**ENGLISH 1A 50020: Reading and Composition Fall 2019**

**Monday 6-7:50 SOC 35**

**Wednesday 6-7:50 Portable 2**

**Instructor: Ms. Kate Watts**

**Office Hours:**

**Tuesday 12-2, Wednesday 12-1, Thursday 9-10 Hi Top Tower District, Friday 2-3 Virtual and by appointment**

**Email: Canvas Email Only**

**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 *There, There,* to the non-fiction *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions* 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 war in Yemen and Syria. These people have been displaced by war. There are many other examples of this across many cultures. People are also displaced by poverty, by gang violence, and by weather. 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:**

Luiseslli, Valeria. *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay in Forty Questions*

*(*ISBN 9781566894951 paperback*)*

Orange, Tommy. *There, There*

*(*ISBN 978-0-525-52038-2 paperback*)*

One notebook devoted only to this class

Access to a printer and printer paper

**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.

**Instructor Contact**

Academia is a professional environment. When addressing your instructors, refer to them as Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Dr. unless they have asked to be referred to by their first names. Be sure that all correspondence is professional (no text-language emails) and follows all proper conventions of proper English usage (correct punctuation and grammar).

Please send emails ONLY through Canvas.

**Essays**

**Submission and format**: All work must be in MLA format. (This means typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type of 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 two weeks. You will have the opportunity to revise Essay 1 and 2 for an increase of one letter grade; 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:** 200 points (No revision)

**Annotated Bibliographies**: 100 points

**English Department Student Error Statement:** Your instructors at Reedley College want you to be successful in your classes and therefore request you submit your best work. Successful students in reading and writing classes make sure that they carefully address the prompt, proofread their writing, and follow MLA guidelines. Please note that an instructor may choose to read only the first page or less of an assignment and return it to you with little or no feedback if the paper demonstrates lack of attention to correctness. This paper is also likely to receive a failing grade.

**Response Papers/Forum Posts/Writing Workshops:** Approximately 250 points

**Grades**

You can access your grades at any time by going to your Canvas grade book. 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. Grades are on a point system.

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 three units this semester. Each unit schedule is posted on our Canvas home page.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

**Plagiarism/Cheating:** Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s words **OR IDEAS** as your own with no citation for their work. Always err on the side of caution—if in doubt, cite it. Cheating includes having anyone else complete your work for you or turning in a paper you have written for another class. You will be caught, receive no credit on the assignment, and reported to the administration. If plagiarism and/or cheating are suspected, you may be asked to provide drafts of your written work and submit your paper to turnitin.com, a plagiarism-checking service. Keep all drafts of your writing assignments for these purposes.

The following is taken from the Reedley College Catalog:

***Academic Dishonesty***

*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***

*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***

*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 the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate 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.*

**In short, don’t cheat or plagiarize.**

**Completing Assignments and Missing Deadlines**

All assignments must be completed on the given due dates. I do not accept late work aside from the first two essays. Essays 1&2 will be docked one letter grade for every day late (This includes weekends. Late essays are not eligible for revision and I do not comment on late essays.) After the third day, I will no longer accept the essay. I will not accept any late essays for the final essay of the semester.

**Attendance Policies**

The class will adhere to the Reedley College catalog attendance policy which states: “Students are expected to attend all sessions of classes for which they are enrolled. Excessive absence will jeopardize a student’s satisfactory progress in a class. Students will be dropped from a class if they fail to attend the first class session of the semester. As a guide, during the semester up to the final drop date, any student who misses more than two weeks of class meetings may be dropped.

**Phone Policy**

See “Have Smartphones Ruined a Generation?”

Be mindful. Be considerate of classmates and your instructor.

**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.