

A Student's Guide to English 1A and English 205

Table of contents

Welcome!	1
General Course Information	1
Time and Place:	1
Teacher Information	1
Office Hours:	2
Practical Steps to Pass the Class	2
Course Description for English 1A.....	2
Course Description for English 205.....	2
Notes for English 205	2
Required Texts and Supplies.....	3
Attendance.....	3
What if you are sick?.....	3
Conferences	4
Sharing Work.....	4
Classroom Rules.....	4
Disruptive Behavior.....	5
Required Coursework	5
Reading/writing homework:	5
Daily Exit Tickets:	5
Essays:	5
Course Schedule for English 1A	6
Grading for English 1A-- Grading Contract	6
Late Work Policy	7
Exit Tickets and Homework.....	7
Timed Writings and Essays.....	7
Academic Honesty Policy	7
More on Plagiarism.....	7
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities..	8
Student Learning Outcomes and the Skills You Need to Master	8
SLO 1: ACADEMIC WRITING and READING:	8

SLO 3 Summarize and comprehend college-level prose (will include a full reading) 8

SLO 2: COMPLETE A TIMED ESSAY
INDEPENDENTLY IN CLASS. 9

Important Dates 9

Welcome!

These courses are to help you become a better academic reader and writer. However, for these classes and me to assist you in this adventure, you need to be an active participant in this class. These courses are not just about the information I give you but how you interact with the information and how you engage with the class. In that sense, we are co-creating this class.


I reserve the right to modify rules for the class as I see fit.

General Course Information

Time and Place:

- English 1A: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11:50 am in POR 4
- English 205: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 to 12:50 in POR 4

Teacher Information

- Name: Lori Levine
- Email: lori.levine@reedleycollege.edu
- Canvas Messaging System:  You can send me a message through Canvas. The link to the inbox is on the left side of the Canvas page or on the bottom toolbar of the Canvas app.
- Phone: 559-549-3399
- Office: CCI 216

Note: Overall, I am good at returning messages. If you do not hear back from me within 24 hours, contact me again because I missed your message or something happened, and I forgot to reply.

Office Hours:

- 1-1:50 pm in CCI 216 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
- 9-9:50 am ON ZOOM on Fridays: Here is the link-- <https://scccd.zoom.us/j/7681779517>

Practical Steps to Pass the Class

What you put into this class is what you will get out of it!

If you really want to pass this class, make sure you do everything that you need to do to pass this class from this day forward!

- See me in my office often to get help with your papers.
- Come to class always and be prepared.
- Do your homework on time. See my late homework policy below.
- Take your work seriously.
- Take responsibility for your actions OR lack of actions.
- Do not cheat. Do not use ChatGPT or other AI tools unless I tell you you can. More on that below.

Students who do the work usually pass the class.

Course Description for English 1A

This is a reading and writing class. During the class, you will read, analyze, and compose college-level prose, with emphasis on the **expository**. You will study writing as a process and explore different composing structures and strategies. You will revise your own writing and conduct research (gather, organize, evaluate, integrate, and document information), culminating in a term research paper and annotated bibliography. You will write a minimum of 5,000 words in formal academic language. (See the end of the syllabus for Course Objectives and Outcomes).

The expository essay is a genre of writing where students explore an idea, assess evidence, and present a coherent argument in a clear and concise manner. This can be achieved through methods like comparison, definition, examples, or cause and effect analysis.

Course Description for English 205

This course will be taught in conjunction with English 1A College Reading and Writing so that students can further their critical reading and writing skills for their English 1A course. Course will include assignments linked to and building on the English 1A coursework.

Notes for English 205

- All of the rules in this syllabus apply to English 205.
- This course is dependent on English 1A; in other words, what we do in English 205 is determined by what we do in English 1A.

- Your grade in this class will be based on your grade in English 1A. If you get a C in 1A, you will get a C in 205.
- This class is mandatory and missing it could get you dropped which will mean you will be dropped from English 1A.

Required Texts and Supplies

1. *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Pattillo Beals. We are reading the abridged version. It is 226 pages long. **DO NOT RENT THE BOOK.**
 - Here is the ISBN Number: **978-1416948827**
 - Buy it on Amazon [Here](#).
 - You can also buy it in our bookstore.

