**ENGLISH 1A 59163: Reading and Composition Spring 2017**

**HUM 62: 2:00-3:50**

**Instructor: Mrs. Kate Watts**

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

**Office Hours: T 3-5, W 12-1, Th 9-11, F Virtual (email) 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 *The Tortilla Curtain,* to the non-fiction *The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail*, 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 originally 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 this semester 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 refugees escaping from civil war in Syria. These people have been displaced by war. There are many other examples of this across many cultures. 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 current diaspora of your choice-examining both the historical background and the implications for today’s world. Current diasporas affect both foreign policy around the world and policies on immigration at home in the United States.

**Required Texts & Materials**

Boyle, T.C., *The Tortilla Curtain*

*English Simplified*

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

Subscription to The Daily Skimm

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.

**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). **All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line** and begin with “Dear Mrs. Watts….” Or “Hi Professor Watts……” The language used in emails should be the same kind of language that you would use in an essay. Once we have begun a ‘conversation’ then you can be more informal; however, ‘i’ or ‘u’ is never apporpriate.

**Conferences**

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

**Talking Points**

Talking Points are a requirement of the class. Each class period, five students will be assigned a talking point. The purpose of this part of the class is to allow every student a voice. If you are absent for your talking point, you will be docked 5 points. If you know ahead of time you will have to miss an assigned talking point, it might be possible to reschedule depending on the reason for your absence.

**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 files as Word documents (\*.doc or \*.docx). GOOGLE DOCS ARE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE RC SERVER.

**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**: 100 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 our course site. If you see an error of any kind, it is your job to notify me. You will need a 70% or better to pass the class.

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 are the only late work accepted. 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 four absences in the first nine weeks, you will be dropped after the fourth absence. 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.

\*The instructor reserves the right to change this material at any time.