**English 3 51465: Critical Reading and Writing**

**M/W 1:00-2:15 Physical Science Room 75**

**Instructor: Ms. Kate Watts**

**Office Hours: Tuesday 12-2, Wednesday 12-1, Thursday 10-11 Hip Top Tower, Friday 2-3 virtual and by appointment**

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**COURSE GOALS & DESCRIPTION:**

English 3 is a course designed to develop critical thinking, reading and writing skills beyond the level achieved in English 1A. This course will focus on the development of logical reasoning and analytical and argumentative skills based primarily on works of non-fiction in a variety of media. Our task this semester is to first closely examine texts that will challenge you to think about and understand the powerful effects of rhetoric (spoken, written, and visual) on how humans think, speak, and interact with one another, and then to write three formal essays of increasing length and complexity. We will study a variety of texts, from op-eds and academic articles to videos, short documentaries, films and multimedia artworks with the focus on what the author/director/artist/photographer is *doing* and how this indicates the audience and the purpose of the text itself. You will then use that information to substantiate and clarify your own ideas. We will begin with a commencement address by the writer David Foster Wallace, and then move on to works that examine the abstract concept of ‘education.’ After that, we will move on to an examination of the importance of books and reading in relationship to education. Our textbook will be the source of formal argumentative terms and concepts.

**Required Texts & Materials**

Lunsford. *Everything’s an Argument 8th Edition*. 978-1319056278

Westover. *Educated* 978-0399590504

Orleans. *The Library Book* 978-1476740188

Course Readings: Posted in the appropriate modules on our Canvas site in the form of links or pdfs

1 three ring binder or other folder to organize and keep the syllabus, readings, handouts and your writing

An electronic system to back up ALL of your writing-flash drive, email or server. Do not rely on Canvas to save your work.

**Computer Requirements**

Always use Chrome as your browser. While your phone can show you some materials, many materials will NOT be available to you on your phone or in another browser. All uploaded documents MUST be in Microsoft Word. I will not accept Google docs or any other format.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Total Points**:

**Essay 1**: 100 points (Revision is allowed for Essay 1 as long as the essay is submitted on time, follows MLA formatting and meets the page minimum.)

**Essay 2**: 150 points (No revision allowed)

**Essay 3:** 200 points (No revision allowed)

**Annotated Bibliographies**: 100 points

**Response Papers**: 60 points (approximately)

**Discussion Board**: 60 points (approximately)

**Grading Scale:**

A 90-100% B 80-89 C. 70-70% D 60-69%

**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.

**Class Schedule**:

I post schedules for each unit one at a time. We spend approximately one month on each unit. I reserve the right to make any changes to the schedule. If any changes are made, you will be notified immediately.

**Expectations**:

As English 1A is a prerequisite for this class, I expect you to be completely familiar with MLA conventions-this includes formatting, the use and integration of quotation and the assembly of both an annotated bibliography and a works cited page. If this is an issue for you, please make use of the writing center on your home campus for review.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

These outcomes have been determined by the Reedley College English Department and are in accordance with the guidelines determined by the UCs and the CSUs for a transfer level class in the humanities. These outcomes are non-negotiable. If you are unable to do the following, you will not pass English 3. Every assignment in this class is geared towards teaching you how to acquire the ability to achieve these outcomes. There are no assignments whatsoever in this class that could be deemed ‘fluff’ or ‘busy work.’

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

1. Write a synthesized and documented, critical analysis of at least 1500 words which includes:
	* sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and a conclusion
	* an arguable claim that aims to contribute to or alter pre-existing ideas on the subject matter
	* supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible, multiple secondary sources
	* researched and evaluated sources for use in the development of their own writing
	* correct usage of MLA format with correct use in-text citations and a works cited page
	* appropriate and purposeful use of quotations
	* causal analysis, advocacy of ideas, definition, persuasion, evaluation, refutation, and interpretation effectively in college-level prose
	* an annotated bibliography of multiple sources
	* correct citations (therefore avoiding plagiarism)
	* identification of logical fallacies in others’ writing and avoid them in their own writing
	* details related to main point and with complex analysis
	* evidence of self-editing for errors and revise compositions
	* use of third person/universal
	* awareness of writing for a scholarly audience
	* controlled and sophisticated word choice
	* sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, and fragments
	* use of denotative and connotative aspects of language
2. Read and critically evaluate college-level non-fiction material from a variety of sources on themes from different content areas
	* Distinguish between valid and sound arguments and invalid and unsound arguments
	* Recognize deductive and inductive language
	* Distinguish factual statements from judgmental statements and knowledge from opinion, identifying the deliberate abuses and manipulations of rhetoric
	* Make logical inferences from information presented
	* Recognize denotative and connotative aspects of language
3. Discuss issues, supporting their comments with reference to texts

**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 I determine you have committed plagiarism, I will refer you to the Dean of Humanities, Dr. Todd Davis, for disciplinary action. You will receive a zero for the assignment, and, in most cases, this means you will fail the class regardless of the outcome of your meeting with Dr. Davis.

**Completing Assignments and Missing Deadlines**

All assignments must be completed on the given due dates. I do not accept late work on the discussion board or for response papers. 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. In addition, I do not provide feedback on late work. I will not accept late work for the final essay.

**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.

\*Instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time.