

De Anza College

English Department

English 1A, Composition & Reading

Fall 2021

Instructor: Mary A. Cudahy, Ph.D.
Email: email me through Canvas (allow a 48 hour-turnaround)

Course Description

You are going to have fun this quarter!

Before anything else, let me give you the link to the Canvas Student Guide <https://deanza.instructure.com/courses/272>

Here you can find information as to how to navigate our course management system.

First of all, I want you to click on the "Help" icon at the bottom of the left-hand menu. There you will find a phone number for Canvas support. Please call them if you have any problems:

- 1) figuring out how to turn in an assignment
- 2) understanding the site
- 3) any other concerns.

They can log in "as you" and help you specifically with any question. They are available 24/7 and are amazing people. Do not contact me for technical issues. Only contact me for course content issues. I have no ability to see what you see, and thus am useless in helping your with any technical concern. In addition, if you claim you turned something in and it failed, I contact them, so we can resolve the dispute. They can help me by telling me when you tried to submit, etc. I actually cannot see that information unless I call them. So we are all quite dependent on Canvas Support to keep this running smoothly! Keep that phone number handy at all times.

Imagine for a moment that you are taking a traditional course, and you are running late to campus because your bus connections are not working. Whose responsibility is it to get to

campus on time? You teacher's or yours? Obviously, it is yours. Imagine similarly you are taking a traditional course and you misplaced an essay, or perhaps you are having printer problems. Whose responsibility is it? Your teacher's, or yours? Of course, yours!

Similarly, in this online course, if you are having trouble using Canvas (the equivalent of "getting to campus"), you are having trouble finding assignments, or you are trouble turning things in, that is your responsibility. Feel free to contact me regarding **course content** issues (e.g. "I read the essay assignment, but I do not understand what you mean by '!"), but always call Canvas for everything else. It is **your sole responsibility** to address the sometimes steep learning curve involved with using an online course platform, just as it is your responsibility to get to campus and print your essays in traditional courses.

In this transfer-level composition and research course, we will practice critical reading, writing, and thinking. We will be reading two one book-length works, several essays, and a few short stories, all of which will allow us to examine American culture through different lenses. Additionally, we will spend time developing a writing voice, thinking about diction, practicing various styles of writing, and honing our own style. Students who try hard will, by the end of this class, be able to do all of the following: enroll in English 1B; write college-level essays; analyze arguments in print and other media; write for a variety of audiences and purposes, and be ready to give in-class presentations.

NB: This course will require substantial time and effort. Be prepared to spend 10-20 hours per week on the material. There is **a lot** of reading—the average for 1A is 600 pages in a quarter. In addition, you will be writing 6000 words! Get ready to roll up your sleeves and work hard with me! I'm really excited to be your teacher.

Required Texts/Readings--PDFs PROVIDED!

The Gangster We Are All Looking For by Le Thi Diem Thuy

Focus on Writing. Fourth Edition by Kirsznner and Mandell

Modules: At the beginning of each week, I will publish a module. Late work is accepted with a steep penalty per day; the pace is too fast to allow for significant late work. All assignments will be posted in modules, not in any other format. This means that an essay assignment will be in the Module in which it was assigned.

Office Hours: I will be holding online office hours 11 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please make an appointment at: [Office Hours Appointment Link](#) The URL for our Office hours is:

Topic: Mary Akatiff Cudahy's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9182016299>

Meeting ID: 918 201 6299

One tap mobile

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+14086380968,,9182016299# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 918 201 6299

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/9182016299>

Participation: Weekly Discussion Forum: Every module, you will be responding to a Discussion Forum post. You will also be responding to your peers' responses. These responses will need to be substantive, thoughtful, and well written. I expect a minimum of 3 responses to your peers, one of which can be a response to their own response to your entry. If you do the bare minimum on the discussion forum, your grade will reflect that. Go deeply into the questions and try to engage your peers when you respond. In addition, you must have your initial response in at least 24 hours before the deadline for full credit to give your peers time to respond. You may submit your peer responses right up to the deadline.

Grammar: This is a writing class; as such, you need to learn the correct rules of grammar and composition. The book we are using, *Focus on Writing*, will be an important component of this course. I recommend you complete all of the assigned reading before you take the weekly quiz, as the questions will be based on the reading for that week.

