English 1A: College Reading and Composition

Spring 2024

Popular Culture and the World Around Us

Instructor: Prof. Huertaz

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English 1A CRN: 53256

4 Units

Transfer to CSU and UC

Office Hours: To be announced

Class meetings:

January 8th- May 17th 2024

MW 10:00am-11:50am

Classroom Complex 1 Rm 202

**Welcome to English 1A**

 Dear English 1 scholars,



 I am excited to teach and learn with you this Spring. I look forward to getting to know you and creating a community of supportive and engaged readers and writers. I hope you’re ready and if you’re not that’s okay too...we’ll take things one step at a time.

**Intro to me:**

Name: Jacqueline (Jackie) Huertaz

I am originally from Visalia, California and went to Redwood High School. I was a first-generation Mexican American college student. I teach English classes at multiple college campus, such as: College of the Sequoias, Porterville College, and Reedley College. My background in education ranges from teaching (at a younger age) after-school programs and as a substitute teacher for Visalia Unified School District. I received a BA in English Studies and an MFA at Fresno State University (GO BULLDOGS!) I’ve been teaching college for five years. Also, I’m a creative writer and have some of my writing published. I love reading memoirs and poetry and I am a fan of Sci-fiction, spooky tales, and zombie apocalypse shows (The Walking Dead). I spend my free time dancing Zumba and with my family and pet cats. Also, I like to go on hikes and explore nature, cook new recipes, and read and write when I have time.

 I’m looking forward to a productive and great semester with you all. Please email me (using Canvas) if you have any questions. 😊

 Prof. H

1. **Course Overview**

Students will read, analyze, and compose college-level prose, with emphasis on the expository; study writing as a process; explore different composing structures and strategies; edit and revise their own writing; and conduct research (gather, organize, evaluate, integrate, and document information), culminating in a term research paper and annotated bibliography. Students will write a minimum of 5,000 words in formal academic language.

1. **Course Objectives:**

In the process of completing this course, students will:

* Write multiple essays of at least 1,500 words, including at least one research paper with documentation 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 which exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, and fragments, and which show a command of mechanics. controlled and sophisticated word choice.
* Writing in the third person. an avoidance of logical fallacies.
* Demonstration of an awareness of purpose and audience. appropriate and purposeful use of quotations.

1. **Course Objectives**

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

1. Write a documented research paper 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 other mechanic problems
* Controlled and sophisticated word choice
* An avoidance of logical fallacies
* Demonstrating 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

1. **Student Learning Outcomes Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:**

* Summarize and comprehend college-level prose (will include a full reading)
* Complete a timed essay independently in class
* Write a documented, well-organized research paper of at least 1,500 words that demonstrates critical thinking and command of the English language.

1. **What is this class about?**

The theme of this class is centered on popular culture and the world around us. We will discuss many interesting conversations related to media in relation to Dr. Roxane Gay’s concept of Bad Feminist.

1. **Subject Material and controversial topics:**

We will often discuss controversial and challenging subjects matters in our class. One of the values of doing this is that you will learn new perspectives and respond to them in critical and respectful ways. If you have any questions or concerns about the subject matter of class materials and discussions, I welcome you to connect with me during my office hours or via email.

1. **The Helpful Three:** It would be a good idea to make use of the following three resources when you have initial questions: Syllabus, Canvas, and Classmates. If you still can’t find your answers please email me.

1. **Textbooks:**

* Gay, Roxane *Bad Feminist*(available at the bookstore and at Amazon) $11-20
* Richard Bullock, Michal Brody, and Francine Weinberg. *The Little Seagull Handbook with exercises* (2021 MLA update) ISBN: 9780393888928 $26.99 new
* These textbooks are available at The Reedley College Bookstore and on Amazon

1. **Grading Policy**

**Policy on reading responses and discussion board assignments:**

I do not accept late work; however, you will be allowed one excused assignment this semester for any reading response or discussion board assignment worth 10-15points. This does not include annotated bibliographies, rough draft papers, final draft papers, and projects. You must notify me within 24 hours and you cannot use the exemption at the end of term.

