

Syllabus for: English 150: Precollegiate Reading /Writing

Semester & Year:	Spring 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	English 150 #031801
Number of Credits/Units:	3.5
Day/Time:	Monday/Wednesday 11:40-1:05
Location:	FM208
Instructor's Name:	Mary Sue Prangley
Contact Information:	Email: marysue-prangley@redwoods.edu

Course Description:

A course in the development of college-level reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, emphasizing basic argumentation. Students analyze ideas and structure in assigned readings and compose essays supporting arguable thesis statements. The lab component of the course is scheduled in the Writing Center, where students receive individualized instruction in critical reading, in the conventions of standard written English, and in all stages of the writing process.

Student Learning Outcome :

1. Develop an effective, thesis-driven argument appropriate to an academic audience.
2. Critically read and respond to argumentative texts.
3. In a multi-stage process, incorporate feedback (from instructors and peers) in essay planning and drafting.
4. Apply basic grammar and punctuation rules, particularly those that address sentence boundaries.

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.

English 150: Precollegiate Reading/Writing

Classroom: FM208
MW 11:40-1:05 (#031801)

Instructor: *Mary Sue Prangley*

E-Mail: *marysue-prangley@redwoods.edu*

Office: FM200C

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:15-2:15 & by appointment

Required Texts & Materials:

- *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer
- *The Least You Should Know about English* (Wilson/Glazier)
- Class Packet (for sale in the CR Bookstore)
- Regular access to a computer and the Internet
- An email account (that you check daily)
- Plenty of writing utensils (pens/pencils) and an ample supply of lined 8 ½ x 11 paper (expect to need writing materials *every* class)
- 3 blue books (exam booklets)
- 3 pocket folders
- A flash drive or some other means of backing-up your work

Course Overview:

• **Course Description/Goals:** Welcome to English 150! This course will require much from you, yet it offers much in return. English 150 is a rigorous, comprehensive course designed to develop your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. You'll be doing an extensive amount of reading, writing, and discussing for this class. The potential benefits, though, are worth your efforts. Engaging in activities such as reading and analyzing complex texts, developing written analytical arguments—as well as participating in intellectual class discussions and peer group activities—sharpens the critical thinking skills that will serve you well both in college and in your life beyond the classroom. The primary goals of this course are to help you in developing writing, reading, and critical thinking skills, as well as prepare you for English 1A. In order to do this, we will concentrate on reviewing grammar, doing practice exercises in our text, writing essays, and learning how to develop an argument.

Course Requirements:

- ❖ **Major Papers:** You will write three major essays for this class. MLA formatting and documentation are required for all essays. At least two of these papers will require research in the library and on the internet. All essays are to be typed using a standard 12-point font and double-spaced. I accept hard copies only. You may e-mail me a copy of an assignment if you're absent on the day it's due (to show you've completed it), but you will not receive credit for it until you've turned in a hard copy version when you come back to class. (See Deadline & Make-up Policy section for more details.)

You will need to maintain a working portfolio (in a pocket folder) for each major essay. The working portfolio is comprised of *all* writing pertaining to this paper, including a final, polished draft, all notes, prewriting, earlier drafts, peer feedback, conference notes, & so forth. In other words, *save everything*. In order to receive full credit for a major essay, you must submit it on the due date in a working portfolio containing all the required documents. **Note: I do not accept essays without a working portfolio.**

- ❖ **www.turnitin.com:** In addition to the stapled, hard copies of each of your essays that you submit, you will also submit electronically each of your essays to www.turnitin.com via MyCR. At the end of the semester, the recorded grades for any essays that have not been submitted to turnitin.com will be deleted from the gradebook and you will receive a "zero" for the essay.

- ❖ **Grammar: 4 Unit Tests**

- ❖ **2 Practice Competency Exams**

- ❖ **Competency Exam**

- ❖ **Writing Center Attendance (22.5 hrs.)**

- ❖ **Engaged Participation in Class Activities, Peer Groups Exercises, and Whole Class Discussions:** (see Attendance & Participation section for more details)

- ❖ **Regular Class Attendance:** (see Attendance & Participation section for details)

- ❖ **Formatting Assignments:** All writing (other than in-class) must be typed using a standard 12-point font and double-spaced, the pages formatted with one inch margins. Staple pages together.

- ❖ **Deadline & Make-Up Policies:** I do not accept late work. All assignments must be turned in on the date they are due to receive credit. As noted in other sections, though, if you are absent, you may email me a copy of your homework by 5:30 pm on the day it is due (**followed by a hard copy turned in to me when you return to class**) to receive credit.

