

Syllabus for: English 150-Precollegiate Reading and Writing	
Semester & Year:	Spring 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	E150-E3269
Number of Credits/Units:	3.5
Day/Time:	Monday/Wednesday 11:40-1:05pm
Location:	FM209
Instructor's Name:	Robyn Roberson
Contact Information:	Email: robyn-roberson@redwoods.edu
<p>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. 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.</p>	
<p>Student Learning Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Additional information about the rights and responsibilities of students, Board policies, and administrative procedures is located in the college catalog and on the College of the Redwoods homepage.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

Class Policies

The English Department Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory. Since regular attendance is a critical factor in student success, students at the College of the Redwoods are expected to attend all sessions of each class in which they are enrolled. Census is 1/28/2013. If you are not actively participating (attending both class and the writing center, turning in assignments) in the class as of that date, you will be dropped. If you are still enrolled after the census, you must continue to attend regularly. Students may not miss more than two weeks of class. For instance, our class meets two days a week; therefore, any more than four absences for the semester would be considered "excessive." 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. The last date to withdraw from a class is 3/29/13. Also please note, English 150 may only be repeated 3 times. Both failure and withdrawal count as attempts. If you are not here, you cannot learn. If you are absent, you are still responsible for all work that is assigned (check the syllabus).

Punctuality

Class sessions are 85 minutes short, making it particularly important that you arrive on time or early for class. Arriving late is not only rude and unprofessional, but disrupts activities and group exercises. Arriving late and/or leaving early **three** times will count as one absence.

Make-up work and exams: It is your responsibility to contact me and arrange for a make-up test. All make-up tests must be completed within one week. If you miss more than 2 exams, no other make-ups will be given without a legal or medical documented excuse. Student-athletes must provide an official schedule of away games if they wish to claim an excused absence. If you do not take a make-up test that I have arranged for you, I will not offer you another.

Late Work: There is a one-week grace period, after that you will need to negotiate with the instructor and a penalty may apply. I reserve the right to declare that an assignment has passed its usefulness.

Academic Decorum: No eating in class. Turn off and put away your cell phones. Do not answer your phone or text in class. Do not leave class in order to answer your phone or text. This is inappropriate behavior. Using or accessing a cell phone during an exam will cause you to receive a zero for that exam. Student Conduct: 8. *Unauthorized use of cell phones, pagers, and other communication devices in all instructional areas and Library, including all labs and classrooms during instructional sessions* (2009-20210 Catalogue, page 133). After a verbal or written notice and giving the student an opportunity to respond, any faculty member may, for good cause, order a student removed from his or her class for the day of the removal and the next class meeting (Education Code 76032). Digital devices of any and all kinds are not permitted. Any type of disruption of the class and the learning process is not permitted.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to observe the school policy on cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of claiming another writer's work or ideas as your own. Whenever you borrow an idea or a sentence from someone else, you must acknowledge the source. Not properly acknowledging a source is a serious breach of academic conduct. Any student who submits as his or her own work the words or ideas of another writer will fail the assignment and possibly the course. Students are responsible for uploading the three formal essays to Turnitin.com—you can do this in the Writing Center or anywhere you have access to the Internet.

NOTE: The syllabus is a contract between instructor and student. If you choose to remain in this class, you are agreeing to abide by the class policies as outlined above.

Required Texts & Materials:

- Customized *The Least You Should Know About English (custom edition)*, Wilson & Glazier
- English 150 Course Packet (located in bookstore)
- A good (at least 60,000 words) paperback dictionary
- Three exam bluebooks
- Letter sized manila folders for essay submissions
- One loose leafed notebook with dividers
- Blank paper for keeping notes
- Regular access to a computer and the rudimentary knowledge of how to use it
- Pen, pencil, and high-liter
- Means of back-up: magic stick, CD, etc.

Homework

You should expect to work two hours outside of class for every one hour of class time in each lower division, general education course. In other words, you will need to devote at least an average of six hours per week to this course outside of the classroom to perform satisfactorily at the "C" level. Those desiring a higher grade should expect to spend more time, of course. **No** extra credit assignments are given for this class.

