

ENGLISH 1A COMPOSITION & READING COURSE SYLLABUS

SPRING 2016 Code # 21988

MW 9 – 10:50 AM Room B257 (B building)

Instructor: Ms. Benjamin (Ms. B) Contact: LBENCLEO@YAHOO.COM

Office: Tower 512 W 2-3 PM

REQUIRED BOOKS (Always bring to class for discussion purposes)—approximate costs

1. The Blair Reader, 7th edition \$66.25 new, \$49.75 used: Google search: renting textbooks

2. Enrique’s Journey, Sonia Nazario \$16.00 new, \$10.00 used (rentable)

3. Pocket Keys to Writing, 2nd ed. \$26.00 new, \$19.50 used

(other style guide, if you already have one, like Diana Hacker or Rules of Thumb is fine)

4. American Heritage Dictionary, \$5.00 new (or any good paperback dictionary)

***IMPORTANT: You must bring a paper version of the reading to class every time we discuss it. You may not use your phone or other electronic device for this class.**

REQUIRED MATERIALS (Bring these to each class period)

- Pencil, pens, 8 1/2 x 11” lined paper for in-class writing.
- Student I.D. –get @ Welcome Center

GRADES

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| 1. Essays: | 65% |
| 3-5 pg paper (15%) | |
| 5-7 pg paper (20%) | |
| 8-10 pg research paper (25%) + presentation (5%) = (30%) | |
| 2. Reading Responses, Reading Quizzes on <u>The Blair Reader</u> , Quizzes on <u>Enrique’s Journey</u> ,
In-Class Writing | 25% |
| 3. Class participation: includes involvement in class discussion & group activities | 10% |

**You must get a C+ average on essays to pass this class, but you can fail the class if you don’t complete the other work too, such as reading responses and in class activities.*

PRE-REQUISITE

Successful completion of English 201AB, a C grade or better, is necessary, or assessment or counselor placement.

PURPOSE/LEARNING OUTCOMES

The purpose of English 1A is, by examining articles, stories, essays, and longer works, to become a better critical thinking and writer. We will work on identifying main and subordinate ideas, defining audience and purpose in our own and others’ writing, and organizing ideas. Individual perspectives in essays are crucial here, as well as command of standard grammar. You will learn to appropriately cite information from sources to evaluate their relevancy and reliability, and incorporate them effectively into your own work. You will also learn to locate information from print and electronic sources—from libraries, the Internet, databases, and elsewhere, in order to evaluate relevancy and reliability, and incorporate it effectively into your writing.

All this will apply to your other school work and, ultimately, communicating with others in your professional lives, as well as, I hope, make you a better listener, reader, and a more active participant in society.

READING & WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- All reading responses and essays written outside of class and submitted for a grade must be typed, titled, pages numbered, and on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. They are due at the beginning of class or when the teacher asks for them.
- Bring the original draft of your essay plus two copies to all in-class peer-review workshops. You are advised to keep a copy of every essay you turn in.
- Email all your written work to yourself, both in the body of the email and as an attachment, even if you keep it on a thumb drive or other device, so you can always print it out. Arrive early enough at school to print work out before class.
- No late work is accepted, period. If you arrive late and hand your work to me, I will not accept it. However, I may at times have to make decisions on a case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances.
- Not turning in Reading Responses will significantly lower your grade or cause you to fail.

ESSAYS & READING RESPONSES

1. **Essays:** For each assignment, the format: Typed, double spaced, 12 point font, with 1 inch margins and page numbers, MLA format (check your "style guide"—see required books)
2. **Peer response:** Other students in the class will give you feedback on your essay rough drafts for each assignment. On peer review days, bring your TYPED rough draft (2 copies), which must be a "good faith" effort of at least 2-3 full pages.
3. **Attendance at each peer review workshop,** with a draft, is mandatory to receive full credit for your essay. Absences from peer response will result in a full grade reduction for that paper.
4. **You must submit** your rough draft, along with your peer response sheet and final copy, in order to receive full credit for an essay.
5. **Reading Responses:** Both for the Blair Reader and for Enrique's Journey. These must be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, 1-3 pages.

READING QUIZZES & QUIZZES

1. **Reading Quizzes:** These will take place the first ten minutes of class for all readings in the Blair Reader. You will identify and state the readings' main idea or position on an issue, and describe some of the important face, examples, reasoning, or stories that elaborate the point or support the position.
2. **Quizzes:** For Enrique's Journey, there will be three graded quizzes, one each covering several chapters, short answer questions based on information covered in the chapters to make sure you have done the reading.

ATTENDANCE

- You must be on time and stay the length of the class to be given credit for attending. 2 Tardies = 1 absence. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than 5 classes, you will receive an F in the course. (Note: I do not distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences; if you miss more than 5 classes, for any reason, you cannot pass the class.)
- Please let me know if you have an emergency, or if you do have to leave early for whatever reason or cannot make it to class: let me know even if your absence will not be excused.
- **If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out about the work you missed and make it up.**

Please get the names and contact information of classmates to find out what you have missed during an absence.

Name: _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

HELP THINGS RUN SMOOTHLY

- Get the texts ASAP and make copies of some readings from library reserve desk if necessary
- Look at the reading schedule every day
- Come to class on time
- Be respectful of classmates and the teacher
- Add your own relevant ideas to discussions
- Get handouts and work you missed from another student—it is your responsibility
- If you have to step outside for a minute, do so quietly
- Turn off and put away your cell phones, ear pieces, and any other electronics. You will lose group points for the day if I see you using your phone, and this will cause your grade to go down
- Don't eat in class unless you bring enough to share with everyone

PARTICIPATION & GROUP WORK

- We will discuss many issues and ideas in class.
- You may disagree with the opinions and ideas of others and may often have the opportunity to challenge such opinions, however it is important to do so in an academic way, while respecting the opinions of all class members.
- We are not looking for the *right* answer or the *right* opinion in this class, (in many cases, there isn't one), instead we are utilizing every class members' thoughts to help challenge and stimulate our own thinking.
- Your voice is an important part of this class, and we all create a learning environment together.
- If you don't feel safe or respected, please talk to me.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Intentionally OR unintentionally stealing work from other classmates, internet or other sources is not only illegal, but it makes you look bad. This can simply mean not putting a page or web address number after you quote from a source, or can mean not using quotation marks. I will review how to attribute where you got a source, but in the end, it is your responsibility. Students will receive an "F" grade on plagiarized work. For their second offense, they will receive an "F" in the course. Their names may also be referred to the dean. Let me know if you have any questions.

LAB CLASS

You can enroll in **ENG 208** or **ESL 218: Writing Workshop** (meets once a week). **Teacher-Led tutoring.** Taking the lab class almost guarantees success in the course as students usually get a grade higher and have support without asking to ask for help.

James Oliver Writing Center (Room B-260): Student-led tutoring –see separate sheet for hours

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

***No Scented Products** are allowed in class. I am highly allergic to perfume and other scented products. Please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, hair spray, and other scented products. Also, do not use highlighters and liquid white-out in class. If you have any questions let me know.*

I am looking forward to working with you this semester. Please contact me if you have any questions about the information on this sheet, any part of the coursework, or anything. I am here to support you!

Syllabus subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.