Deadline for getting book is Monday, Aug. 22
2. Skyline OER Handbook—You will find this on Canvas—This is a handout that has a ton of information on writing. It is free!!!
3. A notebook and pens/pencils
4. A binder for handouts.
5. If you have a laptop, please bring it to class

Attendance

- If you are physically absent the first week of the semester in either English 1A or 205, you will be dropped.
- If you have two weeks' worth of absences before the drop date, you will be dropped from both courses at my discretion. Please talk to me if you are absent. **I know life happens, and I try to be flexible with making up work if you talk to me.**
- I will NEVER give you permission to leave class early or to miss class. I take roll at the beginning of each class. You are late if you are not there when class starts.
- I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. All appointments, interviews, meetings with counselors MUST be scheduled outside of class time. If you work, inform your employer of your class schedule. Again, I do understand that sometimes life keeps you from coming to class, so please talk to me.
- If you really do have to miss class, be smart about it. Contact me. Let me know what is going on.

What if you are sick?

Although we are still not in a pandemic, Covid has taught me one thing:

- If you are really sick—running a fever, throwing up, etc.--stay home. We will talk about how you can make up work.
- If you do not have a fever but think you have a cold, covid, or anything else, and you really need to come to class—perhaps wear a mask. I will still bring some to class. I know mask-wearing is a pain, but I want everyone to stay healthy. There will be times when I will wear one too.

Conferences

Throughout the semester, I will hold mandatory conferences during which we will talk about your essay. These are meant to help you with your work.

Sharing Work

Sometimes I take part of your work and share it, or I will have you critique each other's work. When I critique work in front of the class, I do so anonymously, and I usually never share more than a paragraph or two. I know sharing work can be scary, but students really learn from helping each other and critiquing work as a class. When I was a student, I learned a lot from what my peers told me about my writing.

Classroom Rules

- 1) **Be respectful.** This means:
 - a. If someone is talking, listen.
 - b. Think about what you are saying and how it could affect others. **No hate speech, racism, prejudice, stereotyping, sexism, ablism, ageism, or other comments/actions that intentionally hurt people. These comments will not be tolerated and may be reported.**
 - c. Come to class on time, and if you are late, come in quietly, and do not make a big deal about it. Just take your seat, and I will catch you up on what is going on.
- 2) **Technology rules**
 - a. **Device Usage:**
 - Laptops are **sometimes** permitted during class for note-taking and working on essays; however, often they become a distraction to you and your classmates. Many times students will have other tabs open that are not school related. For this reason, if I see students working on anything other than classwork, I will ask you to stop using your computer.
 - That said, do bring your laptop because there will be times where you will want to use one. If you DO NOT have one, you can go to the library to check one out, but do so ASAP!
 - b. **Cell Phone Usage:**
 - Cell phones **are not allowed (unless I give you permission to use one)** during class to avoid distractions.
 - To keep you from using your cellphone, **THEY NEED TO BE PUT IN YOUR BAG**—not next to you or in your pocket. Put them in your bag. If you don't have one, put them somewhere else where they won't distract you. **If I ask you more than three times to put away your phone, I will ask you to leave class.** This sounds harsh, but you need to pay attention to what we are doing in class, and if you are texting people, you aren't paying attention.
 - c. **Respectful Listening:**
 - Remove earbuds or headphones at the start of class to show respect to your fellow students and me.
 - d. **Bags**
 - Put all of your bags on the floor or the seat next to you. You should just have your work on your desk.

Accommodations: If you need any accommodations related to this policy, please talk to me about this before the next class period. You can email me if you need to. Your needs will be considered.

Disruptive Behavior

I reserve the right to ask a student to leave class whose behavior is impeding the learning of other students or making it impossible for me to do my job effectively. If you continually disrupt class, you will be asked to leave and counted as absent for that class. If the behavior becomes too disruptive, disciplinary steps will be taken, as per Board Policy 5550, “including but not limited to the removal, suspension or expulsion of a student.”

Required Coursework

Reading/writing homework:

- To prepare for each class, you will usually be asked to read from our class texts (including articles I give you), watch videos on Canvas, and engage with the ideas/information in an active way, such as posting on a Canvas discussion board. When you do not have reading assignments or videos to watch, you will be working on writing and revising drafts of your papers.
 - **Reading/writing homework will be graded complete/incomplete.**
 - At the beginning of each class period, we will do a “fess up” where I will ask you all to let me know if you were not able to complete the assignment for that day. Being on the fess up list occasionally is no big deal – we all need some slack every now and then. If you are on it repeatedly, I will want to speak with you because this is often an early warning sign that you are on the path to failing the course. At some point, if you do not start doing the work, you might be asked to leave class.