Grade Assessment

40% Formal Writing (three essays plus in-class essays & participation in group responses)

20% In-class Competency Exam (end-of-term)

20% Reading, Informal Writing & Participation

10% Grammar Exams & Homework

10% Writing Center

Description of Assessment Categories

Formal Writing (40%)

Essays -- Over the course of the semester, you will complete three out-of-class formal essays of 750-1000 words. All essays will go through a process of drafting and revision as they are self-evaluated and evaluated by peers, Writing Center tutors and instructors, and Robyn. All essays must be uploaded to Turnitin.com—you can do this in the Writing Center or anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Revisions -- You are entitled to revise the first three papers this semester. In order to do a revision, however, you must attend a tutor conference and turn in all your original work, your tutor slip, and your revision. You have **one** week to complete a revision. Please keep all your work in case I forget to record your grade.

Late Work/Freebies -- Final drafts are due at the beginning of class on the due date on your syllabus. You are allowed one late final draft for this course (there is a late paper coupon in the packet), but this may only be used on the first two papers. The freebie is good to turn in a paper one week late (7 days). As for excuses beyond the freebie date, unless it's an emergency, remember that I've heard better than you can imagine:

salmonella, assault with a deadly weapon, dead car battery, etc. I do not accept late papers: these will be given an F.

Draft Workshops -- These are required. In order to make sure you understand how important these are, first drafts are worth 25 percent 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.* Absences are not acceptable on Draft Workshop days unless it is an emergency and you have a written note from a doctor. It is not acceptable to bring handwritten drafts to workshops, and these will not be given credit

In-class competency exam (20%)

Two weeks before finals you'll receive two written prompts to read and think about for one week. Then in the week before finals, you'll write an argument response to one of these topics during the 1 1/2 hour class session. This essay will be worth 20 percent of your overall grade. We'll do two practice competency exams in advance of the real one, so you have a good idea both how to write this essay, as well as areas you need to improve upon. All competency exams (practice and real) will be written in blue books.

Reading, Informal Writing & Participation (20%)

Assignments and Quizzes -- You will respond to class reading assignments in two ways: 1) typed responses and 2) in-class quizzes or written responses. The format and manner in which assignments must be submitted will be explained at the time they are given. Typed responses must be physically turned in during class and must be completed before the class during which they are due. Annotate all readings carefully so that you will have the information you need for participating in reading workshops, discussions, and analyzing the arguments in the various readings.

Grammar Exams & Homework (10%)

You will be given four unit tests based on the material in *The Least You Should Know About English*. Completion of assigned exercises and Unit Tests comprise this portion of your grade. Some portion of the class will refer to specific areas of concern; it is up to you to ask questions. Utilize the Writing Center when working on exercises.

Writing Center (10%)

For English 150, the minimum requirement to attend the Writing Center is **22.5** hours. The Writing Center is open for 16 weeks which means students should attend an average

of 1.5 hours per week. And English 150 students must meet with a tutor or an instructor at least five times during the course of the semester - one each for formal essays and one each for the practice competency exam essays. You **do not** receive any points for WC attendance unless you attend for the **full 22.5**.

An Invitation

Writing is a process, constantly changing and evolving, as is your education. For one to succeed, it is important for you to think carefully about your education and become more reflective about it. I feel that the best way to become involved in this process is to get to know your teachers and to work with your colleagues. Please, don't fall behind. If you fear this may be happening, contact me. Don't wait until it is too late. Figure out a schedule (say 2-3 hours a day for six days) and stick to it. The last day to drop this class is **March 29, 2013**. If you do not have a C (700pts = 70%) by this time, I will urge you to drop this course. You will be required to keep track of all points accrued during this course on a scoring grid given to you in the second week of classes. This is an intense and very involved class that requires a lot of discipline from you. If you ask me, I will offer plenty of extra help. I look forward to getting to know each of you better and to seeing all of you succeed! Welcome and good luck!

Final Note

This syllabus may be subject to change during the course of the semester.