

English 1A: Composition and Reading Online Spring 2006

“Curiosity has its own reason for existence. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” --
Albert Einstein

- Instructor: Libra Howard
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- Email: librahoward@westhillscollge.com or librahoward@sbcglobal.net
- Office Hours/Locations

First nine weeks of class:

MTW 9-10:30 AM online via email; Tuesday 6:30-7:00 PM (Lemoore Room 236)

Second nine weeks of class:

MT 9-10:45 AM online via email; Monday 6:30-7:00 PM (Lemoore Room 234),
Tuesday 6:30-7:00 PM (Lemoore Room 236), Wednesday 6:30-7:00 PM
(Lemoore Room 234)

Requirements:

The Norton Reader, 11th Edition
The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien
A Writer’s Reference by Diana Hacker

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to help students improve their writing, reading, and research abilities. The course involves the writing process—everything from generating ideas to revising them again and again—and requires an incredible amount of thought, time, and interest. While writing is crucial to this course, reading is just as important. Students will utilize both writing and reading to critically analyze personal writing as well as the work of others. Through all of these elements—reading, writing, analyzing, and researching—students will increase their vocabularies, develop personal writing styles, and further understand the power of communication needed for transfer-level English.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Given assigned readings from a variety of discourse styles, student will be able to provide timed, written analysis of authors’ content and style.

Given the completed outline and annotated bibliography, student will compose a formal expository MLA-style research paper that shows an understanding of the writing process and is technically correct and demonstrates higher level critical thinking skills.

Given an assigned reading on a topic, student will compose essays that will demonstrate rhetorical patterns such as narration, description, and exposition which reflect an understanding of the writing process.

Assignments:

This course is not self-paced. Please pay close attention to due dates. I advise you to complete your work with time to spare. Procrastination creates complications and, often times, leads toward failure. Students are required to post weekly comments, interact with fellow students, abide by paper deadlines, and participate in the course’s other assignments.

Reading assignments will include The Things They Carried, selections from The Norton Reader, pieces from the handbook, articles, and other outside materials. There will be eight essays composed (including an 8-10 page argumentative research paper). **You're required to turn in rough drafts with each final paper (unless otherwise directed in situations such as timed writings).** I will not grade any essays that do not include rough drafts or essays that fail to meet the length requirement. You will receive 0 points if you don't follow these mandatory elements. It is important that you view your progress from the beginning to the end of your writing process. The papers need to be complete and thorough in their revision. Besides the writing and reading, there may also be grammar exercises, quizzes, responses/postings, workshops, group assignments, and homework.

Please note: Topics covered in the novel and other readings are often adult in content. If this is problematic for you, you may want to consider dropping this course.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Plagiarism/cheating will result in failure and may also cause you to be removed from the college. Please do your own work.

Additional Responsibilities/Requirements:

- Use your West Hills' email account
- Be aware of incompatibility issues between AOL and Blackboard
- It is your responsibility to make sure your system's hardware, and software, meet minimum standards and compatibility requirements for this course
- Contact the help-desk if you have technology issues/questions
- Be positive and challenge yourself
- Ask questions
- Demonstrate mutual respect. Any disturbances, inappropriate criticisms, or unsuitable use of communication will not be tolerated. You will be asked to withdraw from the class if any of these occur.

Grading:

Personal Essay	100
Summary and Response Essay (timed)	100
Description Essay	100
Analysis Essay (timed)	100
Comparison/Contrast Essay	100
Summary and Response Essay (timed)	100
Definition Essay	100
Research Paper (Argument)	200
Final Exam	200
Quizzes/Exercises (as needed)	100
Homework/Responses/Discussion Board	<u>100</u>

1300 points total (this may vary according to additional quizzes, workshops, or other necessary assignments)

Grade Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and lower	F

Your grade will be determined, at the end of the semester, by adding up how many points you could have earned and determining what percentage of those you did earn. There will be points possible for each assignment you complete. All assignments are graded according to how well you meet the specific requirements. I'm happy to discuss your grade with you at any time during the semester. It's up to you to ask.

Attendance/Late Work:

Watch for deadlines. I post assignments weekly... Unless otherwise stated, your work is due every Friday by 11:59 PM. New assignments will be posted at that time. I do not accept late work. You cannot make-up any quizzes, essays, responses, timed writings, or any other work. If nothing else, turn your work in early!

You will be considered absent if you fail to participate in the weekly online discussions/postings. After 2 weeks of no communication, you may be dropped from the course. Students are responsible for dropping courses they no longer wish to be enrolled in. Do not assume the instructor will drop you.

NOTE: You will not be able to take your final exam on a date other than what has been assigned by West Hills College. Please plan your travel arrangements for AFTER your scheduled exam dates and times.

Remember that West Hills College provides tutoring in the library for many subjects, including English. In addition, there is assistance for anyone who might need it via DSPS. If you're in need of extra assistance, or you're having trouble with your courses, let me know. I can provide you with further explanations of the above.

I look forward to an effective semester. Please, at any time, let me know if you have any questions. Thank you, in advance, for your hard work.