**English 1A Section 50021:** **Reading and Composition**

Fall 2019

**Instructor: Gretchen Fischle**

**Room: POR 02(M)/SOC 35(W)**

**Class Time: M/W 18:00 – 19:50**

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**Work Phone/Text: 559-906-0206**

**Office Hours: By email or text**

**Course Description:**

Reading, analyzing, and writing college-level prose with emphasis on the expository; studying writing as a process; exploring different writing strategies; summarizing; editing, and critiquing; conducting research (gathering, organizing, evaluating, integrating and documenting information). (A, CSU-GE, UC, I).

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

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

* a sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion
* a clearly defined, arguable thesis sentence
* supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible secondary sources
* correct usage of MLA format, including a works cited page
* sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, fragments, and mechanics
* controlled and sophisticated word choice
* writing in third person/universal
* an avoidance of logical fallacies
* demonstration of an awareness of purpose and audience
* appropriate and purposeful use of quotations
* correct in-text citations
* an annotated bibliography of multiple sources
* an avoidance of intentional and unintentional plagiarism

B. Complete a timed essay independently in class

C. Summarize and comprehend college level prose (will include a full reading)

**Required Texts:**

Orlean, Susan. *The Library Book*

**Attendance**:

1. Attendance/Participation: You’ll attend and fully participate in at least 85.7% of our scheduled class sessions. You may miss for whatever reason two class sessions. Coming to class **an hour or more late** or leaving class an hour or more before class ends constitutes an absence. For our class, attendance should not equate to participation. Participation is taking risks, asking for clarification, sharing insights or points of confusion, pushing your written responses/feedback as much as you can, and refraining from excessively using your electronic device (personal and school)
2. Lateness: Don’t be habitually late. If you are late or miss a class, you are still responsible to find out what took place and what assignments were made.
3. Sharing and Responding: Work cooperatively in groups. Be willing to share some of your writing (on Canvas and in class), to listen supportively to the writing of others and, when called for, give full and thoughtful responses.

**MLA Style Format:** All writing projects must be formatted with one-inch margins, though the default Word/WordPerfect 1 inch top/bottom and 1.25 left/right are acceptable, Times New Roman or Ariel 12 point font. The length of these writing projects will vary from 2 to 12 pages. You will need to bring copies of your writing projects during workshops; I will advise you when you need to bring copies. For more on MLA Style Formats, see the MLA Style Formats handout.

**Class Participation: (Small Group, Class Discussions, and Workshops**)

Class participation is mandatory and will be a necessary part of your success in this class. Therefore, you will need to come to class prepared, with homework done and ideas to share every day. Graded class participation will be included in your grade. Please refer to the grading contract for more details.

**Late Work**:

Should you need to turn in late work, make arrangements with me before or after class, or via email. ***Whatever the case, it is your responsibility to make sure your assignments reach me in a timely fashion.*** You may have a 2-day extension for **two** major out of class assignments and **three** for major in-class assignments. All late assignments are due 2 days after the initial date by noon. For example, if the assignment was due on Friday, at noon, a late assignment must be turned in by noon on Saturday. **(L)** **Note:** A late assignment turned in after the late deadline becomes an ignored assignment. No exceptions.

* + Missed-Mark Assignments (earing a 1 or 0): A missed-mark assignment is an assignment that was turned in on time but does not meet the requirements or guidelines. You will be allowed to revise these assignments; the revision should be turned in within a week. **(M)**
  + Ignored Assignments: After you have used your “late assignment” pass (for two assignments), all additional assignments turned in incomplete, not on time, or ignored for whatever reasons, are considered “ignored assignments.” **In order to meet our contract for a B grade, you cannot have any “ignored assignment.”** One of these will lead to an automatic C. Two missed assignments gives you a D and three or more missed assignments means an F course grade –no exceptions. **(I)**

\*\* **Each student may use one plea** during the semester in order to be temporarily exempt from the contract, or to be given a temporary break from the contract. A plea can only be used in out-of-the-ordinary circumstances, ones out of the control of the student, and that have kept him/her from doing the work as expected. You must come to me and tell me you wish to use your one plea and what assignment or issue you wish to use it on. We’ll talk in private, and the matter will be settled. You have only one plea, and you may not need to use it (I hope most of you do not). If you do use it, you must come to me within two weeks of the assignment or issue occurrence. You may not let the issue, absence, or unfinished assignment linger unresolved until the end of the semester, then try to use your plea.