**Policy on late papers:**

You have a two-day grace period to submit your papers after the initial due date. However, please note that for each day beyond the due date, a deduction of 5 points will be applied to your overall score. Papers will not be accepted if submitted later than two days.

Similar guidelines apply to your rough draft essay. You have a two-day window to submit your rough drafts, but unfortunately, you won't be able to participate in the peer review process if it's submitted late. For each day the rough draft is overdue, a 5-point deduction will be applied to the overall score. If a rough draft is submitted incomplete, no credit will be given, and no peer review partner will be assigned. If you submit the rough draft on the second day, the maximum score achievable is 15/50. If you submit the rough draft but skip the peer review, you will receive 25/50 points.

Lastly, it's important to note that students who fail to submit a rough draft paper or submit an incomplete rough draft won't be eligible to submit the final draft. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns regarding these policies.

**Policy on projects:**

Participation in presentations is vital for your success in this course. It is essential that you present on the day assigned. If, for any reason, you are unable to do so, please reach out to me beforehand to discuss alternative arrangements. Failing to show up without prior communication will result in a failing letter grade. I encourage you to be mindful of due dates and feel free to consult with me if you need assistance or have any concerns. Your proactive communication and commitment to your presentations contribute significantly to your learning experience.

**Assignment Deadlines and Submission Tips:**

* All assignments are due at 11:59 pm.
* Most homework assignments are scheduled for Sundays and Wednesdays, with a deadline at 11:59 pm. If you encounter technical issues, please remain calm and take the next best step by sending your work via the Canvas inbox before the midnight deadline.
* Avoid submitting assignments through the Canvas app on your phone, as it may be unreliable for this purpose on phones and tablets.

1. **Introduction to MLA Style:**

For all essays, we will be following MLA style guidelines. Don't worry—I'll guide you through the rules and requirements before you tackle your first major paper.

1. **Essential Components for Essays:**

Every essay must include a Works Cited page, and a research essay will require an annotated bibliography. It's crucial to ensure your paper has a Works Cited page; otherwise, it will be considered incomplete, and credit won't be awarded. Rest assured, I'll provide detailed instructions on creating a Works Cited page well before the due date.

1. **Extra credit opportunities:**

**You have two opportunities to earn extra credit in my class.**

* If you meet with a tutor regularly throughout the semester you are eligible to receive extra credit (please see me about this).
* Meme project: 10pts for creating an additional meme.

1. **Where Do I Look for Assignments?**

I will publish most assignments on the days and times we meet for our class. Assignments posted on Tuesdays will be due Wednesday at 11:59 pm, and assignments posted Thursday will be due Sunday at 11:59 pm. You will have until midnight to complete these assignments (except for your syllabus quiz due on the first day of instruction). Other assignments, like major papers, will usually be due on Sundays at 11:59 pm. To locate assignments, go to Canvas, and click on Modules. Complete the assignments in sequential order.

1. Click on Modules in your navigation toolbar.
2. Click on the assignments embedded in the module and complete them in sequential order.
3. **Writing Assignments and Projects**

Twice this semester, you will participate in peer review with a partner. Learning how to ask for feedback and learning how to give feedback are essential tools for college writing, so participation in these workshops should be taken very seriously. You will receive 25 points for the draft and 25 points for participating. Only students that submit a rough draft will be assigned a partner.

* In class essays
* Cause and Affect Paper
* Research Essay
* Argument Essay
* Reading responses
* Discussion board responses
* Meme Project
* Bad Feminist Project
* Media Project
* Final: in-class essay on “Bad Feminist”
* Peer Workshop: 50x3=150 points

Throughout this semester, you will engage in peer reviews with a partner three times. Recognizing the importance of soliciting and providing feedback is crucial for honing your college writing skills, and I encourage you to approach these workshops with sincerity. You will be awarded 25 points for your draft and an additional 25 points for active participation. It's important to note that only students who submit a rough draft will be assigned a partner. Your commitment to this collaborative process is valued and contributes to a supportive learning environment for everyone.

