

English 3 - #70462

Summer, 2002

Ryan LaSalle T/TH 8-12:15 a.m. AGR2

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### **On Critical Reading/Writing...**

This class is about *thinking*. Not the everyday routine thinking that travels our minds at a dull pace, but rather, the active vital critical thinking that leads to complexity, growth, and understanding. As a class and as individuals, we will embark on an intellectual project that will pose 'big' questions. Though sometimes answered simply by most, we will instead look behind the surface issues and attempt to understand subjects more deeply. We will work with ideas, bodies of knowledge - understanding them, expanding them, connecting them, and shaping them. We will explore what we know and how we know it. We will engage, debate, and utilize them to some greater end.

Critical thinking (writing and reading) skills will be pushed above the expectations of English 1A. These requirements will include high-level argument strategies, new reading strategies, and a greater emphasis on content in essays.

### **Domain:**

The class will work with one major subject during the term. This will be announced near the beginning of the course.

### **The Plan: (typical class period)**

1. Class business, general discussion.
2. Vocabulary review (beginning of week - list, end of week - review and turn in)
3. In class lecture/reading/discussion/writing. Assignments will be from a prompt I (or you) have created and/or have connected to something from the text.
4. Out of class reading/writing. Usually tied to the in class assignment.

**The things we'll carry:** \*notebook \*writing instrument

**Book:** *Current Issues and Enduring Questions*

**Policies:** Absences - 1 absence allowed without penalty. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> absences result in loss of participation points and a 4<sup>th</sup> absence will yield a failing grade in the class. Tardiness should be avoided, but in the case of arriving late, it is the responsibility of the student to update the roll with the instructor after class. Late work may be accepted for partial credit with instructor's approval.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on a point system.

90%A 80%B 70%C 60%D 50%E (of total points available in class)

(2)	1. Main papers	10
(1)	2. one synthesis/research main paper (MLA) w/annotated bibliography	25 10
(3-4)	3. Light Papers (variety of in class and/or out of class assignments)	4
(5)	4. Vocabulary	2
	5. Participation 10-15% of total points	

\*instructor reserves the right to make changes in this syllabus as deemed necessary or appropriate.

English 1A - #70458  
Ryan LaSalle M/T/TH 6:00-8:50 AGR15/INC1  
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**On Writing...**

This class aims at moving students closer to the model of an 'expert' writer where one is able to make informed decisions about any writing task and employ a wide range of tools and strategies to write the best possible paper - not just any paper. It is designed to get students to think beyond their own personal experience and use sources (not just as storehouses of information but as works to engage, debate, and utilize to some greater end).

Aside from the mechanics of writing essays, we will be spending a fair amount of time working with ideas and improving content. Several essays will be brought in for discussion to yield material for our writing. These short works will be on a variety of subjects (everything from history to science, fiction to non-fiction, philosophy to politics) and we will look to cultivate observations, arguments, and ideas that will fulfill the expectations of effective college writing.

**The Plan:** Each class meeting will have several areas to cover.

1. Class business, general discussion.
2. Vocabulary review of previous week's lists, sentences and grammar (vocabulary will not be every week).
3. In class lecture/reading/discussion/writing. Assignments will be from a prompt I have created and/or have connected to something from the text.
4. Out of class reading/writing. Usually tied to the in class assignment.

**The things we'll carry:** \*notebook \*writing instrument \*diskette

**Textbooks:** TBA

**Policies:** Absences - 3 absences allowed without penalty. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> absences result in loss of participation points and a 6<sup>th</sup> absence will yield a failing grade in the class. Late work may be accepted for partial credit with instructor's approval.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on a point system.

90%A 80%B 70%C 60%D 50%E (of total points available in class)

(3-4)	1. Main papers	10
(1)	one research based main paper (MLA)	20
(1)	w/ annotated bibliography (separate)	10
(3-4)	2. Light Papers	4
	(variety of in class and/or out of class assignments)	
(4-5)	3. Vocabulary	2
	(definitions plus sentences to illustrate understanding)	
	4. Participation	10-15% of total points

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