**Grade Scale**:

In an attempt to streamline and demystify the grading scale, I have chosen to use a grading system that is simple and straightforward. If you have any questions about your current grade or standing in my class, feel free to ask. The following is the grade scale that will determine your grade based on the point totals at the end of the semester:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Grade Scale for Course:** | **Grade Scale per Assignments:** |
| **900-1000 A**  **800-899 B**  **700-799 C**  **600-699 D**  **0-599 F** | **4- High Pass (100-90% earned)**  **3- Pass (89-80% earned)**  **2- Low Pass (79-70% earned)**  **1- Not Yet Passing/Possible Required Rewrite (69-60% earned)**  **0- Missing or Incomplete (50% or less earned)** |

**Course Requirements:** Reading responses, presentations, peer reviews, and class discussions: Throughout the semester, you will respond to our course readings on a weekly basis, review your classmates’ drafts, and lead/participate in class discussions. Your work needs to meet the following conditions:

*Complete and On Time*. All reading responses and peer reviews should be completed on time and in the appropriate way. You are expected to participate in and contribute to class discussions in a meaningful way. If/when it is your turn to present on a particular topic, you should be prepared to engage the issues under discussion and carry on a conversation with your colleagues about the examined issues.

*Thoughtfulness*. Reading responses, peer reviews, and presentations / discussions should demonstrate that you have given careful thought to the issues /questions identified in the assigned texts and your classmates’ projects/writings, and that you are working through the questions in your responses and comments.

*Courtesy and Respect*. All peer reviews and class discussions should be honest, courteous, and respectful in tone. In this context, respect means we are kind and truthful. Treat others as you believe they want to be treated. We will discuss in detail the requirements and expectations of these assignments.

*MLA Style Format.* All writing must be formatted using this citation style.

**Reedley College Policies/Procedures:**

**Students with Disabilities**

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, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, or State Center Community College District (SCCCD) Board Policy (BP) 5140, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

**Cheating**:

As per the Reedley College 2016-2017 Catalog, “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.” Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term “cheating” not be limited to examination situations only but that it includes any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means.

**Plagiarism:**

By enrolling in this course, you join a community requiring intellectual integrity. When you write your name on an assignment, you take credit for the work contained, whether that is an entire text or only a sentence. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty demonstrate disrespect to the community and will not be tolerated. In this course, penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from 0 or F on a particular assignment, to further disciplinary action from the Dean of Student Services, depending on the severity, frequency, and action taken by the student.

**Responsibility**

In college there are different expectations, different sets of requirements, and different levels of responsibility. You, as a student in this class, have a responsibility to yourself and to the class to do the work required of you, to attend and participate during class time, to ask questions of the instructor or your classmates if you do not understand or want more information, and to know what assignments have been turned in and where you stand with your grade. The instructor has the responsibility to be prepared for every class, to answer any questions and consider any feedback, to provide in a timely manner helpful and honest suggestions for revisions on your essays, and to be available to you for questions and concerns outside of class. This syllabus acts as a contract between the student and the instructor and these responsibilities are part of the guidelines for your participation and success in this class. The instructor has the right to make adjustments to this syllabus as needed throughout the semester.

**Tutoring and On-line Help**

Tutors can help you organize and develop ideas for your writing assignments and to work on problems in grammar and sentence structure. Tutors do not write, rewrite, edit, or correct papers for you, but they can help you do the tasks better yourself. Services are available at