

Syllabus for: ENGL 1A: Analytical Reading & Writing	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2012
Course ID and Section Number:	ENGL-1A-E1687
Number of Credits/Units:	4
Day/Time:	TTh 8:30 a.m.
Location:	FM 206
Instructor's Name:	Baku, Carla
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: FM 200G TTh 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Phone: N/A Email: carla-baku@redwoods.edu
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): A transfer-level course in critical reading and reasoned writing. Students analyze issues and claims presented in visual, oral, or written arguments and write analytical and argumentative essays based on those issues. Research and source-based writing, employing correct MLA documentation, is required.	
Student Learning Outcomes (as described in course outline) : 1. Analyze argumentative claims. 2. Respond to arguments with persuasive critical essays. 3. Locate, synthesize, and document sources for use in response to arguments. 4. Revise and edit for sentence structure and mechanics.	
Special accommodations: College of the Redwoods complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. No last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments will be made. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability related services and may need accommodations, please see me or contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS.	
Academic Misconduct: Cheating, plagiarism, collusion, abuse of resource materials, computer misuse, fabrication or falsification, multiple submissions, complicity in academic misconduct, and/ or bearing false witness will not be tolerated. Violations will be dealt with according to the procedures and sanctions proscribed by the College of the Redwoods. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating on exams will receive an “F” in the course.	
The student code of conduct is available on the College of the Redwoods website at: http://www.redwoods.edu/District/Board/New/Chapter5/Ap5500.pdf	
College of the Redwoods is committed to equal opportunity in employment, admission to the college, and in the conduct of all of its programs and activities.	

ENGL 1A

Analytical Reading & Writing

Food for Thought!

Fall 2012
College of the Redwoods
TTh 8:30 to 10:40, FM 206
Instructor: Carla Baku
Email: carla-baku@redwoods.edu
Writing Center hrs: TTh 1:15 - 2:40
Office Hours: FM 200G, TTh 3:00 - 4:00

Overview

English 1A is a transfer-level course in critical reading and reasoned writing. Students analyze issues and claims presented in visual, oral, or written arguments and write analytical and argumentative essays based on those issues. Research and source-based writing, employing correct MLA documentation, is required.

Goals & Expected Outcomes

Welcome, writers! The primary goal of this course is to develop your ability to enter the academic conversation – and the great conversation of life among thinking persons – at a more sophisticated level. To accomplish this, you will be honing your faculties of critical thinking and applying what you learn to your reading, writing and conversing. Even when we strongly disagree with the primary premise of another point of view, it is possible to evaluate an argument using reason and intellect. *Effectual, egalitarian communication lies at the heart of this class and is the hallmark of a comprehensive education. Bearing this in mind, it is imperative that we treat each other with the utmost dignity and respect, allowing for widely divergent opinions and beliefs.* After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Analyze argumentative claims.
- Respond to arguments with persuasive critical essays.
- Locate, synthesize, and document sources for use in response to arguments.
- Revise and edit for sentence structure and mechanics.

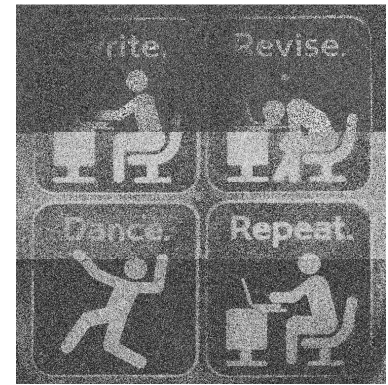
Theme

In this section of English 1A, we'll be using the topics of food and food choices as a frame for examining, developing, and rebutting arguments. *Everyone* has an opinion about food. Have you inherited your food habits from the culture of your family? Do you base your choices on taste or on environmental concerns? Perhaps your dietary guidelines are spiritual or religious. What is punk food? What do Jains eat? This semester we'll be exploring a gamut of debatable stances regarding food.