Freewrites: You will be required to do timed freewriting sessions per week. In the freewrites, you need to really explore the material, but you will not be required to have perfect grammar. You **must write freely for the entire allotted time**. The whole point of freewriting is to write continuously. So, if it is a 10-minute freewrite and I see you stopped at 6 minutes, you will not get full credit.

Peer Editing: We will be peer editing for several essays—be a thoughtful, kind and considerate peer reader. All peer editing will be done through Canvas, and it is imperative that you follow all instructions and deadlines. Peer Editing is not easy for students to navigate, so for the first assignment, please make sure to allow ample time to figure out how to do peer editing in the course management system. I will be providing you links from Canvas support, or you can call Canvas support. Failure to have a draft on peer editing day will reduce your final paper grade by 10%.

LATE WORK: Late work is not allowed. However, I will generally allow you to turn an assignment in late with a steep penalty of 20% per day. This penalty cannot be renegotiated, and I do not guarantee that I will grade late work before the last day of finals week. **Please, do not submit assignments to me by email. If you submit something by email, I might not see it. No assignment is considered submitted until it has been submitted properly per Canvas directions.**

Grading Scale: (please note that I do not round up and that I require a percentage that equals the following for a grade to be valid. In other words, 89.9 is a B+)

93–100%A 90–92.99%A- 87–89.99%B+ 83–86.99%B 80–82.99%B- 77–79.99%C+ 73–76.99%C 70–72.99%C- 67–69.99%D+ 63–66.99% D60–62.99%D- <60%F

Plagiarism: Any plagiarism in this course, which is the use of any one else's writing as your own, will result in an automatic zero on the assignment with no chance of making it up, as well as referral to disciplinary review with the college, which can result in expulsion base on the committee's decision. Plagiarism is a serious offence, and one that you will not have to worry about if you write your own work. We will cover plagiarism the first week to make sure you all understand it.

Assignment Breakdown

Grading

Essays (4 at 10%, 15%, 15% and 15%) 55%

(Essay 1=10%; Essay 2=15%; Essay 3=15%; Final in Class Essay=15%)

Homework Assignments 5%

For most essays, you will have process points—which means you will receive credit for turning in outlines, introductory paragraphs, drafts, and reflection. Failing to complete the process points will damage your essay grade considerably.

Participation and Discussion Forums 20%

Free Write Journals 5%

Weekly Quiz 15%

Essay Rubric:

I grade your essays on the basis of letter grades. My assessment involves years of experience and is expressed in numbers as follows:

98% A+

95% A

91% A-

87% B+

85% B

81% B-

77% C+

75% C

71% C

You might be wondering what constitutes an A, a B, or a C. Here is a guideline on which you can base your interpretation of my grades. Obviously, a B+ essay would have some characteristics of an A paper and some of a B paper. Essay grades are non-negotiable and final. Here is two descriptions of what makes an A paper, B paper and C paper. [Link \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#) and [Scoring Guide](#)

Essay Lengths:

All essays should be typed using Times New Roman 12 point. You will need 1 inch margins, and you must double-space.

Essay 1: 3 pages

Essay 2 4 pages

Essay 3: 4-5 pages

Essay 4: timed final online

Final Reflective Essay: 2 pages

Grading Scale: Please note that I do not round up in final grades. You need a full 90% to receive an A-. 88.9 % is a B+.

100-98	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
88-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-

This is an adult course; as such, we will be handling adult themes as they come up. None of the material is censored.

I want to create a dynamic and helpful learning environment for each student. Please let me know if you have learning differences, or any other issues that require special attention.

I truly believe that you become a better person by becoming a better writer: writing is a gateway to the world. This class is meant to be a supportive environment for you to develop not only your writing and thinking skills, but also your life skills.

Notes on Grading and Decorum

Grade grubbing is a practice that I will not tolerate, in any form. You are responsible to follow the syllabus, get assignments turned in on time, and do your best work. I do not grade on a curve; as far as I am concerned, the whole class could earn As. However, I will not be pressured into changing grades. The grades I assign are a reflection of my professional judgment. Remember, grades are earned, not granted.

Unless there is visual proof or evidence of an error or discrepancy, I will not change the grade.