Reading and Composition Requirement

Guidelines for Reading and Composition Courses

In order to provide a solid foundation in reading, writing and critical thinking for work in the major, the College requires two semesters of lower division work in composition—Reading and Composition (R&C), Parts A and B, in sequential order.

- All undergraduates must complete the Reading and Composition (R&C) requirement by the end of their fourth semester or their enrollment may be blocked for the following semester.
- All courses used to satisfy Part A or B of Reading and Composition must be completed with a letter grade of C- or better.
- Students who have been admitted to Berkeley and have not completed Entry Level Writing (http://guide.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/letters-science/entry-level-writing-requirement/), must enroll in College Writing R1A which satisfies both Entry Level Writing and the first half of R&C. Please note: A minimum grade of C is required in COLWRIT R1A in order to satisfy Entry Level Writing.
- AGRS (formerly CLASSIC) R44 (completed with a C- or higher) may be used to satisfy either Part A or Part B of R&C. This course may also be used to satisfy Arts and Literature, Historical Studies, or Social & Behavioral Sciences breadth.
- With the exception of AGRS (formerly CLASSIC) R44, courses fulfilling the Reading and Composition requirement may not be applied to Seven-Course Breadth (https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/seven-course-breadth/.

Satisfying Reading and Composition with an Exam

- Advanced Placement (AP) English Literature and Composition - Minimum Score of 4 satisfies Part A
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition - Minimum Score of 5 satisfies Parts A & B
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition - Score of 4 or 5 satisfies Part A
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) English A: Literature* - Score of 5, 6, or 7 satisfies Parts A & B
- Beginning with students admitted in fall 2018 - International Baccalaureate (IB) Higher Level (HL) English A: Language and Literature* - Score of 5, 6, or 7 satisfies Parts A & B
- GCE A-Level English Literature exam for students entering Berkeley fall 2017 and PRIOR - Score of A, B, or C satisfies Parts A & B
- GCE A-Level English Literature exam for students entering Berkeley fall 2018 and BEYOND - No longer accepted for this requirement

* The IB Literature and Performance, exam, as well as the Standard Level (SL) exams in English A: Literature and English A: Language and Literature are NOT eligible for satisfaction of Reading and Composition.

Satisfying Reading and Composition with Berkeley Courses

- Successful completion with a C- grade or better of two designated Reading and Composition courses in sequence order. Review all approved below.

Satisfying Reading and Composition Requirement with Transfer Courses

- Transfer courses must be taken on a letter-graded basis and be completed with a grade of C- or better.
- Students admitted with IGETC Certification from a California community college or UC Reciprocity have satisfied Reading and Composition. No additional coursework is required.
- Students can complete a pre-approved Reading and Composition course at a California Community College. Pre-approved courses can be found on ASSIST (http://www.assist.org/web-assist/welcome.html). Refer to the L&S Transfer Coursework page (https://lsadvising.berkeley.edu/progress-planning/transfer-credit/) for instructions on how to take transfer credit as an L&S student before enrolling at a California Community College.

Satisfies Part A of the Reading and Composition Requirement

Please scroll down to see complete list of courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAM R1A</td>
<td>Freshman Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAM R1AN</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAMST R2A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELTIC R1A</td>
<td>Voices of the Celtic World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHICANO R1A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHICANO R1AN</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLWRIT R1A</td>
<td>Accelerated Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLWRIT R4A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT H1A</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading of World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT N1A</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading of World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT R1A</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading of World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT R2A</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and French Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT R3A</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and Hispanic Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH R1A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH R1AN</td>
<td>First-Year Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILM R1A</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing - Film Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRENCH R1A</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading of Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMAN R5A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM R1A</td>
<td>Global Humanities I: From California to the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALIAN R5A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGALST R1A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in Connection with the Law as a Social Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELC R1A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATAMST R1A</td>
<td>Native American Studies Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHETOR R1A</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SASIAN R5A</td>
<td>Great Books of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCANDIN R5A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEASIAN R5A</td>
<td>Self, Representation, and Nation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAVIC R5A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH R1A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition Through Readings from the Spanish-Speaking World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEATER R1A</td>
<td>Performance: Writing and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XCOLWRI R1A</td>
<td>Accelerated Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XCOMLIT R1A</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XENGLIS R1A</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XFILM R1A</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing - Film Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XRHETOR R1A</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XSEASIA R5A</td>
<td>Self, Representation, and Nation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfies Part B of the Reading and Composition Requirement

Please scroll down to see complete list of courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRICAM R1B</td>
<td>Freshman Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHMA R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition on Topics in Ancient History and Mediterranean Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTHRO R5B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAMST R2B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CELTIC R1B</td>
<td>Voices of the Celtic World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHICANO R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLWRIT R4B</td>
<td>Reading, Composition, and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT H1B</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT N1B</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>English Composition in Connection with the Reading of World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT R2B</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and French Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COM LIT R3B</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with Reading of World and Hispanic Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA LANG R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition on topics in East Asian Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENV DES R3B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in Energy, Society, and Environmental Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILM R1B</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing - Film Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRENCH R1B</td>
<td>English Composition in Connection with the Reading of Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERMAN R5B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWS N1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GWS R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTART R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Writing about Visual Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM R1B</td>
<td>Global Humanities: Old World, New World, Our World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALIAN R5B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGALST R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in Connection with the Law as a Social Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS R1B</td>
<td>Endangered Languages: Why does linguistic diversity matter?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGUIS R2B</td>
<td>Language and Linguistics in Science Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELC R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUSIC R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Writing about Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NATAMST R1B</td>
<td>Native American Studies Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NWMEDIA R1B</td>
<td>New Media Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHILOS R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition Through Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHETOR R1B</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SASIAN R5B</td>
<td>India in the Writer's Eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCANDIN R5B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEASIAN R5B</td>
<td>Under Western Eyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAVIC R5B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCIOL R1B</td>
<td>Sociological Reading &amp; Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPANISH R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition Through Readings from the Spanish-Speaking World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEATER R1B</td>
<td>Performance: Writing and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XASAMST R2B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Reading and Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XFILM R1B</td>
<td>The Craft of Writing - Film Focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XHISTAR R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Writing - Film Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>XLEGALS R1B</td>
<td>Reading and Composition in Connection with the Law as a Social Institution</td>
</tr>
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Satisfies Either Part A or B of the Reading and Composition Requirement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGRS R44</td>
<td>Classics of the Ancient Mediterranean World</td>
</tr>
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</table>