"We must eat. If, in the face of that dread fact, we can find other nourishment, and tolerance and compassion for it, we'll be no less full of human dignity." - M.F.K. Fisher

Prerequisite

English 150 with a C grade or better, or assessment recommendation for English 1A



Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers

Required Text and Materials

- *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollan
- *The Bedford Handbook*, 8th Edition, Diane Hacker
- *The Academic Writer*, Lisa Ede
- A ready supply of black or dark blue pens
Assume you will be writing during every class session.
- A bound composition book (cheap as dirt at Staples). This will be your writing journal.
- Three pocket folders (process portfolios).
- Three-ring binder—for class handouts, class packet, and to keep your life organized—with lined binder paper OR a three-hole, **clean-tear** spiral notebook. (See "Semester Portfolio," p. 2.)

Technology Musts

- Regular access to a computer, the Internet, email you check daily, and a reliable printer. Computers and printers are available for use in the LRC.
- Familiarity with MyCR. This is our primary means of conducting out-of-class communication
- Flash drive or similar method of data transfer.
- Your cell phone: **During class time, it does not exist**, unless you have a serious emergency.
- Don't run out of gas, paper, or printer ink.

Assignments

Essays:

- Essay 1—Discovery 100 points
- Essay 2—Argument 150 points
- Essay 3—Research 200 points

Assignments/Tests

- In-class writing, quizzes, journal writing, etc. 200 points

Reading responses 100 points

Final Exam 100 points

Attendance / Participation: 150 points

Total Points Possible: 1000

Grades Breakdown

A	= 930 – 1000 (93%+)
A-	= 900 – 929 (90%+)
B+	= 870 – 899 (87%+)
B	= 830 – 869 (83%+)
B-	= 800 – 829 (80%+)
C+	= 770 – 799 (77%+)
C	= 700 – 769 (70%+)
D	= 600 – 699 (60%+)
F	= 599 – 0 (59%-)

How to fail this class:

Plagiarize or cheat, and you immediately fail.

Class Schedule:

The coming week's schedule for our class will be posted every Friday afternoon on MyCR.

NOTE: The class schedule—and any other part of this syllabus—is subject to change and may be modified during the semester, as needed, with notification in class, via MyCR, and/or by email.

Extra Credit:

College policy does not allow for extra credit in English 1A.

Semester Portfolio:

In your three-ring binder, **please save all your work this semester.** This not only provides a record of your improvement as an academic writer, but is proof of your work should a grade not get recorded or be recorded incorrectly. For students who intend to transfer to a four-year university, copies of your syllabi are sometimes required when transferring credits; it's a good idea to save a copy of all syllabi for possible future reference.

Dates of Note:

- September 3: Labor Day Holiday
- September 10: Census Day
(See Attendance Policy addendum.)
- November 12: Veterans' Day.
- November 22, 23: Thanksgiving.
- December 10-15: Final exam week.
**Final exam for this class:
Tues. 12/11/12, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.**
- December 15: Classes end.

Carla's Office and Mailbox:

My office and faculty mailbox are in the 200 hallway of the forum building. My office is FM 200G; faculty mailboxes are near the center of the hallway.

If you are dropping something in my box, **be careful to put it in MY box**, not someone else's. I can't be responsible for misplaced items.

Participation:

It's college. Every student is expected to come to class on time, fully prepared and ready to participate. That means you've completed the assigned reading and any other homework given, you have all necessary materials on hand, and you have something to contribute to our ongoing conversation. Arriving late, leaving early, or allowing your classmates to pull all the weight of discussion will negatively affect your daily participation grade, which will ultimately impact your final grade.

It is hoped this goes without saying:

Civility and courtesy are compulsory. Rude behavior will absolutely not be tolerated.

*"We are now at a magical point.
You now get to decide for yourself
just what the scope and clarity of your
brilliance can be....This is the writer's life.
And for this there is no teacher left.
So go for it. Wow yourself."
—Scott Herndon*

Essays

You will write three primary essays this semester. In total, the essays comprise 45% of your final grade in the course.