1. **Breakdown of Assignments**

Discussions 20%

Participation 10%

Projects 20%

Essays 60%

=100 %

 Grading Scale

90-100%                          A

80-89%                            B

70-79%                            C

60-69%                            D

 0-59%                               F

* Essays are worth 60% of your overall grade. This includes freewriting activities, outlines, thesis statement workshops, research activities, annotated bibliographies, rough drafts, and peer review workshops. More importantly, any writing assignment that is connected to your essays will be included in this category.

1. **Attendance and Drop Policy:**

Students will be allowed three excused absences for our Spring session. Anything beyond three absences and students will be deducted 10pts from their overall participation grade for everyday they're absent. If students miss four days in a row I reserve the right to drop them for non-attendance. If students are tardy coming to class, coming back from break, or leaving class early, or leaving class for a substantial amount of time they will receive a 5-point deduction to their overall participation score. These points will be deducted at the end of the semester and will be deducted from your overall score.

In addition, attendance is vital to your success in this class. I reserve the right to drop you for non-attendance. On the first day of instruction, if students do not complete the syllabus quiz they will be marked as a “no show” and dropped from the course.

First day non-attendance looks like this:

On the first day of instruction, if students do not complete the syllabus quiz they will be marked as “no show” and dropped from the course.

In sum students can be dropped for non-attendance reasons if they:

1. Fail to complete the syllabus quiz
2. Miss two weeks of assignments

Ultimately, it’s the student’s job to drop the course by the drop deadline. Failure to do this could result in a failing grade on your transcript. If you need assistance on how to do this please contact records and admissions.

1. **Policy on lateness and leaving Class**:

Let's work together to create a positive and supportive learning environment. It would be wonderful if everyone could aim to arrive on time or even a little early to class, and commit to staying engaged throughout the session. While occasional tardiness can happen, consistent lateness can disrupt the flow of our learning community. Please be mindful of the impact your arrival time has on the class dynamic.

If you do happen to arrive late, don't worry! Just take a moment to catch up on any missed assignments or instructions. Additionally, if you need to leave class 20 minutes or more before it ends or if you arrive 20 minutes after it starts, participation points for that day won't be awarded. I understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, and if you find yourself missing half of a class due to lateness, I'll apply one of your excused absences to your participation grade. Let's strive for a supportive and punctual learning experience together.

If you find that doctor's appointments, work commitments, or family obligations are hindering your ability to attend class, please feel free to utilize your excused absences. Your well-being and responsibilities outside of class are important.

If you require accommodations due to a disability or are facing any transportation challenges, please don't hesitate to reach out to me as soon as possible. I am here to support you, and together we can explore solutions that ensure your success in the course.

**Attendance Policy for college-related event:**

Any absence due to a university-sponsored group activity (e.g., sporting event, band, etc.) will not count against you, as stipulated by university policy, as long as you have provided written documentation. This same policy applies if you have mandatory military-related absences (e.g., deployment, work, duty, etc.). Again, you must provide written documentation stating the days you will be absent beforehand.

If you will be absent because of university-sponsored events or military service for more than the number of days stated above, then you need to see me in the first two weeks of the semester.

Please note: Assignments not submitted due to an absence, whether they were scheduled or assigned in earlier class sessions, will be considered late and remain ungraded. I understand that unexpected circumstances may arise, but it is important to emphasize your responsibility for submitting your work on time, even if you are absent. Your commitment to meeting deadlines contributes to a smooth and successful learning experience for everyone

**Absences regarding unexpected illness or personal matter outside of class:**

If you find yourself unwell due to Covid-related issues, please prioritize your health and stay home to recover. Make sure to reach out to me immediately to discuss your situation. You do not need to submit medical documentation if you get sick.

In the event of missing a significant amount of class (two weeks or more) or facing a personal matter that requires multiple absences, please contact me as soon as possible.

It's important for you to know college policies: Unlike a job, a doctor’s note or work-related documentation does not exempt you from class or excuse you from completing assignments. The decision to accept late-work remains at the discretion of your instructor; however, it is important to contact me, to see if we are able to get you back on track.

Open communication is crucial! If you encounter an emergency that prevents you from attending class, please don't hesitate to contact me promptly. I'm here to support you during challenging times.

