

English 1A: College Composition
Santa Rosa Junior College - Fall 2017

Class Information: ENGL-1A: College Composition, 4 units Section 3093 MW 6:00PM – 8:00PM Emeritus, Room 1624	Instructor Contact Information: Michelle Westbrook Email: mwestbrook@santarosa.edu Office Hours: MW 5-5:50, Emeritus 1663 and online Fridays 9-10am.
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General Course Information:

Welcome to English 1A! This class allows you to practice and improve your college writing and critical thinking skills. Be prepared to do a lot of reading, writing, and thinking in this class. We will learn how to write in various rhetorical styles, with a strong command of effective sentence structure, in order to be better prepared to respond and communicate thoughtfully and critically. We will be engaging in group conversation, classroom exercises and workshops, and individual assignments. Our class moves quickly, and no assignments are optional.

The best way to be successful in this class is to come every day, do the assignments, and come to class engaged and ready to learn. The more interested you are, or the more interested you *try* to be, the easier and smoother the class will be for everyone.

You will participate in a community of peers both in groups and as an entire class. I will work alongside you and your classmates, both guiding and learning from you. By creating a respectful and academically rigorous classroom environment, you will be able to see the complicated ways that we all make meaning by reading the world. Please be courteous, open, and engaged.

The theme for this class is Empathy and Human Connection. We will be engaging with different readings, activities, and class discussion to explore the many ways that we communicate with and impact each other.

Official Course Description:

Critical reading and discussion of college-level texts with emphasis on expository and argumentative prose. Composition predominantly of analytical, reasoned, and reflective prose with particular focus on research as it pertains to supporting expository and argumentative essays.

Prerequisites:

Completion of ENGL 100 or ESL 100 or ENGL 309; or Qualifying Placement from English Assessment. See Student Success & Assessment Services (assessment.santarosa.edu) for more information about the assessment process.

Required Texts:

- Anderson, Chris and Lex Runciman. *Open Questions: Readings for Critical Thinking and Writing*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005.
- Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. 3rd ed. W. W. Norton, 2016.
- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*. Ed. Johanna M. Smith. 3rd ed. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016.
- Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home*. First Mariner Books, 2007.
- A college level dictionary.
- A notebook with lined paper.
- A folder with pockets.
- Other readings will be posted online or handed out in class.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Write a comprehensive, well-developed, and coherent expository essay with a focused thesis and appropriate support.
2. Recognize and correct errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
3. Identify and analyze argumentative, stylistic, and narrative techniques.
4. Locate, summarize, synthesize and employ research in a well-developed and documented research essay.
5. Employ correct use of MLA format and formal citations.
6. Read, annotate, summarize, and discuss all kinds of academic college-level non-fiction and fiction.
7. Comprehend and use college-level vocabulary.
8. Explain the conventions of advanced academic discourse, including style, tone, point of view, and the importance of original thought in developing oral and written arguments.

Course Requirements:

Professionalism and Participation

You will receive a grade for your daily participation in class exercises and discussion. Attendance is mandatory. If you are absent from too many classes you may be withdrawn from the course, but more importantly, if you don't come to class, you won't learn! The number one reason why students don't pass the class is because they stop attending. Please plan on coming to **every class meeting**. This will give you the best chance at improvement and success. You will have points taken away from your grade every time you miss class. You are allowed **one unexcused** absence and **one excused** absence. All excused absences **must be cleared with me before the class meeting**. If you are absent for two classes or less, you do not have to take the final exam!

Class begins on the hour. Tardiness will also negatively affect your professionalism grade. You will lose 1/3 of your participation points for the day if you are late.

Cell phone use is not allowed. If you use your cell phone during class, you will surrender your professionalism points for the day.

Academic Freedom

Each class meeting will include exercises and discussion. You are both welcomed and expected to participate in exercises, workshops, and discussion. The purpose of discussion is to give **you** an outlet to engage with the texts and ideas through discussion with your fellow students and myself. It gives us the opportunity to focus on specific themes and questions that are particularly interesting to the class. Think of topics that you find exciting, controversial, or confusing while you study the texts and practice close reading and annotation in order to bring these thoughts to class.

In any classroom that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are many different viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere in which students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and controversial topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with the instructor. It is expected that faculty and students **will be respectful of all views expressed** during classroom discussions.

Classroom Environment

In the classroom you are expected to be respectful of both your classmates and the instructor. This classroom is meant to facilitate the free exchange of ideas and you are expected to behave accordingly. If you are disrespectful, you will be asked to leave, and will thereby forfeit your professionalism points for that day.

Learning Differences

Students who require alternative formats for course materials or adaptive equipment because of a disability can request them through the Disability Resources office. Please speak to me after class or in my office hours about alternative learning formats. More information can be found at: drd.santarosa.edu

Readings and Assignments

All readings and assignments are required. Complete the readings **before** class. In addition to normal discussion participation, I will call on each of you periodically (the “cold call”) to contribute to the discussion. Come to class prepared with **annotated** readings and you will have something to add. Make sure to **always bring your texts to class** as we will be looking closely at them during our discussions.

