the freshman composition course at most of the nation's universities and colleges. It includes exercises and assignments intended to help you improve your skill in developing, organizing and expressing your ideas. For the most part, you will be expected to demonstrate this skill in writing, including critical analysis of fiction and non-fiction (expository) works and other sources of information. You will present these interpretations and analyses in the form of essays and a research paper. Your participation in class discussion and group projects will further demonstrate your progress in communicating your ideas.

Texts for this course are the reader, Reading Critically, Writing Well, and the handbook, A Brief Handbook for Writers.

Reader: Assignments in the reader are intended to provide information on particular topics and ideas for structuring and presenting your reactions to these ideas and other experiences in your own writing. Reading assignments are usually made a week in advance of the "due" date. This is the date on which you may be expected to do any of the following during class time: a. contribute to group discussion on the material read, b. given oral or written responses to questions at the end of the reading selections, and c. write your own response to the selections. As you read the selections, mark any vocabulary unfamiliar to you. Find definitions for the terms. You will be expected to know the vocabulary of the reading selections.

Handbook: The handbook provides rules and examples for various kinds of writing. The emphasis is on form (grammar and structure) for expository writing. It also provides information (including sample papers) on the technicalities of research paper writing. Occasionally we will have specific assignments in this text. At all times (even for in-class writing assignments), it is available to you as a guide.

Essays: During the semester you will be required to write three original essays of at least four hundred words each. The class will develop a number of possible topics for these papers. The texts will provide examples of modes or ways of presenting your material in essay form. The essay may be written out of class and will be graded on organization, structure, grammar, spelling, and logic. The essays, if turned in on time, may be rewritten once for a second grading. Each of these essays in its final grade will constitute fifteen percent of your course grade. The final exam will be a critical analysis essay for which you will prepare before class. This essay grade will constitute twenty percent of your course grade.

Research Paper: The research paper is a ten to twelve page presentation in writing demonstrating your ability to integrate and organize information objectively and logically in a convincing way, using standard research techniques and format. The research paper grade, which includes accumulated credit for developmental steps, constitutes twenty percent of your course grade. This semester we will use the computer lab to develop skills in the use of the word processor. You should be able to do most of your essay and research paper writing on the word processor. If you are not familiar with the word processing system, you will be given help in learning this system (see below).

The remainder of your course grade will be based on your in-class participation, oral reports, and other assignments, for the Honors class. This may include critiques of filmed documentaries, fiction and non-fiction books, plays, and performances by public speakers. .

Course grade:

Essays (total): 45%

Final Essay: 20%

Research Paper: 25%

In Class Group Work and Quizzes: 10%

Note: The drop date for this class is October 16th. After this date you must take a letter grade. You will be regularly informed of your class grade.

The instructor's office is A-2. Class and office hours will be posted on the door. You may occasionally be asked to come in for an essay re-write discussion or for a progress report.

Attendance: The instructor will keep you apprised of assignments given out in classes you had to miss. Of course, it is impossible to repeat verbatim class lectures and discussions for students who miss. You should get to know other, reliable students in class so that you can first go to them to find out what you missed and so that you can avoid coming to the instructor with that fatal question: "Did I miss anything important in class yesterday?"

You will participate constructively in class discussions, helping your fellow students with your attentiveness and respect for their opinions, or at least their right to express those opinions. You will radiate a glow of earnestness that will serve as an inspiration to others.

Computer Lab Hours for this class will be assigned.