

Syllabus for English 1A (26) (34)
Freshman Composition
Shelley Blanton-Stroud



Class meetings/location:	<u>Section 26 –</u> Tues/Thurs 7:30-8:45, BH 115 <u>Section 34 –</u> Tues/Thurs 10:30-11:45, AMD 261
Office:	Calaveras 149
Office Hours:	Tues. and Thurs., 12:00-1:15 and Wed. by appointment.
Email:	blanton_stroud@msn.com
Office Phone:	278-5743 (from on-campus phone, x85743)

Course Objective: English 1A is a composition course designed to enhance your analytical reading, critical thinking and expository writing skills. The reading, writing, researching, revising and editing skills you learn in this course will help you in all your college coursework, no matter what your major, in writing thoughtful and creative reports, term papers and essay exams. As your writing matures in English 1a, you will express your own important ideas in powerful and perhaps beautiful ways.

Course Requirements: As a freshman composition student, you will write a minimum of five thousand words. You will meet this university requirement by producing:

- Multiple drafts of three typed, double-spaced essays, along with the preliminary written work that leads up to them. Each essay will ultimately be 5 pages long, with 1-inch margins, typed in 12-point font.
- Informal, in-class writings.
- Developed, typed, edited peer response letters.
- A final, revised portfolio of your best work.

You will not pass English 1a unless every essay assignment is completed, revised to a passing level, and turned in on time.

Texts you are required to buy:

O'Brien, Tim. The Things They Carried. New York: Broadway Books, 1990.

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th edition. New York: Modern Language Association, 2003.

A dictionary of your choice

Texts provided by instructor:

Anyon, Jean. "Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work." Journal of Education. Boston: Boston University, 1980.

Boeree, Dr. C. George. "Erikson's Developmental Stages." Personality Theories. 1997.
<<http://www.ship.edu/~cgboeree/erikson.html>>

Gattaca. Dir. Andrew Niccol. Screenplay Andrew Niccol. Perf. Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman, Jude Law, Gore Vidal and Elias Koteas. Columbia TriStar Pictures, 1997.

Required Materials:

- A three-ring binder with dividers marked *Syllabus/Schedule, Notes, Handouts, Essay Drafts*;
- a final portfolio of your work (spiral bound at on-campus photocopy shop) with dividers marked *Portfolio Letter, Portfolio Record Sheet, Favorite Essay, 2nd Favorite Essay, Passing 3rd Essay*;
- pens;
- highlighters;
- an email address;
- access to a computer.

Portfolio grading: When you turn in an essay, you will receive comments from other student-readers. Then, after you have revised this draft, I will make written and/or oral comments giving you a “pencil grade” and suggesting what steps you could take to further improve the draft, and your grade, through revision. If you revise an essay after my initial written comments, I will be happy to read it once again, in order to comment in writing again. After that response, you will need to schedule an appointment with me to discuss any further revisions, if you would like additional feedback.

Although you will be required to write three passing essays in order to pass the course, **ultimately you will be graded on the portfolio letter and your two favorite essays. Your third favorite essay need only be revised to the passing level and included in your portfolio.**

Through your peers’ response letters, and my written and oral comments, you should have a strong sense of what kind of improvements you need to make to your essays in order to achieve the grade you want.

Portfolio Format and Content:

Your portfolio must include the following, or it will be considered incomplete and automatically fail.

- *Portfolio letter:* a full, typed, single-spaced, one page letter describing your development as a writer this semester;
- *Portfolio record sheet:* instructor will provide;
- *Favorite Essay:* a copy of the writing assignment for your strongest essay; a final, clean copy of that essay, with any material added or changed since last I read it highlighted; all the early drafts leading up to that essay, including those drafts with instructor comments, pencil grades, peer comments, and your own revisions marking the margins;
- *2nd Favorite Essay:* a copy of the writing assignment for your second strongest essay; a final, clean copy of that essay, with any material added or changed since last I read it highlighted; all the early drafts leading up to that essay, including those drafts with instructor comments, pencil grades, peer comments, and your own revisions marking the margins;
- *Passing 3rd Essay:* one copy of the remaining required essay, **with my comments and pencil graded included. (You must revise this to passing level or risk failing the class.)**

