**English 1A- Reading & Comprehension** Instructor: B. Nakamura

6:00-7:50PM Tuesday & Thursday brice.nakamura@fresnocitycollege.edu

Class #59377 Office Hours: by appointment only

Final Exam Date: Dec. 9 10-11:50 Drop Date: Oct 10, 2014

**Required Texts and Materials**

*From Inquiry to Academic Writing*, Stuart Greene & April Lipinsky

*The Smartest Kids in the World and How they Got That Way*, Amada Ripley

*Freakonomics*, Steven Levitt & Stephen Turner

Flash drive, pencils, pens, lined paper, highlighters

**Course Objectives and Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Write a documented research paper of at least 1,500 words that includes:

a. a sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion

b. a clearly defined, arguable thesis sentence

c. supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible secondary sources

d. correct usage of MLA format, including a works cited page

e. sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, fragments, and mechanics

f. controlled and sophisticated word choice

g. writing in third person/universal

h. an avoidance of logical fallacies

i. demonstration of an awareness of purpose and audience

j. appropriate and purposeful use of quotations

k. correct in-text citations

l. an annotated bibliography of multiple sources

m. an avoidance of intentional and unintentional plagiarism

2. Complete a timed essay independently in class

3. Summarize and comprehend college level prose

**Course Conduct**

*Homework*: meworkntss: by appointment onlyedunHomework will mainly consist of reading the assigned texts and posting to the discussion boards on Blackboard. These will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. Please make sure you are keeping up with the homework; while it’s only 10% of your grade, they’re easy points.

*Quizzes*: These will serve as a way for me to check if everyone is completing the reading assignments, and keep track of who has been coming to class. Many of these will be short answer; some will ask for a longer response. They may also you to apply concepts from the book rather than just regurgitating what has been said in the book.

*General Writing Assignments*: We will be doing a lot of various writing assignments in and out of class. There may be several drafts as you go through the writing process: **keep all of your drafts for every paper**. I may ask to see these earlier drafts before I will accept the final draft. Please make sure that you are following proper MLA format for all drafts that you submit to me.

*Reading Assignments*: We'll be reading a large amount of materials every week. Some of the material may be easy, but some of it may require you to read it more than once to gain a clear understanding. Failure to keep up with the reading will affect your performance in class and ultimately your final grade.

*Peer Response Workshops*: Throughout the semester, we will use class time to read and suggest revisions on peer drafts. This gives you a chance to get feedback on your paper before submitting it for grading, as well as help keep you on track with assignments. You MUST have a completed draft to receive credit for these assignments. There is no way to make up the workshops; failure to attend or bring completed work will result in a lower grade.

*Final Exam*: There will be a timed final exam at the end of the semester on the day of the final. It will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. You MUST attend the final to pass the class.

*Revising your work*: If you are unsatisfied with your grade on essays, I will allow you to revise one paper. In order for this revision to be accepted, there is a 3-step process. First, revise the paper on your own based on my comments. Next, take your paper to the Writing Center for a walk-in tutoring session and compare the drafts with the tutor. Third, if necessary, make any additional changes based on tutor feedback and your own judgment. Submit all 3 drafts (the original, your revision, and the final draft) to me with proof that you went to the Writing Center.

*Extra Credit*: The only extra credit that I offer is by enrolling in English 272, a 1/2 unit tutorial class offered by the Writing Center. The tutors there have passed English 1A, and know what the expectations of the course are. Students who enroll in this tutorial course score a considerable percentage higher than students who do not (at least 1 grade level) and I'm willing to give you an extra 5% on your overall grade if you enroll in and pass this course. I strongly encourage enrollment for anyone who is doubtful about their potential for success in this class.

*Late Assignments*: Blackboard submissions must be completed before the start of class, or they will receive no credit. All papers, including the research paper, will be due to me by the end of class on the day they are due. If you have a problem meeting this deadline, let me know at least one week ahead of time and an exception may be made at my own discretion. If your paper is turned in to me after 7:50PM on the due date, it may be turned in up to one week later with a minimum of 10% grade reduction. No papers or assignments will be accepted beyond that point. Please keep in mind that most of your essays will be turned in via paper copy to me, unless I give special instructions.

**Grading**

Grading will be based on percentages in the following categories:

Research Project: 50%

 Prospectus (5+ pages)

 Annotated Bibliography (length varies)

 Research paper (8+ pages)

General Writing Assignments: 20%

Final Exam: 10%

Homework/Quizzes: 20%

100-90% A 89-80% B 79-70% C 69-60% D 59-0% F

**Course Policies**

*Instructor Contact*: While I do not have regular office hours, I'm always willing to meet with students before or after class. If you have questions, I'm also available by email. When you email me, please follow the guidelines we will go over in class (give me your name, what class you're in, etc). I don't reply to one-line emails. Pro tip: The academic world is a professional world, and you should email people here as if they were your supervisor at work. (It will earn you more respect and might even help you get what you want!) If you send me an email, please note that I may respond immediately or it may be several hours before you hear from me. I'm human; I need to eat, sleep, and binge on Nexflix just like the rest of you. I check my email at least once a day, so you'll most likely hear from me within 24 hours. In class, please call me “Mr. Nakamura.”

*Absences*: While it is not part of your grade to attend class, it is still expected of you to attend class. You need to be in class to be a part of the conversations, and contribute your ideas to our community of learning. However, I understand that life happens: work calls to ask if you can come in, the babysitter cancels, etc. If you need to miss a class, that's fine; you don't need to email me ahead of time, though I do appreciate the consideration. The ONLY exceptions to this rule are the peer workshop dates, which will result in a lowered final grade if you miss those classes. The official policy states that a student can miss up to 2 weeks of class (4 sessions) before being dropped from the course. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their absences. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to catch up before the next class session. If you miss any class in the first 2 weeks, you will be dropped.

*Lateness*: being late to class is as unacceptable in the academic world as it is in the workplace. If you are habitually late, you may be encouraged to drop the class.

*Accommodations*: If you have any need of special accommodations or materials in alternate media, per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

*Other Issues*: if you have a personal problem with something about this class, please let me know immediately so that we can get it resolved. I’m not particularly fond of the phrase “politically correct” but I don’t intend to offend anyone. Regardless, you are here to expand your mind, and be exposed to new ideas and ways of thinking. Some topics in class may make you uncomfortable or you may disagree with me or another student on a particular issue, but I ask that you remain respectful towards each other.

*Plagiarism:* Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicated work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.

Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services’ Offi ce or the Vice President of Instruction’s Offi ce.