Writing Center: Complete the assigned exercises in *The Least You Should Know about English* BEFORE the grammar Unit Tests. Get help from writing instructors in the WC with any concepts you do not understand. Taking the grammar test without doing the homework is self-defeating. The completed exercises and score sheet are due at the beginning of class on the day of the test. Please put the score sheet inside your book (make sure your name is on it). I will assign credit for completed exercises while you take your test. The homework counts as part of your grammar grade. Complete your hours in the Writing Center weekly. If you get behind in your hours, it means extra time in the WC in subsequent weeks. Eventually, students reach the point where it is impossible to make up all the hours. Remember the Writing Center is all or nothing, pass or fail. 22.5 hours plus 3 writing conference must be completed in order to get credit. The Writing Center component is worth 10% of your grade—this can make a significant difference to your final outcome.

Grading: In class essays and formal essays will be graded according to the Rubric For English 150 Essays (see class packet). Record your grades on the Student Grade Sheet provided for you. Keep track of your progress. The instructor uses letter grades and grade points for all assignments:

A = 4.0 B+ = 3.3 C+ = 2.3 D = 1 F = 0
 A- = 3.7 B = 3.0 C = 2.0
 B- = 2.7 C- = 1.7

Grading Criteria

Writing

Tattoo Paragraph	_____	5%
Argument #1	_____	10%
Argument #2	_____	10%
Argument #3 (<i>Into The Wild</i>)	_____	10%
2 practice competency exams _____	_____	5%
(highest grade)		
Competency Exam	_____	20%
Grammar	_____	10%

Hmk #1 #2 #3 #4

LE 2__3__ 4__ 5__ 6__ 7__ 8__ 9__ 10__11__ 12__

Critical Thinking & Reading

Reading Workshops	_____	5%
<u> </u>		
#1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9		
<u> </u>		
IQ IQ IQ _____ CC CC CC _____	_____	10%
Reading Final Exam	_____	5%
WRITING CENTER ATTENDANCE (22.5 hours)	_____	10%
TOTAL	_____	100%

Attendance and Participation Policies:

Since much of this class revolves around our discussions, you will need to be in class every day, on time, and prepared to engage in the day's activities. Please note that I will be taking attendance (in one form or another) *every* class period. I will also be keeping track of individual participation in group discussions and activities. (Daily attendance scores are influenced by the level of participation in class.) Being late to class also affects your grade.

It is imperative that you come to class on time and prepared to actively participate. Lateness, lack of preparation, and inattentiveness will not only affect *your* ability to succeed in this course, it will also have an effect on the functioning of the class *as a whole*. Please keep this in mind.

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.

So what does this mean for our class? Since this English 150 class meets *two* times a week, students should not exceed *four* absences for the semester.

Additional note: I recognize that life sometimes intervenes in our good intentions to attend class. With this in mind, I have set up my scoring system so that it's possible to absorb up to two absences over the course of the semester without doing undo harm to your grade (as long as you've been diligent about keeping up with all assignments and actively participating in class). It's your responsibility, though, to make arrangements to get your homework to me—either beforehand if you know you'll be absent or emailed to me by 11:40 am on the day it's due (followed by a hardcopy delivered to me when you return to class). (It's also important that you make arrangements for a classmate to take notes and keep track of assignments on the day you miss.)

But if you accumulate more than three unexcused absences, the participation portion of your grade will be dropped one full grade. And with the fifth absence, you will be dropped from the course, and you need to initiate an official withdrawal (to protect your transcript). **Please do not let it get to this point.** It is important that you make *every* effort to attend *every* class session so that when missing class is unavoidable (due to illness or emergency) you won't have the added stress of worries over jeopardizing your grade or being dropped from the class.

Before Census (Week 3): Be aware that if you've missed multiple classes and/or have not been turning in work, your name may be cleared from the class roster following Friday of Week 3 (Census Week). If you're in this boat and haven't talked to me yet about your situation, you should do so as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Plagiarism is a serious offence which can result in failing English 1A. We will be discussing in class about acceptable ways of including the words of others in your writing, but if you ever have any questions about whether or not you may be plagiarizing something in your writing, please come see me *before* you turn in your paper, so we can avoid any potential misunderstandings about what your intentions may have been.

Academic Misconduct: 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>

Special Accommodations:

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. **Please see me as soon as possible if you would like help arranging accommodations. Your success in this class is my main consideration. I will be pleased to help in whatever way I can.**

The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or revise sections of this course or syllabus. Changes will be announced in class.