Reading: Critical reading is an important part of your success in college. In English 1a, you will annotate, summarize and respond to written work (and visual work). These skills will help you in this course, as well as all your others. **Read and annotate the texts assigned in the syllabus before coming to class so you can participate in class discussions.**

Conferences: I will schedule appointments with each student at least three times this semester. But I encourage you to come to my office hours (listed above) or arrange an appointment with me any time you have questions or need assistance with your reading, writing or revising assignments. **The Writing Center (located in Calaveras 128) is another excellent resource for help with your essays. Writing Center tutors are available free of charge. Drop by the Center any time during the semester to schedule an appointment.**

Assignment due dates: The due dates for your writing assignments are listed on the schedule of assignments. If you have an *emergency* and cannot hand in a paper on time, you **must** see me to discuss the nature of the emergency and to make mutually acceptable plans for completing the assignment. You can begin this process by emailing me or leaving a phone message at my office.

Essay format: All essays, including your rough drafts, must be typed (12 point font) and double-spaced with one-inch margins all around the numbered pages; use the following headings for your essay assignments:

Student Name

Ms. Blanton-Stroud

English 1A

Assignment Title

Draft number

Your Centered Title

On-line essay submission: You will be required to develop some basic skills at electronic submission of class work in order to turn in your peer response letters. You will likely discover that it makes a lot of sense to submit your essay electronically, also. By 5 p.m. of the day your essay is due, you may send it to me as an attachment to an email (ONLY if you work in the Microsoft Word program). I will then save your essay on my computer, read it, and type my comments and revision suggestions directly into the text of your essay, in a different color, and email that draft back to you at home. Students normally determine that they receive more commentary from me on emailed essays because my comments are not limited to the size of the margins. If you are unable to submit your essays electronically, of course you may always submit them as paper drafts, stapled, at the beginning of class.

Attendance: Because of the importance of what we do in class, attendance is mandatory, as is arriving to class on time. In compliance with university policy, a student will be allowed no more than three absences. **Three late arrivals or early departures will represent one absence.** Those who exceed three absences will have one-third of a grade deducted from their final grades for each additional absence. (For instance, if your final grade in the class is an A-, a fourth absence will lower your grade to a B+, etc.)

Peer review workshops: As with all other class meetings, your attendance on these days is mandatory. During peer review workshops you will be helping others in your writing groups and learning important strategies for rewriting, a key concept in this class. To the class meeting prior to peer workshop days, you will bring three typed copies of your draft. For the peer review workshop days, you will complete a peer review assignment sheet and type a one-page letter to each of your peer partners. (You will email a copy of these letters to me, as well.) On peer workshop day, you will meet as a group to discuss the drafts and the letters.

Plagiarism: Students who plagiarize may be expelled from the university. Copying papers off the Internet or using other sources without documenting them are examples of plagiarism. (It is quite easy for instructors to discover whether a student has done this.) Quotes and paraphrases in your essays must be cited. Students who are discovered to have been plagiarizing will be referred to the appropriate University Dean.

1A Schedule of Assignments/Blanton-Stroud/Fall 05

Week/ Session	Date	Topic/Assignment
1-1	Tues. 8/30	Intro to course and each other.
1-2	Thurs. 9/1	<p>Reading strategies: PQ3R. Email me – blanton_stroud@msn.com – your name, email address and phone number and any concerns you may have about this semester.</p> <p>In particular, please let me know if English is your second language, if you have a learning disability that affects the way you need to work in our class, or if you have a health or work or athletic issue I need to know about. If you do not receive an email response from me by 5 p.m. on Friday 9/3, try again, retyping my email address.</p>
2-3	Tues. 9/6	<p>Reading comprehension and intro to essay topic #1 – On the Hidden Curriculum of School. PQ3R Anyon article; bring 1-page free-write examining which type of school your own school experience was most like, how and why.</p>
2-4	Thurs. 9/8	<p>Brainstorming working thesis. Bring one, simply phrased sentence expressing the point you currently think you will develop in your essay.</p>
3-5	Tues. 9/13	<p>Intro to paragraph development. Write a discovery draft (written in about ½ hour, without concern for organization or editing) responding to Essay #1 topic and bring it to class.</p>
3-6	Thurs. 9/15	<p>Group appointments in lieu of regular class. On either Tues. or Thurs., come to Calaveras 149 for your scheduled 25-minute group appointment. Bring any questions about your developing essay drafts.</p>
4-7	Tues. 9/20	<p>Group appointments in lieu of regular class. On either Tues. or Thurs., come to Calaveras 149 for your scheduled 25-minute group appointment. Bring any questions about your developing essay drafts.</p>
4-8	Thurs. 9/22	<p>Intro to peer review process.</p>

