

Course Information

Semester & Year: Fall 2019
Course ID & Section #: ENGL-1A-E9287
Instructor's name: Cat Boers
Day/Time: T/Th 8:00-10:05 a.m.
Location: HU 106
Number of units: 4

Instructor Contact Information

Office location: N/A
Office hours: TBA
Phone number: N/A
Email address: Catherine-boers@redwoods.edu

Required Materials

Textbook Title: N/A
Edition:
Author:
ISBN:
Other requirements: materials, equipment or technology skills

Catalog Description

This is an introductory course that offers instruction in argumentative and expository writing, appropriate and effective use of language, close reading, cogent thinking, research strategies, information literacy, and documentation.

Course Student Learning Outcomes *(from course outline of record)*

1. You will be able to demonstrate the capacity to read, analyze, and evaluate non-fiction texts in support of academic inquiry and argumentation.
2. You will be able to utilize flexible strategies for writing expository and argumentative college-level essays.
3. You will be able to incorporate primary and secondary sources into essays using appropriate documentation format.

Evaluation & Grading Policy

Attendance

In order to fulfill the grading contract for a course grade of "B" (see "Grading Policy" below), you must attend and fully participate in at least 85% of our scheduled class sessions. For this course, this means that you may miss 6 class sessions without repercussion. Please note that I do not distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. You are allotted 6 no-questions-asked absences for the semester; additional absences will result in contracting for a lower course grade (see "Grading Policy" below). That said, an email offering me advance notice of your absence in class is appreciated. Emails sent after a missed class asking what you missed, if you missed anything important, etc. will be ignored. All necessary information will be available on Canvas or from your peers.

Grading Policy

What do grades tell us about the quality of writing? Reflecting upon your own experiences in previous writing classes, or classes that required you to produce polished writing, you may identify that grades more often than not fail to assess the amount of labor that went into producing a piece of writing, and instead reinforce a particular standard for “good” writing. This course operates from a different philosophy, namely that if you are consistently putting in the effort to produce the best work you can, and to really engage with the process of improvement, you deserve to be recognized for that effort. This class, therefore, does not assign grades based on a subjective assessment of quality, but operates from a grading contract. The purpose of this grading contract is to allow you to focus on developing your writing, experimenting with genre and rhetorical choices, and applying feedback from your peers and instructor, without worrying about whether or not that development “looks” a certain way.

In short: A “B” is the default grade for this course. If you do the work outlined under “Course Requirements” and attend at least 85% of our scheduled class sessions (see “Attendance” above), you will receive a course grade of “B.”

Missed/ignored work, or work that does not fulfill our agreed-upon requirements, as well as more than 6 absences, will result in a grade lower than “B.”

An “A” grading contract depends on completing advanced projects for both the Discourse Community Analysis and Rhetorical Accommodation papers. This means, essentially, creating projects that are more in-depth in their handling of your chosen subject matter (this will be described further in the assignment sheets for both projects). A course grade of “A” also requires that you regularly read and respond to at least three peers’ weekly meditations (rather than the two required for a “B”).

Late Work Policy

It is important to understand that turning in late work compromises your learning and may impact your grade. Writers improve by writing, receiving timely feedback, and revising. Late work interrupts that process by delaying feedback from me and your peers, and by compressing your time between writing. When I design the course syllabus, I build in time for your peers and myself to read and respond to your writing, but late work disrupts this schedule.

Here is my policy: I distinguish in this course between late, missed, and ignored assignments. Depending on what we agree to in the first week of classes (see “Break-Down of Course Grades” below), you may submit a late assignment or two. Assignments are considered “late” when they are submitted within two days (48 hours) of the initial due date. These assignments must still be complete and meet all of the agreed-upon requirements. Missed assignments are those that are turned in after this 48-hour period, but which still fulfill the requirements of the assignment sheet. In order to meet the grading contract for a “B,” you cannot have any missed assignments. Ignored assignments are those which are not turned in for any reason. If any major assignment is ignored, you will receive an automatic course grade of “F.”

Special accommodations statement

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 accommodations, please see me or contact Disability Services and Programs for Students. Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

Student Accessibility Statement and Academic Support Information

Student Access These standards are required by federal regulation. Students will have access to this course that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Course materials will include a text equivalent for all non-text elements; videos will include closed captioning, images will include alt-tags, hyperlinks will use descriptive/meaningful phrases instead of URLs and audio files will include transcripts. All text will be formatted for use with screen readers and all course materials will be understandable without the use of color.

Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.

The following online resources are available to support your success as a student:

- CR-Online (Comprehensive information for online students)
- Library Articles & Databases
- Canvas help and tutorials
- Online Student Handbook

Counseling and Advising offers academic support and includes academic advising and educational planning

Learning Resource Center includes the following resources for students

- Academic Support Center for instructional support, tutoring, learning resources, and proctored exams.
- Library Services to promote information literacy and provide organized information resources.
- Multicultural & Diversity Center [waiting for hyperlink and Mission]
- Math Lab & Drop-in Writing Center

Special programs are also available for eligible students include

- Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) provides financial assistance, support and encouragement for eligible income disadvantaged students at all CR locations.
- The TRiO Student Success Program provides eligible students with a variety of services including trips to 4-year universities, career assessments, and peer mentoring. Students can apply for the program in Eureka or in Del Norte
- The Veteran's Resource Center supports and facilitates academic success for Active Duty Military, Veterans and Dependents attending CR through relational advising, mentorship, transitional assistance, and coordination of military and Veteran-specific resources.
- Klamath-Trinity students can contact the CR KT Office for specific information about student support services at 530-625-4821
- The Honors Program helps students succeed in transferring to a competitive four-year school.