Daily Exit Tickets:

- At the end of each class, you will get a homework assignment that is due that night on Canvas, our classroom management online site. Occasionally, you will have two nights for this assignment depending on the length. These tasks are meant to demonstrate understanding/skills on what we discussed that day. Sometimes, they will prepare you for the next class period. These assignments are also an incentive for you to come to class regularly and not fall behind. If you complete your reading/writing homework and stay engaged in class, the assignments should be straightforward. Plus, they should help you build content and confidence for your essays.

Exit tickets will be graded complete/incomplete.

Essays:

- You will write 5 essays this semester (this includes the final reflection). You will write three timed/in class essays and two research papers over the semester.
Essays will be graded on the following scale:

High Pass

Pass

Needs Work

Not attempted

Course Schedule for English 1A

You will notice that I do not have the course schedule laid out with everything we are doing this semester.

I do not do this because as the class progresses, my “planned schedules” always change based on how students are doing and what help you need. That said, here is a general plan for when essays will be due.

Essay 1: A personal essay, to be developed in class during Weeks 2 and 3.

Essay 2: A timed essay on the book "Warriors Don't Cry," written in class during Week 7 (around Sept. 18).

Essay 3: Research paper inspired by ideas from "Warriors Don't Cry," to be developed from Week 7 to Week 11 (Sept. 18 to Oct. 16) with submission in Week 11.

Essay 4: Essay on banned books, to be started in Week 11 and continued through the end of the semester with submission in Week 17.

Essay 5: Timed essay during finals week (week of Dec. 4) wrapping up the semester and reflecting on what you have learned.

Grading for English 1A-- Grading Contract

Research indicates that grades often undermine student learning and motivation, so in this class, I will not be using letter grades to assess your work. Instead, we will have what is called a “grading contract” that spells out what you need to do to earn an A, B, or C for the semester.

To earn a particular letter grade, you must meet all of the criteria for that grade. If you want an A, you will need to achieve all of the criteria for an A. If you want a B, you will need to achieve all of the criteria for B. If you meet some criteria but not all, you will drop to a lower grade level.

A	Complete and submit all essays Earn at least 2 “High Passes” and 3 “Passes” Earn “Completes” on at least 90% of your exit tickets Earn “Completes” on at least 90% of your homework
B	Complete and submit all essays Earn at least 4 “Passes” Earn “Completes” on at least 80% of your exit tickets Earn “Completes” on at least 80% of your homework
C	Complete and submit at least 4 essays Earn at least 3 “Passes.” One of these passes must be on Essay 3 or 4. These both require research which is what you must be able to do by the end of the semester. Earn “Completes” on at least 70% of your exit tickets Earn “Completes” on at least 70% of your homework Note: If you do not earn at least a C, the class will not count for your transfer English composition credit. You will need to repeat the class.
D	Complete and submit at least 2 essays, one of which must be Essay 3 or 4.

	<p>Earn at least 2 “Passes” Earn “Completes” on at least 60% of your exit tickets Earn “Completes” on at least 60% of your homework</p> <p>If you earn a D or F, you will have to retake this class and our English 205 class.</p>
--	--

Late Work Policy

Exit Tickets and Homework

I know sometimes that life happens and it is easy to fall behind and get overwhelmed. Because of that, my policy is intended to help you stay on track and be successful. Because exit tickets are based on work we do in class, and other homework is meant to prepare you for class, these assignments **cannot** be made up. Occasionally, I will make an exception.

Timed Writings and Essays

These essays are the meat of our class, so if you are going to be late on an essay or miss one of our timed essays, please contact me ASAP so that we can make alternative arrangements.

Academic Honesty Policy

There are two main components to my academic honesty policy:

1. All writing you submit must be your own (not by AI--Artificial Intelligence (Artificial Intelligence) software or essay-for-hire service). In other words, you cannot use ChatGPT unless I tell you that you can. Using it when I ask you to use your own brain is cheating. Occasionally, I will have assignments where I allow you to use this technology so that you can see how it works and how it can actually cause issues. You need to know how to use it responsibly.

My goal for this class is for you to grow as writers and critical thinkers. That can only happen if you are using your own brain and writing your own papers. If I determine that an essay was not written by you, it will not receive a passing grade and you will need to re-submit new work of your own.

