

## English 1A - Online Syllabus

<u>Overview and Description</u>	<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>General Policies and Grades</u>	<u>Major Assignments</u>	<u>Guidelines - Expectations</u>

### Overview

**Instructor: S. Bowie**  
**Office: Room 61 (next to computer lab) Phone: 638-3641, ex. 3273**  
**Office hours: MTWF 1-2:00 p.m. or by arrangement**

**E-mail: [sydney.bowie@dol.sccd.cc.us.ca](mailto:sydney.bowie@dol.sccd.cc.us.ca)**

**Catalog Description:**

Writing expository prose, including the research paper. Analytical reading and discussion of other writing. Designed primarily for transfer students.

English 1A is the equivalent of freshman composition at the University of California and at the California State Universities such as Fresno State. Students taking this class must know the fundamentals of good writing and be able to read and critique college-level texts, both fiction and non-fiction. They should be able to understand the events of a novel as well as the less-obvious subtleties. Students should plan to spend ten to fifteen hours a week for classwork, which will involve preparatory research, reading, writing papers, posting responses to the Webboard, group work, especially critiquing the work of other students.

### Course Requirements

Textbooks and equipment:

- *Brief Handbook for Writers: 3d Ed.*, Howell
- *OutLooks and Insight*
- a good dictionary
- an email address
- modem and computer capable of accessing the course web site

### General Policies and Grades

**Attendance :**

Although the online class differs from the regularly attended classes, students must be in contact with the instructor. The class requires students to meet with the instructor at three scheduled class meetings; in addition, weekly online contact must be maintained. To fulfill the attendance requirements of the class, attend the following meetings:

Friday, January 14 6:00 - 7:50 p.m. Room 62  
 Saturday, April 8 10:00 - 11:50 a.m. INC 1 - Midterm

*Attendance*

Wednesday, May 17, 6:00 - 7:50 p.m. Room 62 - Final

Students' online contact will be monitored through the Webboard and E-mail. Students are required to make substantive contributions to the Webboard each week. Students may address the topic of the week and address their classmates regarding that topic.

Students may also will be required to complete assignments in the Handbook, submitted to the instructor by email. These assignments will be made to address problems that arise during the course of the semester.

### **Last day to drop:**

10 March

### **Grades**

The final grade for the course will be based on the following major assignments :

- Research Paper 25%
  - Reading Quizzes 25%
  - Thesis papers 30%
  - Webboard discussions and participation 20%
- 

### **Major Assignments**

**Research paper:** Ten pages on one of the research topics. It will require researching information in the library from a variety of sources: encyclopedias, magazines, newspapers, reference works, computer databases. Students may use the Internet for part of their research. The papers need to be in presentable form; we use the MLA-format found in your Handbook. There is much useful information in the handbook, and on-line students will be more dependent on it than other students. Sample papers and other help are available at the class website. Students will need to turn in a draft paper for this assignment.

**Thesis papers:** Students are required to turn three 750-word papers. The point of these papers is to support a thesis statement using information from the novel. Drafts will be required for these assignments. These assignments should only be attempted after careful reading of the texts.

**Reading quizzes:** Students will be required to complete quizzes about their reading. Students are advised to make lists of characters from the novels, adding details about the characters as the novels proceed. They will want to highlight important passages and concepts in the novels as well.

**Webboard discussions:** Students are required to make two substantial contributions to the Webboard weekly. A study question will be written for each week; students may respond to that question, or they may respond to other students' responses. Responses need to be thoughtful and at least 200 words in length.

---

### **Guidelines and Expectations**

In order to have success this semester, please take note of the following:

1. English 1A is a difficult course under the best circumstances. It will require at least 10-12 hours of activity from you per week--more if your typing/computer skills are low.
2. While English 1A Online is a convenient way of taking the course, it is by no means the easier way of taking the course. Because all the class discussion, questions, and dialogue normally spoken needs to be

typed out, you may find English 1A more time-consuming than the traditional courses.

3. You need the following in order to get hooked up to the class:

- an Internet service provider (ISP). This can be a service like America Online or it can be a local provider such as Lightspeed or Inreach. You need to get this service immediately. Most of the servers will be able to provide immediate service, if you have the necessary computer equipment. This service will cost about \$20 a month.
- reasonably quick modem. Since so much of the class will be receiving a transmitting data over phone lines, you will need a good modem. 28.8 baud modem is probably minimum.
- an E-mail address or account. This can be provided by your ISP or can be an on-line service like Hotmail.com or Yahoo.com. You will have to access your mail daily!
- good, consistent access to a computer. If you have a computer at your house, it should be at least a Pentium or PowerMac. There are 200+ computers on campus for students use. If you are going to use one of these, you should know that they are heavily used most of the time.
- a good sense of self-motivation and self-direction. you will not have have teachers to prod you to do the course work and that may make it easy to fall behind. However, if you are able to set and reach goals, then you may have success in this class.

### **Some additional requirements:**

1. You will send assignments to me via e-mail before the hour at which they are due. All assignments will come with a time due. Late assignments will only be given half-credit. If you have some technological difficulty, I want to know about it before the assignment is due. You can call and leave a voice-mail message or e-mail me. We will work out an alternate plan. If you have technological difficulty after the assignment is due, it will be marked late.
2. You will keep a computer record and hard copy of all assignments that you send to me. Because e-mail transmissions can be fragile things, you need to develop a system for keeping all of the work you send to me. This is most easily accomplished by keeping your work in a word processing file or directory.
3. You need to post two messages on the Webboard discussion each week. This is the way I take roll and know that you are attending the class. The webboard messages should be well-thought opinions in response to the posed question of the week or responses to others. You will not be given credit for "Yeah, me too" sorts of responses.
4. Take note of the length of the assignments. All assignments will have a word length to which you must adhere in order to receive credit. This counting is easily done on word processors. I will transfer your assignments to Word documents, which will happily count the words for me. Those not meeting the required length will be shipped back to the writer ungraded.