

English 1AH - Composition and Reading  
Deborah Lencioni: Office A-6 (near switchboard)  
office 638-3641 ext. 3416 home: 787-2321  
office hours: TTh 10:30-12noon (Tues. in office, Thurs. in library) and by arrangement

Fall 99  
drop date end of 9th week  
email: DLDLNLDL@aol.com

Required: The Blair Reader  
This Boy's Life by Tobias Wolf  
one novel tba  
a stylebook  
3x5 DSDD computer disk to use in the computer lab  
xeroxing of papers for workshop with your peers

English 1A is equivalent to the freshman composition course at a four-year university. Since this is an honors section, you will not have more assignments, you will just have "deeper" assignments and will be expected to be a little more responsible for your own learning. Whenever possible, I will try to tie in what you are learning in psychology with your reading, writing, and class discussion. The goal is to sharpen your reading, writing, and thinking skills to prepare you for the academic level of writing required of university students. We will write and read essays of various styles and purposes for various audiences, and we will discuss them as a class, in groups, or one-on-one in conference. You will keep all of your writing, finished products as well as drafts, in order--you'll need them at the end of the semester for your final.

Reading assignments: The essays I'll assign are intended as models of different organizational structures or as information or inspiration for writing essays of your own. I'll try to give reading assignments a week in advance; you make sure you read them carefully, looking up new vocabulary, noticing what makes the piece "work." Come to class ready to discuss the reading or to write about it in class.

Essays: You will write several essays, but you will be graded on four 3-5 pages long. These will have gone through several drafts which you will attach to the back of each final product. At least twice during the semester, you will meet with me in my office to talk about your current essay and your writing. All essays will be typed, double-spaced and scholarly in appearance; no folders, please, or fancy fonts. I expect essays at the beginning of the hour they are due. **I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE ESSAYS.**

Revisions: If you have produced drafts and participated in workshop and conference, but have still received a C or D on any essay (except the research paper), you may meet with me within the week to devise a plan to revise and you'll have one week from that conference to do so. If the revision is successful, your grade will be raised to a C or a B. I cannot accept revisions without the conference and the plan.

In-class essays: Since writing under pressure is a common academic challenge, we will write eight in-class essays, but only one--the one you deem best--will I read for a grade. This should free you up to take some risks, try new rhetorics. Our field trip and speaker responses will probably be in this format. Keep each in-class essay (on disk and on hard copy) so you can make a good choice in December.

Research paper: The research paper is an 8-10 page argument or exploration

*grade scan  
drop date*

demonstrating your ability to develop a strong thesis, find and organize information, and integrate it into an interesting scholarly paper, using standard research techniques and format. I hope to tie it to your psychology class. You must complete the research paper in order to pass the class. As with all essays, I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS. There are no revisions on the final draft of the research paper.

**Grammar:** Almost all grammar and mechanics instruction will be customized for individual students, based on your essays and your questions.

**Attendance:** Much of the writing and some of the reading will take place in class, as well as essential groupwork, discussion, and spontaneous learning opportunities. Students who have irregular attendance or who regularly wander in late generally don't do as well. If you must be absent, keep in touch--ask a trustworthy classmate, and by all means come prepared with the work you missed. Never ask, after an absence, when we're moving on to the next step, "What did I miss when I was gone?" Absence is not an excuse for a late paper. If you must be absent when a paper is due, get the paper to me before the class you must miss. I won't accept it in my box after class. Get used the idea: I DON'T ACCEPT LATE PAPERS. If you miss a conference appointment, your grade on the essay will be reduced by one grade. Similarly, if you don't have a draft on a workshop day or have missed workshop day for any reason, your grade on the essay will be reduced by one grade.

**Grading:** The attached grading standard explains my overall expectations for quality. For evaluating your work, I may use a composition profile like the one attached or we may develop a rubric (a list of criteria) for a specific assignment together. Plagiarism (presenting any part of someone else's work as your own) is against the law and will result in a paper grade of F. All grades will be weighed equally, except the research paper, which will be weighed double, so I don't advise ever skipping a paper. The breakdown will go something like this:

Example Essay

Media Search (Analysis Essay)

Day in History (Documentation--first person, past tense)

Research Paper (Argument) (2 grades)

Essay on Novel

In-Class Essay Choice

Final (Evaluative Essay)

**Field trips and speakers:** There will be several opportunities along these lines, paid for by the college or the foundation and designed for your edification and enjoyment. You will never be penalized for not attending--I will always prepare an alternate assignment--but, naturally, I encourage you to take advantage of these.

So, we're working on a few things simultaneously: 1) reading some great writing to inspire great writing, 2) improving organization and practicing different styles and modes of college writing, 3) learning MLA documentation and research techniques, 4) working on polishing standard English grammar and upgrading your writing for clarity, grace, and power, 5) improving composing skills on the computer, 6) discussing ideas and preparing for university-level scholarship.

**Sym  
me  
try  
has  
landed  
(a  
rough  
and blazing fall)  
into  
the bookstore.  
\$2**

**Thanks for your support!**