

English 1A - Spring - 2000

Reedley College

Instructor: Corinna Ruth

Schedule #50558

7:00 - 8:50 A.M.

T - Soc. 35

TH - Hum. 62

Dates to Remember:

Jan. 17 - Martin Luther King - Holiday

Feb. 18 & 21 - Lincoln/Washington day

March 10 - Last day to drop this class

March 10 - Mid-term report

April 17-22 - Spring break

May 15-19 - Final exams

Texts/Supplies:

Outlooks and Insights, Paul Eschholz and Alfred Rosa

Brief Handbook for Writers, James F. Howell and Dean Memering

3 1/2" diskette; a good dictionary; a portfolio folder

Course Objectives:

Writing expository prose, including a research paper. Analytical oral and written discussion on the essays and short stories in your text. This course is designed for transfer students.

Requirements:

You will be expected to write four out-of-class papers (3 1/2 - 5 pages), and one research paper (8 - 10 pages). You will also be asked to respond to the weekly reading assignments with an in-class essay written in the computer lab each week. In addition, you will write exercises from your writer's handbook. Both will be graded pass/fail. You will also be writing a final exam, evaluating your portfolio.

Grading:

A total of 800 points is possible for the semester.

Four out-of-class essays (3 1/2- 5 pages) - 100 points each

One research paper (8-10 pages) - 200 points

Weekly in-class essays and/or handbook exercises in computer lab - graded pass/fail - total value, 100 points

Final exam essay - 100 points

Papers will not be accepted after the due date.

Grades will be computed on a percentage basis: 720-800=A; 640-719=B; 560-639=C; 480-559=D

You must receive a C average or better in order to pass this class.

Final exam date
Attendance

Grading (continued):

A good essay contains the following characteristics:

- good mechanics, spelling, usage, and syntax
- strong organization and structure with a solid main point or idea (thesis)
- development of your main idea or thesis with the use of examples and details
- evidence of an effective writing style, tone, purpose, and creativity.

All essays must be typed and double-spaced with a one-inch margin on all four sides and the use of #12 font.

Attendance:

You will be expected to come to class on time each day and stay for the entire period; after four absences (for whatever reason), I may drop you. A sign-in sheet will be available. I will accept no late papers nor allow you to make up any exams unless you have notified me or the school nurse prior to class time.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's work as though it were your own. This includes another student's work or copying from the internet or other sources. Plagiarism is against the law and could result in an F grade for the course.

Tentative Schedule:

See the attached tentative schedule for the semester. This is, of course, subject to change.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

All rhetorical essays - 3 1/2 - 5 pages long. Research paper - 8-10 pages long.

Workshops will be held on Tuesdays and lab on Thursdays.

Be prepared to respond in writing to all assigned readings.

Week 1 - Writing sample

Week 2 - Read - "How I Learned to Read and Write" by Frederick Douglass pp.276-280.

In-class written response (about 300-500 words) in computer lab to Douglass's essay

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 3 - Rhetorical Mode Essay #1 Definition Essay

"Miss Duling"(p.282) and "A Worn Path"(129) by Eudora Welty

Workshop for Essay #1 on Tuesday. Rough draft should be completed and ready to read to peers. Final draft will be due on Thursday in computer lab.

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 4 - Read the planning section (pp. 3-17) in *Brief Handbook for Writers*.

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 5 - Rhetorical Mode Essay #2 Classification/ Division Essay

"Advertising's Fifteen Basic Appeals" by Jib Fowles (429)

Workshop for Essay #2 on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class.

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 6 -Read "Reading Poems" pp. 24-6 in your text. Read also "The Road Not Taken"

(97). Compare Shakespeare's poetry to Frost's. You will be expected to comment on

the comparison orally in class and in written form in the computer lab.

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 7 - Rhetorical Mode Essay #3 Comparison/ Contrast Essay

"Paul's Case"(164) by Willa Cather and "The Region of Ice"(290) by Joyce Carol Oates
Character study.

Workshop for Essay #3 on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class.

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 8 - Read - "One Last Time"(262) by Gary Soto

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 9 - Rhetorical Mode Essay #4 Cause/ Effect Essay

"When Language Dies: 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature Lecture"(452) by Toni Morrison

Workshop for Essay #4 on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class.

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 10 - Read "Those Winter Sundays" by Robert Hayden (124) and "Theme for English B" by Langston Hughes. (287)

Read - The section on Research papers pp. 276-319 in the *Brief Handbook for Writers*

Handout - Writing exercise

Week 11 - Rhetorical Mode Essay #5 - Argument/ Persuasion Essay - Research Paper

Works cited due - 20 titles of books, internet sources, magazines, newspapers etc.

MLA Style - see example on page 42 of your text. Also refer to the chapter titled "Research Papers" on pages 276-319.

Read "Letter from Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King (588) argument/persuasion essay
Workshop for Works cited on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class for peer evaluation.

Handout - Writing exercises

Week 12 - Research paper

Outline, introduction and thesis (as part of your introduction) due

Workshop for outline, intro and thesis on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class.

Handout - Writing exercises

Week 13 - Research paper

First 2 pages of research paper due today.

Read - "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin p. 99

Workshop for 2 pages of research paper on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class.

Handout - Writing exercises

Week 14 - Research paper

Hand in all but the conclusion of your research paper (about 8-9 pages).

Read - "I'm Nobody! Who Are You!" by Emily Dickenson p. 62

Workshop for research paper on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class.

Handout - Writing exercises

Week 15 - Research Paper

Conclusion of your research paper due today.

Workshop for conclusion of your research paper on Tuesday. Bring rough draft to class.

Handout - Writing exercises

Week 16 - Research Paper

Overall final revised draft of your research paper due Thursday.

Workshop on final draft Tuesday. Bring final draft to class for final evaluation by peer group.

Handout - Writing exercises

Week 17 - Read "Last Day" (from *Charlotte's Web*) by E. B. White

In-class best essay choice. Write an in-class rationale for your choice. This essay will then be changed from a pass/fail to a letter grade. This could improve your overall in-class essay/ handbook exercises grade.

Week 18 - Portfolio Evaluation Final - evaluate growth over semester.