

Syllabus

Reading and Composition

English 1A

Dr. Jeff Jung

Course Description

This course emphasizes the formulation and verbal expression of complex, critical thinking. Looking at a variety of readings, we will develop the skills necessary to engage a text actively, identify key issues and weaknesses, and produce writings that demonstrate comprehension, logic, and imagination. Successful students will be able to do the following:

- Identify and compose a critical, argumentative thesis
- Organize unified paragraphs with transitions
- Write with increased clarity and conciseness
- Master the usage of punctuation marks and eliminate basic sentence errors
- Read texts with an eye to underlying issues and points worthy of analysis
- Distinguish between summary and analysis
- Plan and execute research tasks in the library and on-line
- Incorporate and document material from sources through summary, paraphrase, and quotation without plagiarism

Textbooks

- **OPTIONAL:** McWhorter, Kathleen. *Successful College Writing*, 4th edition. 978-0312603397
- **OPTIONAL:** Ritzer, George. *The McDonaldization of Society* (any edition).
- **REQUIRED:** Asimov, Isaac. *The Naked Sun* (any edition).
- Other readings found on-line.

Note: The McWhorter book is optional because anything that we use from it is equally available online. You only need to buy the book if you prefer to review concepts with a book rather than online. You are free to wait a few weeks to see if you prefer the book.

The Ritzer book is optional because only one of the assignment choices requires reading it. You can choose an assignment unrelated to the book, in which case you do not need to read this book.

The Asimov book, however, is required. You should buy it by the 10th week of class.

Distance Education Format

This course will be taught entirely on line. Assignments, discussions, submission of work, contact between student and instructor, and readings besides the textbooks listed above will all be accessed through a web browser, such as Internet Explorer, Netscape, or Firefox. You can also contact me in person during my office hours at El Camino or work with tutors at the Writing Center.

Though we will have no real-time meetings, you are required to read, participate in discussions, and complete assignments according to a fixed schedule. The course is more flexible than a conventional class, but it is NOT a "work at your own speed" enterprise. To do well in the class, you must be self-disciplined enough to keep up without constant live reminders from a teacher, and you must have regular access to a computer, whether at home, school, or elsewhere. Students who do not access the site AT LEAST three times per week are unlikely to do well.

Computer Skills and Problems

No special knowledge of computers beyond that required to write papers with the word processor of your choice is required. You should be comfortable with the idea of surfing the web and know how to cut and paste text material.

Be aware that any technical problems other than those caused by the professor are your responsibility. If you lose a paper due to your own computer's malfunctioning, that is not a valid excuse worth even bringing up. **I have no interest in stories about computers or networks losing power minutes before the deadline.** If you are the one-in-a-million student for whom the story is true, that is very unfortunate. The only fair way for me to enforce deadlines is to enforce them all the same way all the time. That means that one minute late is late. Please don't submit close to the deadline.

Because no physical documents are produced in this class, it is especially important that you keep an electronic copy of everything you submit for a grade, as well as a copy of the graded version. If any document becomes lost and you are unable to supply a copy, I will have no choice but to treat the document as if it were never submitted. Keep copies for your own protection!

Deadlines

Our course is divided into five units. Each unit lasts for three weeks and has a definite opening and closing date. Each unit has one deadline for Homework and Discussions and a second deadline for the assigned Essay. All deadlines are at 6p.m. Pacific time. No Homework or Discussions are accepted late. **If you miss an Essay deadline, you will have exactly 24 hours to submit and receive a MAXIMUM of 70% credit with NO FEEDBACK. Beyond that, no late Essays are accepted.** If you cannot meet a deadline, submit whatever you do have since the little credit you receive may save your grade.

You are free to begin a unit's work at any time and to work at your own pace within the three weeks of each unit.

During each unit, you will be required to do the following: 1) read selections from the web (and eventually a novel); 2) submit a homework assignment to turnitin.com; 3) optionally participate in the Discussion Forum; and 4) submit an essay of 1,000-1,250 words.

Requirements and Grading

Discussion Forums (Optional Extra Credit)

Each unit has one Discussion Forum attached to it. In the instructions for each unit, you'll be given the specific details as to what you can write about if you want to participate in the discussion. Participation is always optional. At the end of the semester, I will award extra credit for your overall participation in the forums. This credit will raise your grade by a MAXIMUM of one letter grade. Further, the credit is based on the quality of your posts. Littering the board with messages that just say "I agree" or are off topic will cancel out your other efforts (lower your extra credit score). In the past, students who got maximum credit wrote an average of 250-350 words per unit, split up among 1-3 messages and maybe a couple of replies to other students.

You are expected to read all previous messages before posting. If you write an exact duplicate of someone else's thoughts, that will be considered littering the board (see above). Messages are judged primarily for how well the writer uses specific information and logical arguments to defend the answer. Correct grammar and punctuation plays a smaller role. Don't use web-speak abbreviations and acronyms -- this is an English class.

The Discussion Forum is accessed through Turnitin.com

Homework (20%)

For each of the first four units, you will submit a short written assignment. The directions for each assignment will be described in that unit's instructions.

