

Syllabus for: English 1A	
Semester & Year:	Spring 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	English 1A—E1780
Number of Credits/Units:	4.0
Day/Time:	M/W 10:45-12:50
Location:	FM 206
Instructor's Name:	Dr. Sean Herrera-Thomas
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: FM 200C, by apt. Phone: (707) 476-4100 X4987 Email: sean-herrerathomas@redwoods.edu
Course Description: 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: 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.	

Required Texts	Ehrenreich, Barbara. <i>Bright-Sided: How Positive Thinking is Undermining America</i> . Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. <i>They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing</i> (2 nd ed.) Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. <i>The Bedford Handbook</i> (8 th ed.). McMichael, Lonnie. <i>Talking Fat: Health vs. Persuasion in the War on our Bodies</i> .
Required Materials	A notebook for taking notes in class and on your reading assignments A binder to keep all of the course materials in one place.
Turnitin.com	The English Department requires all English 1B students to submit their essays to Turnitin.com, which scans them for previously written or published material. Please note that I will review all apparent cases of academic dishonesty with the student and, if necessary, the appropriate administrative officials. Using another person’s written work or ideas without proper attribution will result in a failing grade on the assignment and, possibly, an F in the course and academic probation.
Participation	Active participation in-class is required throughout the semester. You should come to each class meeting with at least one question or observation about the reading assignments; furthermore, you should be prepared to engage with one another’s ideas about the readings.
Extra Credit	The English Department at College of the Redwoods mandates that no “extra credit” be awarded in English courses. If you are concerned about maximizing your points earned this semester, I heartily encourage you to give your best effort in each assignment and to be willing to revise your essays in response to feedback from your peers and instructor (and tutors in the Writing Center if you are enrolled in English 52). I will allow one revision of each essay to count for up to 85% of the assignment’s point value (in lieu of the points earned on the first submission).
Classroom Conduct	The content of our reading assignments and class discussions will involve a variety of important and compelling personal and social issues that are inherently mature in their subject matter and that resonate deeply with individuals in our class. Please be aware that this course examines adult human experiences through the lens of academic discourse. Also, please remember to treat your classmates and instructor in a courteous, sensitive, and respectful manner. Any student who violates CR’s Code of Student Conduct will be sanctioned in accordance with school guidelines. Please note that “texting” or other inappropriate electronic activities during class will result in your being temporarily suspended from class and referred to campus disciplinary authorities. Please turn off cell phones before entering the class.
Attendance	The English Department Attendance Policy Students at the College are expected to attend all sessions of each class in which they are enrolled. Students may not miss more than two weeks of class. 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.

Class attendance policies

All work is due on the date specified on the syllabus or assignment sheet. If you are absent from class on the due date, late papers will be accepted without penalty only if the absence is excused. Likewise, missed quizzes, tests, and in-class assignments may be made up only if the absence is excused or due to an emergency. Excused absences require written medical, legal, or athletic documentation.

In the event that you do miss class, you are responsible for checking with your classmates to determine what concepts, issues and material I discussed during your absence. Please note that a significant proportion of the course content will only be available in class lectures, presentation and discussions, and that your knowledge of this material will be assessed throughout the semester.

Primary requirements and grade distribution

- Two 1000 word formal essays
- One 2000 word formal essay
- Weekly one to two page journal entries
- Timely completion of reading assignments and exercises
- Active participation in class discussions and activities
- One midterm in-class essay
- One mid-semester writing conference
- One final exam in-class essay
- Work group presentation

I will use this point distribution to calculate your grade:

Essay #1	100 points
Essay #2	100 points
Essay #3	200 points
Weekly journal	120 points
Conference	40 points
Midterm	80 points
Participation	80 points
Final	80 points
Total	800 points

Schedule of activities and assignments		
Date	Complete before class	Class activity/topic
1/14		Introductions, syllabus; workgroups
1/16	Read <i>They Say/I Say</i> , Part 1	MLA; plagiarism; Jane McGonigal TED Talk; why health theme?
Holiday		
1/23	Read <i>They Say/I Say</i> , Parts 2 and 3	Share journal entry in work groups; Question at Issue; Deborah Rhodes TED Talk
1/28	Reading TBA	Intro to semiotics and the rhetoric of health
1/30	Read <i>Talking Fat</i> , pp 11-38	Screen <i>Biggest Loser</i> clip; work group collaboration on “obesity epidemic” sign system; Journal #1 due in class
2/4	Read <i>Talking Fat</i> , pp 39-65	In-class writing on childhood messages about body size; research using CR Library; Essay #1 due in class
2/6	Read <i>Talking Fat</i> , pp 66-98	Journal #2 due in class; ethics and persuasion; work group exercise on building an Internet resource directory about health
2/11	Read <i>Talking Fat</i> , pp. 99-120	
2/13	Finish reading <i>Talking Fat</i>	Journal #3 due in class; Work group discussion of how to integrate McMichael’s book into our own arguments.
Holiday		
2/20	Read MyCR resource #1	Work group exchange of resources; reliability of research; Markham Nolan TED Talk
2/25		Midterm in-class essay examination; writing conferences this week
2/27	Read MyCR resource #2	Journal #4 due in class; writing conferences this week; MLA documentation of new media research
3/4	Read <i>Bright-Sided</i> , Chapter 1	Work group presentation to class about research lists; Essay #2 due in class; Ben Goldacre TED talk
3/6		Journal #5 due in class; screen Eve Ensler TED Talk
Spring Break		
3/18	Read <i>Bright-Sided</i> , Chapter 2 & 3	Essay #3 research proposal due in class; Naomi Klein TED Talk
3/20		Journal #6 due in class
3/25	Read <i>Bright Sided</i> , Chapter 4	
3/27		Journal #7 due in class
4/1	Read <i>Bright-Sided</i> , Chapter 5	Essay #3 annotated bibliography due in class
4/3		Journal # 8 due in class

4/8	Read <i>Bright-Sided</i> , Chapter 6	Essay #3 progress check in workgroups
4/10		Journal #9 due in class
4/15	Read <i>Bright-Sided</i> , Chapter 7	
4/17		Journal #10 due in class
4/22	Read <i>Bright-Sided</i> , Chapter 8	Essay #3 due in class
4/24		Journal #11 due in class
4/29	MyCR reading TBA	
5/1	MyCR reading TBA	Journal #12 due in class
5/8		Final exam, 10:45 – 12:45

Please note that during the course of the term I may revise this schedule and issue addenda to this syllabus if I determine such changes are necessary to optimize your educational experience. Also, as the semester progresses I will include additional class activities and materials that are not yet included on this schedule.