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Week/ Session	Date	Topic/Assignment
		3 copies, essay #1 draft due to peers.
5-9	Tues. 9/27	Peer review. Complete peer review letters (pr1); email copies to me at blanton_stroud@msn.com by Wed. 9/22 at 5 p.m. , and bring hard copies to class.
5-10	Thurs. 9/29	Intro to new topic: Maslow and Erikson -- Human Development in Gattaca. E#1 due. (Bring hard copy to class or submit electronically to blanton_stroud@msn.com by 5 p.m. as a Microsoft Word attachment to email).
6-11	Tues. 10/4	PQ3R “Erikson’s Developmental Stages”.
6-12	Thurs. 10/6	Individual conferences in lieu of regular class. On <i>either</i> Tuesday or Thursday, attend scheduled appointment in Calaveras 149 to discuss suggested Essay #1 revisions.
7-13	Tues. 10/11	Individual conferences in lieu of regular class. On <i>either</i> Tuesday or Thursday, attend scheduled appointment in Calaveras 149 to discuss suggested Essay #1 revisions.
7-14	Thurs. 10/13	Critical Viewing: Gattaca.
8-15	Tues. 10/18	Critical Viewing: Gattaca.
8-16	Thurs. 10/20	Connecting Gattaca to Erikson’s and Maslow’s theories. Assignment tba.
9-17	Tues. 10/25	Connecting Gattaca to Erikson’s and Maslow’s theories. Assignment tba.

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Week/ Session	Date	Topic/Assignment
9-18	Thurs. 10/27	Sample essay evaluation.
10-19	Tues. 11/1	In class peer review. 3 copies, essay #2 draft due to peers.
10-20	Thurs. 11/3	Intro to new topic – <u>The Things They Carried</u>. Essay #2 due. (Bring hard copy to class or submit electronically to blanton_stroud@msn.com by 5 p.m. as a Microsoft Word attachment to email).
11-21	Tues. 11/8	Reading Comprehension – <u>The Things They Carried</u>. Complete reading the book, referring back to the essay topic as you read.
11-22	Thurs. 11/10	Reading Comprehension – <u>The Things They Carried</u>. Assignment tba.
12-23	Tues. 11/15	Topic development – <u>The Things They Carried</u>. Assignment tba.
12-24	Thurs. 11/17	Topic development – <u>The Things They Carried</u>. Assignment tba.
13-25	Tues. 11/22	NO CLASS HELD TODAY.
13-26	Thurs. 11/24	THANKSGIVING BREAK; NO CLASSES HELD.
14-27	Tues. 11/29	In class peer review. 3 copies, essay #3 draft due to peers.
14-28	Thurs. 12/1	Intro to portfolios. E#3 due (Bring hard copy to class or submit

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**Week/ Date Topic/Assignment
Session**

		electronically to blanton_stroud@msn.com by 5 p.m. as a Microsoft Word attachment to email).
15-29	Tues. 12/6	Individual conferences in lieu of class. Bring your portfolio in progress to your scheduled appointment in Calaveras 149, on this or one of the other conferences days you have signed up for. At these appointments you can discuss revisions of essays 1, 2 or 3, which you will receive back in conference.
15-30	Thurs. 12/8	Individual conferences in lieu of class. Bring your portfolio in progress to your scheduled appointment in Calaveras 149, on this or one of the other conferences days you have signed up for. At these appointments you can discuss revisions of essays 1, 2 or 3, which you will receive back in conference.
16-31	Tues. 12/13	Portfolio letter workshop: Bring four copies of your portfolio letter for peer review.
16-32	Thurs. 12/15	Portfolio check. Rather than our usual class, meet in line outside Calaveras 149 to deliver your final portfolio. Portfolios will be available to pick up next semester, in a box outside my office, during posted office hours.