Homework

In addition to your reading and writing, you will also have regular homework assignments. These will consist of reading responses, grammar exercises, and other writing practice. You can find your homework assignments in the “Assignments” section in Canvas. They can also be found in the “Calendar” and “Syllabus.” Unless otherwise stated, you will submit all homework assignments to the “Assignments” section in Canvas. You will therefore need access to a computer with reliable internet access to complete your homework. Computers can be found in the Library and Writing Center.

Writing Guidelines

You will be writing **four** formal essays in this class. **Each essay must be turned in on time at the beginning of class, typed and in the correct format.** If you turn in an essay (or another assignment) after the beginning of class on the day it is due, it will be considered late. Each essay will be developed through a careful revision process. The essay you turn in **must** include your prewriting, outline, and first draft as well as your final draft.

Correct (modified) MLA format for formal essays:

- Typed and double spaced
- Centered title
- 12 point font
- 1 inch margins and indented paragraphs
- Numbered pages
- Name, class name, assignment, date, and word count included in the upper left corner
- Stapled
- MLA format for quoting and citing, including page numbers
- Include name, class name, and assignment in title of electronic document

Essay Reflections

Part of your grade for the class will include writing essay reflections. These will consist of a paragraph summarizing, in your own words, my comments on your paper and how you will incorporate my suggestions in the future to improve your writing.

Late Assignments and Make Ups

Late assignments, except daily homework, will have 5% of the final grade reduced for each day they are late, including weekends. For example, if a paper is due at the beginning of class on Thursday but you turn it in through email on Sunday, your paper grade will be whatever you would have earned minus 15%. You will also be required to hand in a hard copy during our next class meeting the following Tuesday. You have one late pass to use to avoid penalty up to one week after the assignment is due (see below).

Late homework can be turned in at any time for half credit.

There will be no late submissions or make ups for in-class or take-home exams or quizzes, except in the case of an emergency. In the case of an emergency, you must clear your absence with me before the beginning of the exam or quiz and provide sufficient documentation.

Academic Integrity

All assignments must be your own ideas, your own work, stated in your own words. Plagiarism is the act of claiming someone else's words or ideas as your own (e.g., copying directly from another text, including friends' papers or sources found online; hiring someone else to write your papers; or having your mother, friend, etc. over-correct your work). Plagiarism will result in a failing grade on that assignment and will be reported. Do not put off work until the last minute, and if you start to panic about your grade or the workload, please talk to me instead of resorting to plagiarism. It is *never* a good idea.

Final Exam

The final exam for this class will be waived if you have two or less absences for the entire semester. Coming to every class meeting will benefit your learning, but it will also mean you don't have to take the final! In the event that you do not need to take the final, that percent of your grade will be distributed evenly to other aspects of the class.

Grade Breakdown

Professionalism and participation (including notes, quizzes, worksheets, and exercises): 10%

Homework: 15%

Essay reflections: 5%

Essay 1: 10%

Essay 3: 15%

Essay 2: 15%

Essay 4: 15%

Final exam: 10%

Presentation: 5%

Required Course Work

The course requirements consist of:

1. Multiple drafts of 4 major essays
2. A final exam
3. Informal writing assignments, exercises, and workshops
4. Active participation in peer groups and class discussions
5. Assigned readings in the texts
6. A presentation of your response to a reading.
7. Home writing/practice assignments
8. Regular attendance

Enrollment Policy

You cannot rely on no attendance as a way of dropping the class. Please be aware that should you wish to drop the class, you must do so yourself. Do not assume that you have been dropped because you've stopped attending. If you remain on the roll, I am required to give you a letter grade (A-F), whether or not you've actually been in class.

Study Groups

Working with a study group can be a great way to learn and retain information. At the very least, it is important to have the contact information of a couple of classmates so that you can ask questions about homework, assignments, or clarifications. Use the space below to record the contact info of 3 classmates.

Classmate 1	Email	Phone
Classmate 2	Email	Phone
Classmate 3	Email	Phone

Late Passes

You may use each of these passes **once** to turn in one late assignment up to one week after its due date with no grade penalty. Be aware that papers turned in late will have limited feedback comments. Remember that quizzes and exams cannot be made up except in case of documented emergency.

Good for: One late pass for one essay assignment. Must be turned in within one week of the original due date.	Good for: One late pass for one homework assignment. Must be turned in within one week of the original due date. Peer review cannot be made up.	Good for: One late pass for one essay reflection assignment. Must be turned in within one week of the original due date.
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Important Dates

(Subject to change.)

August 21: First class meeting

August 27: Last day to add classes without instructor signature or add code

September 3: Last day to drop classes with refund

September 4-5: No class

September 10: Last day to add classes

September 10: Last day to drop class without W

September 25: Paper 1 due

October 23: Paper 2 due

November 15: Paper 3 due

November 19: Last day to withdraw from class with a W on transcript

December 13: Last class meeting

December 18: Paper 4 final draft due; Final exam for students who missed more than two classes.