- **Essay #1** is a personal discovery essay based on our food theme. In it, you will practice crafting a debatable argument, using proper MLA formatting. 4-5 pages, 100 points (10% of your final grade). **Due: September 27 (see Essay Submission, right).**
- **Essay #2** is an argumentative essay based in part on class reading and discussion. In this essay, you will build on what you learned in Essay #1, using more sophisticated reasoning skills, deepening your use of MLA citation, and touching on primary and secondary research sources. 5-6 pages, 150 points (15% of your final grade). **Due: November 1 (see Essay Submission, right).**
- **Essay #3** is a research essay in which you will not only create a strong, debatable argument on a position, you will include a well-crafted representation of an opposing stance or stances. Building on the previous two essays, you will skillfully use primary and secondary sources of research using appropriate MLA style guidelines. 6-7 pages, 200 points (20% of your final grade). **Due: December 6 (see Essay Submission, right).**

Essay Draft and Early Revision

Two crucial parts of writing involve your early creative work as well as the Draft Workshop revisions that go into your final draft. Evidence of all this work will be turned in together on the essay due date.

In our Draft Workshop sessions, we will collaborate to give and receive feedback on our first draft works-in-progress. **The workshops are essential**; absences are not acceptable on Draft Workshop days unless you have a verifiable emergency. Essay first drafts are worth 25% of the value of each paper. Thus, you cannot go higher than a “C” on a final draft of a paper if you have missed the Draft Workshop or come with no work at all. It is not acceptable to bring handwritten drafts to draft workshops.

Automatic D

If the minimum page count for an essay is four pages and you turn in three-and-three-quarters pages, I will give you an automatic D, without having read your essay. I will not expend extra effort when you, clearly, have not.

Revision

On the first two essays, you may revise your paper for a higher grade **if your grade is a C or lower** (including those incurred because of a turnitin.com late penalty). This revision must be substantial, meaning you have not only corrected grammatical and mechanical errors, but have made significant changes of substance: deepening your argument, extending your research, improving the essay’s structure. You must also see a tutor (see “Writing Help,” p. 4) or meet with me to review your revisions and concerns, and get a Tutor Conference sheet signed before resubmitting your revision. You have **two weeks from the return of your original graded essay** to complete this revision. Essay #3 may NOT be revised.

Late Essay

You will be allowed one late FINAL DRAFT for this course, on Essay #1 or Essay #2, only. You must attach a cover sheet letting me know that you are exercising this privilege. DON’T tell me why the essay is late—the reason is irrelevant. **You have one week—7 days—from the original due date to turn in your late essay, in class.** Papers that go beyond the deadline will lose a letter grade each day.

Essay Submission

1. Submit essay to **turnitin.com** PRIOR to indicated in-class, hard copy due date.
2. Hand in essay, in class, on indicated due date.
3. Essay will be returned approximately two weeks after submission.



Turnitin.com

Turnitin.com analyzes the work submitted and generates a report to ensure that all work is original to you and has been properly attributed to its original source. Not only does turnitin.com combat plagiarism, it helps the writer improve citation skills.

Directions for using turnitin.com are available on MyCR. The class ID# and password will be posted to MyCR before the first essay is due, and these only have to be entered once.

Turnitin.com Fail

1. If the essay is not submitted to turnitin.com PRIOR to submitting your hard copy in class, you will receive zero points for the paper, along with a “Turnitin Fail” cover sheet.
2. You can rectify this problem by submitting your essay to turnitin.com and re-submitting to me your hard-copy essay with the “Turnitin Fail” cover sheet filled out and signed by you. **You only have until the next class meeting to complete these steps. Otherwise your zero grade will be permanent.**
3. Papers that must be re-graded under the above circumstances lose a half grade (5%) as consequence (e.g., a B+ paper becomes a B; a C paper becomes a C-, and so on).
4. Clear as mud? Perhaps the following short video will help clarify (just for fun):

<http://www.xtranormal.com/watch/13636899/english-1a-turnitincom>.

