ENGLISH 1 - READING AND COMPOSITION I 
SPRING 2009

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Recommended Texts: Unabridged dictionary and thesaurus.

Course Description: English 1 is intended to be an introduction to academic discourse. The class is designed to provide students an opportunity to develop and strengthen the critical reading, writing, and thinking skills necessary for college. These skills will be used in evaluating and analyzing texts, discussing and developing ideas, and writing informal and short writing assignments, as well as formal college essays. Through your participation in the class, you will become familiar with the strategies of academic discourse and more confident in your ability to use these strategies.

Prerequisites for this course are English or ESL 21A/B, English 22, a passing score on the English Placement Test at Santa Monica College or at another California university or community college, or 4 or 5 on the College Board AP English Examination. Successful completion of this course prepares you for the next courses in composition and literature. This course carries 3 units.

Course Requirements: In addition to writing five formal essays, including a research paper, you are required to participate in peer editing of working drafts and collaborative group assignments, complete all assigned readings, take quizzes, complete in-class writing assignments, write formal in-class essays, perform library research, contribute to class and group discussions, and meet with me as needed during the semester. You will have the opportunity to rewrite two of the first three essays for a revised grade, and you must revise the research paper for your final essay grade.

In addition to the essays, frequent informal writing assignments will be given, which may include journal writing, letters, sketches, free writing, and responses to the reading assignments. These frequent short exercises are designed to provide you additional opportunities to practice thinking and writing critically. You are given credit ranging from 0-3 points per assignment for the completion of these writing assignments, as well as quizzes and in-class peer-editing, as part of your participation grade.
Grading:

Essay 1- 3-5 pg. Essay – #1 10%
Essay 2- 3-5 pg. Essay – #2 10%
Essay 3- 4-5 pg. Essay – #3 10%

Research Paper:
Research Paper Project assignments 10%
5-7 pg. Research Paper 1st Final Draft 10%
Final Research Paper/Portfolio 20%

Research Paper Total 40%

Mid-term: In-class essay 10%
Final Exam 10%
Class participation, including attendance, in-class writing, quizzes, homework 10%

100%

Class Policies: Class attendance and punctuality are required, particularly since participation and in-class work, which can not be made up, are a part of the final grade. **Only two absences** in the course of the semester are allowable, and absences beyond that will lower your grade accordingly. **More than three absences may result in failure or being dropped from the course. Please advise me in advance, but certainly as soon as possible, if you are absent for extended time due to extraordinary circumstances.

If absent, you are still responsible for assignments due and for course information covered during that time. Access my SMC website, email me, or contact a classmate for information and assignments.

Working drafts and informal writing assignments must be readable and reasonably complete. All final drafts must be typed and formatted in accordance with the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. **All assignments must be completed by the due date and are due at the beginning of class. No papers accepted via email or fax. Late papers can be delivered to my mailbox and will be penalized one grade point per late day including weekends and will not be accepted if more than one week late. Failure to hand in any essay, as is excessive absence from class, is sufficient grounds to be dropped from the class or for failing the course.**

Exceptions to these policies will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the instructor and must be requested in advance of deadlines.

Plagiarism: All secondary sources must be documented in accordance with MLA guidelines. Plagiarism, defined as using another person's language, thoughts, or ideas and passing them off as your own, is a serious offense. It will be dealt with severely. If you use someone else's work without quoting or citing completely, you have committed plagiarism and will be held accountable in accordance with the policy.

Helpful Hints: Many students find college writing a demanding as well as rewarding experience. To do well in this course, begin your assignments well in advance, keep up with all reading and writing assignments, attend every class meeting, see me whenever you have questions or are having difficulties, and utilize the English/Humanities Tutoring Center in DH 313 for additional help. **If you require accommodations and/or support services due to a disability, see me at the beginning of the semester. Contact Disabled Student Center: 434-4265 or Learning Disabilities Office: 434-4684.**