

**ENGLISH 201A/B — Spring 2012**

**Instructor: Jon Drinnon**

Office Hours: (See Jon's English Site)

**Jon's English Site URL:** <http://jonsenglishsite.info/>

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**(FOR YOU TO KEEP)**

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

- Handouts supplied by instructor (no textbook required)
- Moodle Class Shell URL: <http://www.emerritt.org/course/view.php?id=13>
- Sign is as guest, Password: chomsky. Bookmark site!

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- A three-ring binder or accordion folder large enough to hold a good deal of paperwork
- 8 1/2 X 11, lined, white, binder paper for class notetaking
- A manila folder, provided by me, in which you will turn in your proofreading exercises, summaries, and essays.
- A weekly appointment calendar.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this class students will be able to

- Demonstrate comprehension of college level texts through the use of active reading and critical thinking strategies, analyzing, summarizing, paraphrasing and using appropriate quotations to support an analysis of the text.
- Apply the writing process to produce developed reading-based essays with a well supported thesis, utilizing effective organization and sentence combining to demonstrate logical relationships between ideas.
- Demonstrate an awareness of their own learning process, to become more effective and efficient both as students, community members and citizens.

**Course Description:**

English 201A/B is a writing skills workshop designed to prepare students for the academic reading, thinking, and writing assignments they will encounter in college, especially in courses such as freshman composition and critical thinking. It is called a workshop because you will often work in small groups and will get continual feedback from one another as well as from me. At the conclusion of the semester, if you have completed the assignments with care, your reading and writing will be considerably improved. Contrary to what some of you may believe, writing is not a talent that people are born with but a skill learned and developed through hard work, practice, and commitment.

**FYI**

I like to have an open classroom, one that enhances discussion and the exchange of ideas as long as they are not offensive to any group or person, present or not. Disruption in the classroom, whether it be in the form of interruption, talking privately while someone else is speaking, or rudeness is not appropriate in a college classroom environment. Please be sure to turn off your cell phones at the door, but if you forget and it rings, do not take a call unless it is an emergency that you have cleared with me ahead of time.

## ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Because attendance and participation are essential to your success in this class, I follow the college attendance policy as it appears in the college catalog.

**If you miss over 2 class sessions, I may drop you from the class.**

You may have a very good reason to miss a class, but the reason you are absent is not the issue. Research shows that attendance is a critical key to success in English classes. So all absences count towards the total regardless of why you are absent.

**Tardiness:** Please come to class on time as coming in late disrupts everyone. **Two tardies equals an absence**, and if for some reason I do not mark you present because of your tardiness, that counts as an absence as well. Tardy means coming after I take the roll.

## **SEMESTER'S WORK:**

- summaries of academic writings
- a "report" and three out-of-class essays and some shorter writings
- weekly sentence combining exercises
- individual and class assignments
- reading assignments from the course reader
- a 2 page written take home final

## **HOMEWORK:**

Homework assignments must show evidence of your having taken the assignment seriously in order to receive credit. At the end of the semester, I will assign you a cumulative letter grade for all of your homework, based on the percentage you have turned in and received credit for.

**This should be an automatic "A" for everyone.**

% of assignment turn in:	grade:
90 - 100%	A
75 - 89%	B
60 - 74%	C
less than 60	No Credit ("0")

## **ESSAYS:**

Essays are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. All essays must be typed and double spaced on 8 & 1/2 X 11 inch paper with 1 inch margins on all sides. You can download an MLA template from the Class Docs page of my website to use for this purpose. Each completed essay should be submitted in the manila file folder that I will provide. Included in the folder should be the assignment currently due and all of your previous major assignments (final drafts only) with checkmark proofreading corrections made. I will explain how this works in class. **If you do not do the checkmark corrections on the previous paper, get at least 70% (passing) correct, and do your assigned exercises (see below), I will return the folder to you to complete this essential task and to do it so you learn from it.**

### Rough Drafts and Peer Group Work

A rough draft is an integral part of the writing process. For every peer response session you must bring three copies of your draft, which represent a good faith effort of **at least two of three (or three of four) typewritten pages** — handwritten drafts, notes or outlines, while important elements of the writing process, do not count as drafts. **If you do not do a rough draft or miss peer group day, I will deduct one full grade from your essay.**

### Late Essays

If you are having difficulty with an assignment, come to see me **before the essay is due**, explain to me your problem. You will be allowed to turn in one essay late **if you obtain advance approval** (but no more than one week late). **Any papers coming in after that will receive a zero grade for the paper.** While one pre-approved late paper is not penalized in terms of the grade, you run the risk of getting your paper back late, and of receiving **no written comments** on it.

### Revisions:

Generally you get just one revision per semester. But if I see you are doing your best, working with me, and need more revisions, then I will allow more. A revision is not simply the correction of errors, but a real rewriting, which may involve clarification of the central idea, further development of your ideas, reorganization of ideas, either within paragraphs or within the essay as a whole, or both, and/or work at the sentence level for proofreading or sentence maturity. I strongly advise that we have a conference to determine how best to revise the essay. Rewrites are due one week after you have had your essay returned to you or one week after our conference.

### **Hand in the original with the revision**

- I cannot grade a revision without the original draft because I need to see the comments I made and whether you applied my suggestions to your revision.

If you do not understand why you received a grade on an essay, please see me to ask me about it. I am only human; if I make a mistake, I am happy to be able to raise a grade.

### Proofreading Exercises

I will assign proofreading exercises from my web site to those who need to work on certain proofreading (grammar) elements. The sections are designed to be self-taught, but if you have trouble, you can come in to see me or a tutor in the learning center. It will be your responsibility to learn the element, do the exercises, submit them in your folder with your next essay, and then proofread your writing for that element from then on. **If you do not include the exercises, I will return the essay to you ungraded so that you can do them.**

### Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is both ethically and legally unacceptable. It is the equivalent of theft. If a paper, or any part of it, is plagiarized, the student will receive a zero for that assignment. The second offense will be reported to the Dean of Student Services. Never submit work that is not yours or does not have a source citation where required.

**GRADING:**

- “Report” plus 3 Essays 45%
- Summaries, quizzes 10%
- Reading, writing homework 20%
- Proofreading exercises 15%
- Final exam (take-home) 10%

**Attention**

To pass the course:

1. The essay portion of your grade must be a C- or better.
2. Every summary and essay assignment (including first day homework summary), passing or no, must have been attempted and submitted for a grade.

**A FINAL NOTE:**

As long as I see that you are committed to this class, I will do my best to answer your questions, offer suggestions, meet you during office hours, and encourage you, but if I see that you are not taking the class seriously, I will not be as sympathetic to your needs. You are responsible for your success in this class, and the best way to ensure that success is to come to class every day, to come to class prepared, and to come see me as soon as you have a question or a problem. I look forward to working with you this semester.