1. **Policy on cellphones/devices**:

Our policy regarding cellphones and devices is designed to ensure a focused and respectful learning environment. If you find yourself frequently engaged with your phone, laptop, tablet, or even Airpods during class, it may impact your participation points for that day. Let's aim for a balanced and attentive approach.

Kindly put your phone away during class, especially when I am giving a lecture. Your active engagement, including asking questions and taking notes, contributes to a positive learning atmosphere. Let's strive to be present, mindful, and, most importantly, maintain a professional demeanor in our class interactions. Your commitment to this approach will enhance the overall classroom experience for everyone.

1. **Communication Policy:**

Please send all messages regarding our class using Canvas inbox. If you send a message using the college email, there’s a good possibility I will not see it in time. I receive tons of emails daily from the college, and most likely, your email will get buried in my inbox. So, please send all messages using the Canvas inbox.

 If you email me outside of our class time, please give me**24**hours to respond. 

I want to let you know that I am unavailable on the days when our class does not meet, specifically Friday through Sunday. If you happen to email me during the weekend, please understand that I may not be able to respond until Monday morning, unless it is an emergency.

 In sum:

1. Send all messages using Canvas inbox.
2. Give me 24hours to respond on the days and times we don’t meet.
3. I’m unavailable on the weekends.
4. **College Policies on Plagiarism and behavior**

**Plagiarism** is the act of presenting someone else's words, ideas, or work as your own without proper attribution or credit. It involves copying and using someone else's intellectual property—such as text, ideas, images, or data—without permission or giving proper recognition to the original creator. Plagiarism can occur in various forms, including directly copying and pasting, paraphrasing without proper citation, and submitting someone else's work as your own. It is considered a serious ethical violation in academic and professional settings, as it undermines the principles of honesty, integrity, and intellectual property rights.

**Unintentional plagiarism** occurs when someone uses the words, ideas, or work of others without proper citation or attribution, but it is done without the intent to deceive or pass off the work as their own. This type of plagiarism often results from a lack of understanding of citation rules, poor note-taking, or inadvertent mistakes in the documentation of sources.

**Examples of unintentional plagiarism include:**

1. Forgetting to cite a source.
2. Inadequately paraphrasing or summarizing someone else's work.
3. Misinterpreting the rules of citation and inadvertently presenting someone else's ideas as one's own.

While unintentional plagiarism is not done with the deliberate intent to cheat, it is still considered a serious academic offense.

1. **Policies on using Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Do not use AI to write your papers it is a form of plagiarism and papers will not be accepted if they are caught using AI.

However, AI is a helpful tool to ask questions and for brainstorming ideas. If you're not sure about your limitations with AI in regards to academic writing, please ask me.

More importantly, please use AI ethically.

**17. Policies on Disciplinary Actions**

Instructors shall be in charge of their classes and students are under obligation to respect the authority of each instructor. Reedley College seeks to develop responsible, democratic citizenship among the students enrolled. Students are responsible for their conduct. Failure to adhere to the college’s standards will result in disciplinary action. The college reserves the right to exclude at any time a student who violates student conduct standards and/or is not taking proper advantage of the opportunities offered. (See Student Right to Know on page 10). Reedley College reserves the right to exclude at any time a student who, in the judgment of the administration, is not taking proper advantage of the opportunities offered.

18. Resources for students:

**Disabled Student Programs and Services:**

DSP&S provides services and accommodations to assist students who have temporary or permanent disabilities that affect academic functioning

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

Phone: 559-494-3032

**Canvas Information and Support**

Reedley Canvas Support (844) 629-6837

The Helpdesk (559) 499-6070

**Reading and Writing Center (summer hours may differ)**

The RC Reading and Writing Center is located in HUM 58. Stop by to enroll in English 272, weekly small group tutoring which is designed to help you on any writing assignment from any class. Walk-in appointments are available on the hour, and online tutorial consultations are available Monday through mid-day Friday.

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Friday: 8 a.m. - 12p.m.   
Phone: 559-638-0300 x3619  
Email: [writingcenter@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:rc.writingcenter@reedleycollege.edu)

The syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.