

Syllabus for: Precollegiate Reading and Writing	
Semester & Year:	Fall 2013
Course ID and Section Number:	English 150: E4048
Number of Credits/Units:	3
Day/Time:	Tuesday, Thursday 08:30AM - 09:55AM
Location:	Humanities Bldg, Room HU114
Instructor's Name:	David Holper
Contact Information:	Office location and hours: Hum. 1081, Phone: 476-4370 Email: david-holper@redwoods.edu
Course Description (catalog description as described in course outline): 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 Outcomes (as described in course outline) :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 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:

Dave Holper: Office #: 707-476-4370

Email: david-holper@redwoods.edu

Web: http://www.redwoods.edu/departments/english/instructors/Holper/English150/english_150.htm

Office Hours (Humanities 1081):

Writing Center Hours:

College of the Redwoods

SYLLABUS

"Outside of a dog a book is a man's best friend. Inside, it's too dark to read." Groucho Marx

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

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Develop an effective, thesis-driven argument appropriate to an academic audience.
 2. Critically read and respond to argumentative texts.
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REQUIRED TEXTS/, MATERIALS:

- 1) Three-ring binder for handouts, with binder paper (for writing and notes)
- 2) *Waiting for the Barbarians* by J.M. Coetzee
- 3) *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers
- 4) Pen, pencil, and hi-liter.
- 5) Means of back-up: flash drive & email

Triad:

Name: _____ Contact info: _____
Name: _____ Contact info: _____

Welcome to English 150! I'm excited to be your teacher, and I hope that each of us will enjoy and learn a great deal during this semester. This will be an intensive course because I will ask a lot of each one of you, but in return, I hope you will find this to be one of your most memorable writing classes. 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, college writing. 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. Beyond that--and perhaps more importantly--I want you to learn to write more powerfully, passionately, and naturally.

Your Instructor: Dave has done a little of everything, including taxi driver, fire fighter, cook, soldier, house painter, and teacher. He earned his BA in English at Humboldt State University way back in 1983, where he also studied journalism. After his graduation, he served for four years in the Army Military Intelligence Corps and then went on to take a Masters of Fine Arts in English at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he wrote a book of short stories. He has since taught at Christian Brothers High School, Jesuit High School, Yuba College, Solano College, and Sacramento City College. Currently he lives in Eureka with his wife and three children.

My Office: My office is in Humanities 1081. Please knock before entering. (Don't arm wrestle with a rattlesnake!)

My Mailbox: TBA

Course Calendar: You'll find this posted weekly (on Friday afternoons) on the class website, which you can easily find by googling "Holper." This course does not use MyCR. You should print the calendar page(s) each week, three hole punch it/them, and have it at the front of your binder with your class booklet. By keeping organized in this way, you'll have a much better idea what's happening at each class.

Emergency Response: in the event of an earthquake, we will wait in the classroom (duck and cover under desks) until the shaking has stopped. Then if it's clear that the deck is sound, we will exit in an orderly way to the quad. We will not go down to the parking lot until it has been determined that there is no tsunami risk. Cell phone use is fine, but keep in mind that cell phone circuits often overload in an emergency.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Journals: After your readings, I will ask you to answer reading questions and write response journals to these readings. You'll find the journal topics posted on the website. Some of these journals will be written in class (in a timed format), and some will be written for homework. They are due in class.

Required Essay Writing: three out-of-class, formal essays of 750-1000 words. Each essay must include a prewrite and at least two drafts (the later of which must be tutored). You must keep a copy of the paper for yourself. Please save all work that goes into papers!

Capstone Essay: after we've completed our three essays, you may choose one of these essays for a substantive revision which will be your capstone essay. In this revision, you'll want to include stronger evidence (paraphrase, summary, quotation); a description of what your opponent is arguing and a rebuttal to that argument; stronger organization, sentence variety, and word choice; and the correction of any remaining errors. Since this work will represent your strongest work for the semester, it should demonstrate your readiness for English 1A. This revision will count for 20% of your course grade.

Tutoring: On all three of the out-of-class essays you do, you must have an instructor/tutor conference (in the Writing Center or with me in my office). Please note: if you use the Light Center or the LAC tutoring staff, this is also okay, as long as the tutoring form is filled out and signed. After our draft workshop, you must then revise the essay and bring the assignment, the first draft, the revised draft, and the tutor form to the Writing Center for your conference. You'll need to make sure the tutor form is completed before going, as you want to assist the tutor in knowing what you want help with. There are tutor conference forms in your class packet, and you will need to have yours filled out by the tutor and then turn it in to me with the essay packet.