Essay Formatting

All essays, including your draft essays, will be typed according to MLA format (described in your Bedford Handbook, section 54a): 12 pt. font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1-inch margins all around. Double-check for formatting accuracy, as it does count toward your grade.

Quizzes and Assignments

Throughout the quarter there will be short quizzes on information covered in the reading and lectures. Quizzes will most often happen in the first few minutes of class and because the intent of a quiz is to reinforce what we're learning as we go, will typically be open-book. Therefore, be on time and always bring your books and materials to class. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up.**

Other assignments may include work on proper MLA style, grammar and punctuation, and other concerns vital to your development as a competent, college-level reader and writer.

Reading Responses

Throughout the semester, you will be posting to an online blog your responses to assigned reading. For the 8:30 a.m. section, the site is: www.english1afood4thought1.blogspot.com. During week one, you will receive an invitation to the blog **via your MyCR email** that will require your immediate attention in order to participate in the assignment.

After doing the assigned reading—and before coming to the next class session—you will post a comment of 300-350 words, based on a question posed by your instructor. You will also respond to the comments of two of your classmates. Online reading responses are due no later than 11:00 p.m. Sunday (for Tuesday class) and 9:00 p.m. Wednesday (for Thursday class). We will often use reading responses as a springboard for classroom discussion, **so bring a printed hard copy of your response to class.**

Journal Assignments

Setting the mind free to create is an imperative part of the writing process, whether you are writing an academic paper arguing in favor of corporal punishment in the public school, an abstract on 21st century forestry practices, a poem about your grandfather's hands, or a novel about zombies in love.

Your cheapie composition book will serve this semester as a place to limber up your neurons as part of the writing process. At times you will be assigned specific writing prompts; other times you will use your journal for free-writing and brainstorming. **ALWAYS bring your writing journal to class.** At times I will ask you to share specific writing with your classmates (assigned writing tasks only—you will never be asked to share personal journal-writing with classmates), and at intervals you will turn in your journal for grading purposes. Your journal does not have to observe MLA format and your grade is determined by your perceived level of effort and engagement.

*"Of course the writer cannot always burn with a hard gemlike flame
or a white heat, but it should be possible
to be a chubby hot-water bottle,
rendering maximum attentiveness
to the most enterprising sentences."*

--Paul West



Emailing Work

I do not accept work via email, with the following exception: If you have a verifiable emergency on the day an assignment is due, you may email me the assignment **THAT DAY** in order to avoid a penalty for late work. However, you must turn in a hard copy of your assignment at the next class meeting, with a printout of your email attached as a cover page reminder.

Final Examination

There will be a cumulative final exam for this class. Details about what the final entails will be given later in the term. Failure to attend the final will result in the loss of a full letter grade.

*"One does not discover new lands
without consenting to lose sight
of the shore for a very long time."*

--Andre Gide

Attendance Policy:

An addendum to the syllabus with specific attendance policy will be provided in class.

Contacting Me:

A frazzled person once said, "Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part." I will be as responsive to your emails as I can be, and I do try to check for messages several times each day. However, I cannot guarantee that an email sent in extremity will be seen or responded to as quickly as you might hope.

Getting Help:

- My office hours. I am happy to meet with you during my office hours and will do my best to find times that are mutually convenient to meet.
- Enroll in English 152. This is a ½ unit class that gives you access to instructors and peer tutors in the Writing Center. See handout for more details.
- The Academic Support Center offers tutoring services free to students.
- Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact Disabled Student Programs and Services. Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange, so don't delay. Your success in this class my primary concern.

Keeping Up:

English 1A is a rigorous course that acts as foundational preparation for your academic life, across all disciplines. Our focus is analytical reading and writing, and that is where we'll expend our energies, along with our class discussions.

In order to achieve all that we intend this semester, you must make the decision to bring your best effort to your studies. Attempting to skim your reading and slap together your writing at the last minute will equal disaster when grades come out. A pallid effort will produce a pallid result. This is true in life as well as English 1A.