All homework assignments will be submitted through Turnitin.com. Always send them through Turnitin.com, as assignments sent by private email cannot receive credit.

Essays (80%)

For each unit, you will write an essay of 1,000-1,250 words, double-spaced. The essay topics for each unit will be described in that unit's instructions.

All essays will be submitted through Turnitin.com. Always send them through Turnitin.com, as essays sent by private email cannot receive credit.

Instructor Information

Dr. Jeff Jung

Email: eccenglish1a@gmail.com - Always write "1A" in the subject line of your e-mail or it will not be seen!

Office: Humanities 121P

Office hours: M/Th 5:15PM – 7:15PM, T 5:30PM - 6:00PM, W 6:00PM – 6:30PM

Phone: Please use email instead. If you think you need it, it's 310-660-3593 x3336

Using the Course Website

The Home Page

Quite simply, you access the course through the home page: <http://english1ajung.blogspot.com/>

If you forget this address, you can always find it by starting with El Camino's home page,

<http://www.elcamino.edu>, and following the links for Faculty, then for Jeff Jung.

The Home Page contains late-breaking announcements, and it's very important you remain aware of them. It also contains links to everything else you'll need: the syllabus, instructions for each Unit, and a link to Turnitin.com, which is where you go to access the Discussion Forum, submit your assignments, and see your grades. You will need a password to access Turnitin.com, which you will obtain the first time you visit that site and register.

The first thing you should do when starting the course is to read any announcements and then click on the Unit 1 link to see the first reading and writing assignments. There, you'll find 1) the list of readings; 2) instructions for the unit's Homework; 3) instructions for the Unit's optional Discussion Forum; and 4) instructions for the essay. At the very top, the deadlines are listed.

Note that you have a great deal of freedom and flexibility in structuring your time for each unit, which is bad news for those who don't structure their time wisely. You should start work on all components of the unit as soon as possible, not sit idly for days and then try to complete everything a day or two before the deadline.

Submitting Essays

Our class has five long essays (Essays 1-5). When told to submit an essay, you do NOT send it by regular email; instead you use Turnitin.com, where you login with a password that you choose for yourself the first time you register on that site.

Turnitin is pretty self-explanatory and has a tutorial if you have any trouble ([Student Quickstart Guide](#)). It lets you upload your essay from almost any format.

I cannot give credit for an essay that is not also submitted to this site.

The process is very simple, and if you need help, detailed instructions are available

You will need two pieces of information to use the site:

Class ID: 3780940

Password: spring

[To set up your turnitin account, click here and select Student at the bottom of the screen that appears](#). If you've used turnitin before, you can use your previous account and login at the top of the screen.

I grade essays by marking a grading sheet (called a rubric). You can view yours through turnitin when it is ready just by accessing the essay that you submitted. If you want more detailed feedback, you are strongly encouraged to see me during my office hours. In that case, bring a printed copy of the essay to discuss. You can make an appointment to guarantee a conference with no waiting by signing up on [this online spreadsheet](#).

If unusual circumstances make it impossible for you to attend office hours, we may be able to make arrangements to conference by phone.

Using the Discussion Forum

The Discussion Forum is accessed through turnitin.com. Just as in a live class an instructor cannot respond to every student who might speak, I will not necessarily respond to every message. A lack of response does not mean your message was not valid.

When I do post, it's to your benefit to read these messages of mine so you can make your own contributions stronger and get high grades.

IMPORTANT: Receiving Credit for your Forum Participation. To receive credit for the work that you put into your discussion messages, you must consolidate all of them (for the whole semester) into a single document and send it to me via turnitin any time between May 23 and June 6. The easiest way to do this is to keep a word processing document that has a copy of all your discussion posts as you write them (you should do this anyway, as a backup). Though I will read your messages on the board throughout the semester, I will only look at those sent to turnitin when it comes time to assign a grade. Again, send one document with ALL the semester's messages between May 23 – June 6.

Homework

Each unit has a required Homework assignment in addition to the Essay. This also is sent to turnitin.

E-mailing

Send any private questions about your work or the course to eccenglish1A@gmail.com, but don't forget to put 1A in the subject line. Also, the Discussion Forum contains a board for Class Questions, and if you think others could benefit from your question, please post it there instead of e-mailing it privately.

First Steps
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Go to www.turnitin.com, make an account, submit an assignment to the "Sample Assignment" to make sure you know how it works.2) Go to the course home page at http://english1ajung.blogspot.com/ and access the instructions for Unit 1. Note the deadlines and begin work.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please let me know. You may speak to me after class, during my office hours, or by phone or email. Your privacy will be protected. You are also encouraged to contact the Special Resource Center on campus (310-660-3295) to discuss what accommodations and services are available.

Student Learning Outcome: Students will complete a research-based essay that has been written out of class and undergone revision. The essay must use multiple sources and be focused on a particular topic. It should demonstrate the student's ability to thoughtfully support a single thesis by integrating sources using analysis and synthesis. Citations must be in MLA format and include a works-cited page. The final draft should be organized and technically correct in terms of paragraph composition, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and word use.

For more support resources regarding Distance Education and technology, check the college's Distance Education web page at <http://www.elcamino.edu/library/distance-ed/>