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 final draft paper one week late; that's seven days. As for excuses beyond the freebie date, unless it's an emergency, remember that I've heard better than you can imagine: quarantined for chicken pox, assault with a deadly weapon, AIDS test, etc. Papers that go beyond the due date lose a letter grade a day.

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. No exceptions lounge lizards!

Papers: All papers (and all drafts) will be typed. Typing directions for MLA (Modern Language Association) format are included just behind the paper #1 assignment in the class booklet.

Revisions: You are entitled to revise any of your paper this semester for a higher grade. (This revision can count both toward the individual paper grade and may be used as your capstone essay. 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. Revisions should be completed within one week of the instructor handing the work back to you.

Plagiarism: If you blatantly plagiarize a paper, and I catch you, you will automatically fail the course. Inadvertent plagiarism will result in lower grades, but you will not fail the course, although you probably will not do as well on the paper.

Turnitin.com: On all the out-of-class papers that we do, you'll be responsible to turn in your paper to the turnitin.com website, which helps all of us in insuring that all work done is original. This must be done before the paper is turned in to me; otherwise, you will receive zero points for the paper (until you do turn it in to turnitin.com). Then you'll need to return the graded paper to me (with the signed, attached cover sheet that says it's now turned in to turnitin.com). For your tardiness, you will receive half a grade off the final grade of the paper; however, if you revise the paper, you may void the penalty, as long as the paper is turned into turnitin.com when it's returned for a new grade. Directions for how to use turnitin.com can be found on the class website, along with a link that will take you to turnitin.com. The class ID# and password will be posted on our website for the first paper. (Once you've inputted the class ID# and password, you don't need to do it again.)

Attendance: 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 four absences for the semester. If a student misses a fifth class and 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 week 10, excessive absences will likely result in failure.

In addition, I strongly discourage your coming more than 10 minutes late or leaving more than 10 minutes without first clearing it with me. Such practices are disruptive for you and everyone else. If you do come late or leave early (more than 10 minutes) or unprepared that will count as ½ an absence. If you miss a class, please remember, it is your responsibility to find out from another student what you missed by calling someone on the phone list.

Before Census (Week 3): Be aware that if you've missed two classes and have not turned in work, your name will be cleared from the class roster following in Week 3 (Census Week). If you're in this boat and haven't talked to Dave yet about your situation, you should do so as soon as possible. It's fairly easy to be reinstated if you're accidentally dropped, but it's easier still to avoid being dropped in the first place.

Classroom Rules:

- 1) Don't get up and go to the bathroom in the middle of the class, unless it is absolutely necessary.
- 2) Don't eat in class unless you're a diabetic, and you've indicated that to me.
- 3) Don't crinkle up paper when the writing isn't going well.
- 4) Don't come strolling in late or leave early; don't schedule appointments during class sessions.
- 5) Don't tell me you don't know what's going on in class when the syllabus calendar is already posted with the details of what we've done or what we're going to do.
- 6) Don't ask me for information that is available by reading the syllabus.

Your Portfolio: Please save all your work this semester so that you can verify your improvement and so that you're covered in case I accidentally do not record the grade.

Grading/Points:

Rough total (please note that this varies from semester to semester):

1) Three papers (50, 100, 200)	
(along with planning worksheets, intro paragraphs, etc.)	40%
2) Reading responses	20%
3) Capstone essay	20%
4) Grammar	10%
5) Writing Center	10%

Note: Dave does not grade on a curve; he uses straight point tallies with 90 percent and above as a A, 80 to 89 percent as a B; 70-79 percent as a C; 60-69.5 percent as a D; work below this is usually so late or so poorly composed that is an obviously an F.

Writing Center: It's very important to understand that you must complete two things to receive the 10% of your grade for the Writing Center: 1) You must complete 22.5 hours in the Writing Center; 2) You must complete three tutor conferences on your out-of-class papers. That's one tutor conference on each paper. Should you not complete both parts of the requirement, you will lose the full 10%, which could cause you to fail.

Note: This syllabus may be modified during the course of the semester, as needed. If there are corrections or additions, these will be posted on the syllabus calendar, which can be found on the course website.