

## SYLLABUS FOR ENGLISH 1A

**Instructor:** Tina Ramsey

**Term:** Spring 2000

**Class Time/Place:** T 2:00-3:50 INC 4  
TH 2:00-3:50 HUM 62

**Last Day to Drop this Course:** Friday, March 10

### Required Texts:

1. Miller, Rober Keith. Motives for Writing. 3rd ed. Mayfield Publishing Company.
2. Brief Handbook for Writer's. 3rd ed.

### Required Materials:

1. 3 1/2 inch computer diskette
2. 8 1/2 X 11 inch spiral binder with college-ruled line paper

### Recommended Texts:

A good college-level dictionary

**Grading Scale:** I use the standard scale of A = 90-100 pts., B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59-0.

### Course Requirements:

Mid-Term Portfolio	30 pts.
Final Portfolio	45 "
Journal	10 "
Workshops	10 "
In-class Essays	5 "
2 Conferences	Required
Attendance	Required

**Mid-Term Portfolio:** The Mid-Term Portfolio will contain three papers. Papers #1 and #2 will be graded and will be worth 12 points apiece. Paper #3 will be ungraded and will count for 6 points. The total points for the Mid-Term Portfolio will be 30.

**Final Portfolio:** The Final Portfolio will contain your last three papers of the semester. Papers #4 and #5 will be graded, and Paper #6 will be ungraded. The graded essays will be worth 20 points each and the ungraded essay will be worth 5 points. The total number of points for the Final Portfolio will be 45.

**Attendance:** Everyone is expected to be in class and on time. If you are not in class by 10 minutes after class is officially supposed to start, you will be marked absent. You are allowed 5 free absences (free meaning you can be absent 5 times and not have it count against your grade). Any number of absences above 5, for any reason, will result in the lowering of your grade in the class by one full letter. Any number of absences beyond 10 will result in a failing grade (an "F" that is) for the course. **NOTE:** 1.

*Attendance*

There are no excused absences in this class. If you are not in class, you are absent. 2. There can be no make-ups for in-class assignments which are missed because of an absence. 3. Pay attention to the rules concerning absences and workshops.

**Papers:** There will be a total of six (6) papers assigned throughout the semester. I will hand out guidelines for these papers, but the topics you write on will be ones of your own choosing. There are some "taboo" topics in the class that you won't be allowed to write on (e.g. abortion, euthanasia, gun control, etc...) I will give you a more complete list of these topics later in the course. However, please do yourself a favor-- write about things you want to write about, not about what you think I want you to write about.

These essays are required to be revised, typed, and double-spaced. Drafts of the papers which are turned in to me must have all prewriting, rough drafts, and peer response sheets attached. All drafts of papers are due in class on their assigned dates. **FOUR VERY IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:** 1. No late drafts will be accepted. 2. No draft material = no essay credit. 3. Any draft I don't see may not be put in the Mid-Term or Final Portfolio. 4. There are no exceptions to the three previous rules.

**Research:** One of the papers you do this semester must contain research or outside sources. The thing you need to remember concerning the research you do is that you need to make Xerox copies of any secondary sources you decide to cite in you papers.

**Journal:** You will be keeping a journal this semester, and you are to bring it with you for every class. The journal is a place to experiment in your writing and to do some "thinking on paper," without having to worry about grammar, spelling, or punctuation. It will contain two parts. One part of your journal will be devoted to "pure" freewriting and the second part will be devoted to responding to the Chapters that have been assigned from your textbook. I will give you another handout that explains the journal in more detail. Basically, you must complete 5-6 pages of writing per week in your journal. (For example, 3 pgs. of process writing in your journal and 3 pgs. of reading response.) **The journal is not graded.** You will receive your points for the journal by simply completing the specified number of pages per week on time and by responding to the assigned readings or journal prompts in a thoughtful/critical manner.

**Conferences:** Everyone will be required to attend 2 conferences. I will consider a missed appointment an absence from class. The conferences are required, and each unattended conference will take 5 points off your final total of class points.

**In-Class Essays:** These will be short essays which will be assigned and completed in class. You will need a blue-book for these essays.

**Workshops:** Receiving feedback on your papers from an audience is an important part of the writing process. In order for you to receive comments from other members of the class on your papers, you will be assigned to a workshop group. To receive credit for these sessions you must: 1. Be in class 2. Bring copies of your rough draft for each member of your group (usually 3) 3. Complete a response sheet for every member's paper. It is very important to bring a rough draft. **TWO VERY IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT WORKSHOPS:** 1. People who do not bring drafts will not get full credit for the workshop. 2. People who do not attend on workshop days will have two absences counted in the grade book instead of one.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a college no-no. Taking credit for someone else's work is simply not acceptable on this campus, which, of course, includes my class. The consequences for getting caught doing this are quite undesirable, so do yourself (and me) a favor and don't do it.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Disruptive behavior in the classroom is also a college no-no. As a general rule, please treat the people you meet and work with in this class with courtesy and respect, and always use discretion when discussing topics in the areas of sex and violence. (For example, not every one will be interested in the explicit details of what you and your significant other did last night after you visited a few of the clubs in town.)

Here are some more specific rules to remember:

1. No walkmans or CD players in class.
2. Please turn off your pagers or set them so that we can't hear them if they go off.
3. No cell phones in class. (If you carry one with you make very certain that you don't receive any calls during class.)