2. Whenever you include information, ideas, or quotes from another source in your own work, you need to properly quote and cite your sources in MLA (Modern Language Association) format. We will go over how to do this so that you do not commit plagiarism (presenting someone else’s work as your own).

More on Plagiarism

Every semester one or more students plagiarize. Plagiarism is bad, bad, bad. Sometimes students do this by mistake, or they do it on purpose because they do not feel they are prepared. Whatever the case may be, we will have a conversation about this. You might also get reported or receive a 0 on an assignment. Depending on the situation, you will be asked to redo the assignment.

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to,

- failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others,
- failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration,
- submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved,
- or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.
- Copying someone else's Discussion Board counts as plagiarism.
- Copying someone else's essay or parts of his/her essay is also plagiarism.
- Copying ideas from an article is plagiarism.
- Using ChatGPT, is a kind of cheating and follows the same rules as plagiarism.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible. I will work with the DSPS (Disabled Students Programs and Services) office to make sure that you get the help that you require. In order to get accommodations, you must sign up with DSPS.

Student Learning Outcomes and the Skills You Need to Master

The goal of the course is to master the skills below. For each writing assignment, these skills will be placed in a rubric with the criteria you need to meet. You will be graded on each skill:

High Pass

Pass

Needs Work

Not attempted

In this writing course, it is normal to excel in one area on a rubric for one essay while needing additional work on the same skill for another assignment. It does not mean you have failed; it shows that different writing tasks require different sets of criteria, and growth may vary. Embrace the challenges as opportunities for growth, and remember that success is built upon continuous effort and exploration of various writing techniques.

Throughout this journey, I am here to support you every step of the way in honing your writing abilities and achieving your full potential.

SLO 1: ACADEMIC WRITING and READING:

Write a documented, well-organized research paper of at least 1,500 words that demonstrates critical thinking and command of the English language. **AND**

SLO 3 Summarize and comprehend college-level prose (will include a full reading)

Skill 1.1--Introduction Paragraph

Skill 1.2—Thesis

Skill 1.3—Topic Sentences

Skill 1.4—BODY PARAGRAPHS—EVIDENCE, ANALYSIS, AND SYNTHESIS (This Is Where You Will Find an

Assessment for SLO 3)

Skill 1.5—Conclusion

Skill 1.6—Overall Sentence Structure/Grammar

Skill 1.7— Overall MLA Format of Document and Correctly Formatted Works Cited Page If Sources Are Used.

- MLA FORMAT
- WORKS CITED FORMAT
- **NOTE: For Skill 1.7** you either do both correctly and get a 4 or you make mistakes and get a 1. You can continue to submit until it is correct.

Skill 1.8: Follows Instructions/Requirements

NOTE: For this skill, you either get a Yes or a No. You do not get points for it.

SLO 2: COMPLETE A TIMED ESSAY INDEPENDENTLY IN CLASS.

Skill 2.1—Write a basic introduction in a timed environment.

Skill 2.2—Writes a thesis in a timed environment.

Skill 2.3—Writes topic sentences in a timed environment.

Skill 2.4—Writes multiple body paragraphs in a timed environment.

Skill 2.5—Writes a conclusion in a timed environment.

Skill 2.6—The essay has been properly edited in a timed environment.

Skill 2.7— Essay includes a correctly formatted Works Cited (if sources are used)

Important Dates

- August 7 (M) Start of Fall 2023 semester
- August 7 - October 6 (M-F) Short-term classes, first nine weeks
- August 18 (F) Last day to drop a Fall 2023 full-term class for full refund
- August 25 (F) Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” in person
- August 27 (SU) Last day to add a Fall 2023 full-term class in person
- August 27 (SU) Last day to drop a Fall 2023 full-term class to avoid a “W” in person
- **September 4 (M) Labor Day Holiday (no classes held; campus closed)**
- October 6 (F) Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)
- November 28 (T) Last day to change a Fall 2023 class to/from Pass/No-Pass grading basis October 9 -
- December 8 (M-F) Short-Term classes, second nine weeks
- **November 10 (F) Veterans Day (no classes held, campus open)**
- **November 23-24 (Th-F) Thanksgiving holiday (no classes held; campus closed)**
- December 4-8 (M-F) Fall 2023 final exams week December 8 (F) End of Fall 2023 semester