**English 1A: Reading and Composition Fall 2015**

**Instructor: Mrs. Kate Watts**

**Office/Phone: HUM 52/638-3641, ext. 3406**

**Office Hours: T 12-2, Th 12-1, F Virtual 2-3 and by appointment**

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**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

College level skills in reading and writing

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**:

The Reedley College catalog describes English 1A as a course that emphasizes “reading, analyzing, and composing college-level prose, with emphasis on the expository; studying writing as a process; exploring different composing structures and strategies; editing and revising one’s own writing; conducting research (gathering, organizing, evaluating, integrating, and documenting information,) culminating in a term research paper and annotated bibliography.” This means that we will be focusing on both reading AND writing academic prose. We will study a variety of texts, from the novel, *Dreaming in Cuban* to op-eds and academic articles, videos, short documentaries, films and multimedia artworks. We are going to focus our analysis on the abstract idea of **diaspora**. This is a term that originally was used in the Bible (James 1:1 and 1 Peter 1:1) to describe the body of Jews living outside the land of Israel. Today, *The Oxford English Dictionary* defines diaspora as “Any group of people who have spread or become dispersed beyond their traditional homeland or point of origin.” All of the texts we will be reading will address this concept in one form or another. It is highly relevant given the many people being displaced in our world today. A current example of diaspora is the children who have crossed the border into Mexico alone and are currently being held in a detention center in Texas. Other examples are the refugees in both Syria and Iraq. These people have been displaced by war. There are many other examples of this across many cultures. The novel you will read in our first unit- *Dreaming in Cuban*-addresses the displacement of the Cuban people beginning with Columbus and moving to the present day. We will be examining a variety of texts that address this issue. For your final paper, you will research and analyze images of one specific diaspora-examining both the historical background and the implications for today’s world.

**Required Texts & Materials**

Garcia, Christina. *Dreaming in Cuban*. New York: Ballantine. 1992. Print.

Martinez, Oscar. *The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail*. New York: Verso. 2014. Print.

Hacker, Diane. Pocket Style Manual

Various links and PDFs posted to Blackboard under “Readings”

1 spiral notebook and folder for this class only

An electronic system to back up ALL of your writing-flash drive, email or server. Do not rely on blackboard to save your work. ALWAYS back up your work. There will NEVER be a time when you can say you don’t know what happened to your draft. There will NEVER be a time when you can say you emailed your draft but now you don’t have it anymore and somehow you can’t find it. Protect yourself from ever being in that situation…because if you are, it will mean a zero for that assignment and perhaps failing the class altogether.

**Student Learning Outcomes**: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Write a documented research paper of at least 1000 words which includes:
   1. A sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion
   2. An arguable thesis sentence
   3. Supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and credible secondary sources
   4. Correct usage of MLA format
   5. Appropriate and purposeful use of quotations
   6. An annotated bibliography of multiple sources
2. Write sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, and fragments.
3. Demonstrate sophisticated word choice
4. Correctly use in-text citations
5. Avoid plagiarism
6. Complete a developed essay independently in class
7. Self-edit for errors and revise compositions
8. Write in the third person
9. Summarize and comprehend **college level** prose.

**Communication & Conferences**

**Communication:** Please always make sure to check both our course site and your district email for announcements as well as other essential course information. All emails should be sent to [kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu) NOT through blackboard email. **All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line** and begin with “Dear Mrs. Watts….” Or “Hi Ms. Watts……” The language used in emails should be the same kind of language that you would use in an essay-NOT “Yo dude, where u at?”.

**Conferences**

Four required conferences for the semester to discuss your drafts, performance and progress.

**Essays**

**Submission and format**: All work must be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type of a standard typeface (Times Roman, preferably). You must submit your work in hard copy and also via the Assignments area. You must submit files as Word documents (\*.doc or \*.docx)

**Essay Policies**: Major essays will be due approximately every four weeks. You will have the opportunity to revise Essay 1 and 2 only; however, if you hand in a sloppy draft-poor formatting, lots of typos etc.- or a draft under the page limit for either essay, you will not be allowed to revise. The idea behind the point increase with each essay is that those students working hard will be improving. The extra points reward this engagement and subsequent improvement. I expect my comments on your first draft to be reflected in your writing on the second essay and the comments from the second essay reflected in the final essay. This means you pay close attention to the remarks.

**Essay 1**: 100 points (Revision allowed) ONLY if the draft meets the required page limited and is properly formatted with a minimum of proofreading errors. This applies to Essay 2 as well.)

**Essay 2**: 150 points (Revision allowed)

**Essay 3:** 150 points (No revision)

**Essay 4**: 200 points (No revision)

**Grades:**

You can access your grades at any time by going to Tools > My Grades. If you see an error of any kind, it is your job to notify me.

Grading Scale**:** A 90-100% B 80-89 C. 70-70% D 60-69%

**Class Schedule**:

I post schedules for each unit at a time. We will have four units for the semester.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Reedley College English department has a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. All of the writing done in this class must be your own. This includes all homework assignments, discussion board posts and essays. You cannot use work from another class in this class. Additionally, if, instead of making your own decisions about how to revise, you have someone revise or edit an essay for you, the piece you submit is no longer your own work, and you are plagiarizing. If you have committed plagiarism, you will receive a zero for the assignment and I will refer you to the Dean of Student’s office for disciplinary action. In addition, I will email the Dean of Humanities, the Chair of the English department and the Vice President of Instruction with the particulars of your offense.

**Completing Assignments and Missing Deadlines**

All assignments must be completed on the given due dates. Essays will be docked one letter grade for every day late (this includes weekends). After the third day, I will no longer accept the essay.

**Attendance Policies**

Attendance is required. If you do not attend the first day of class, you will be dropped. If you attend the first day of class but not the second day of class, you will be dropped. If you have three absences before February 1, you will be dropped. Do not schedule other appointments or work related activities during this time. There are no make ups for any quizzes, tests or in-class work of any kind.

**Accommodations**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me **as soon as possible.** This is extremely important. Your need for accommodation MUST be verified by DSPS. If you do not send me this information in the beginning of the session any need for extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.