In order to increase your success in English 1A:

- **Come to class.** When you are not here, you cheat yourself and the rest of us. Your contribution to the conversation is vital to our classroom community. Repeated absences are not tolerated (see Attendance Policy addendum).
- **Come prepared.** Skimping on the reading affects your grade, and it puts you in the position of riding the coattails of your fellow students. Don't be that person.
- **Practice time management.** We'll talk more about this in class. By planning ahead, you will be better able to fit your academic obligations in with all the many responsibilities and distractions of life.
- **Communicate:** You may want to make a habit of checking your email right before leaving for class; if I am forced to cancel due to illness or emergency, I'll try to send an email so that you don't have to drive to campus for no reason. If life throws *you* a curve ball that affects your participation—particularly in the case of a genuine emergency—let me know ASAP so that we can determine a plan of action. And finally...
- **Take responsibility.** Should you absolutely have to miss a class, do NOT email your instructor and ask, "Did I miss anything important?" The answer is YES. Do not expect a mini-tutorial on what was covered in your absence. DO contact a fellow student to find out what was covered.

Fellow student contacts:

Name: _____

Contact info: _____

Name: _____

Contact info: _____

"We lift ourselves by our thought, we climb upon our vision of ourselves. If you want to enlarge your life, you must first enlarge your thought of it and of yourself. Hold the ideal of yourself as you long to be, always, everywhere - your ideal of what you long to attain - the ideal of health, efficiency, success."

--Orison Swett Marden (1850 - 1924)

Your Instructor:

We're going to be learning a lot about one another this semester, and I look forward to getting to know each of you. Here's a bit about me:

The road to this classroom has been, in the words of Paul McCartney, long and winding. In my salad days I spent time in communes—Loleta, San Francisco, and San Diego. I was a hotel maid, a bakery counter girl, a nurse's aid at a convalescent hospital. I've supervised a domestic violence safe house, practiced holistic massage therapy, worked in law offices and dental offices. I've been the executive director of an adult literacy program and stood behind the cash register at K-Mart.

When I was nearly 40 years old, I decided I wanted a college education. In 2007, I graduated from College of the Redwoods, received a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship and was accepted to Stanford University. I graduated with distinction and went on to earn my MFA in creative writing from Warren Wilson College.

In addition to teaching, I'm an assistant editor at *Narrative Magazine*, a creative writing coach and editor-for-hire, and a freelance writer.



Attendance:

The official attendance policy of the CR English Department is as follows:

Students at the College are expected to attend all sessions of each class in which they are enrolled. For example, if a class meets twice a week, students should not exceed 4 absences for the semester. If a student exceeds the limit on absences before week 11 of the semester, an instructor will notify the student that he or she has been dropped. After that notification, students are still responsible to go into Web Advisor and withdraw themselves from the class, in order not to receive an F. After week 10, excessive absences will likely result in failure.

Specific policies for our class:

Because we meet twice a week, the attendance policy for our class is as follows:

Students are expected to attend every class session. I recognize that life occasionally interferes with our finest intentions, however. In our class you are allowed **one (1) absence** over the course of the semester and do not have to provide an excuse for that miss.

- **You will still be held fully accountable for any work assigned, any assignments due, or for quizzes given in your absence.**
- **You will not be allowed to make up assignments or quizzes that were due on the day of your absence.**
- **It is still your responsibility to contact another student to catch up on what you missed.**

All other unexcused absences—those which do not constitute a verifiable emergency—will reduce your attendance and participation grade by twenty (20) points per absence. Tardiness—**being more than five minutes late to class**—counts as a ½ absence.

Your fourth absence equals two full weeks of class missed. A fourth absence will generate a formal warning. Upon a fifth absence, the instructor will immediately drop you from the class.

If you are dropped by the instructor, it is your responsibility to drop the class on Web Advisor. Failure to do so will result in an F on your transcript and will negatively affect your GPA.