

Reedley Community College
English 25

Grade scale
Drop deadline

Instructor: Mrs. J. Sheldon

M 8:00 - 9:50 INC 3

Office:

W 8:00 - 9:50 LSH 1

Office Hours:

Office Phone:

This course is designed to teach you fundamental writing skills, prepare you for English 1, and further the successful continuation of your college career. The class is designed as a writing workshop in an effort to provide you with extensive opportunities to improve your writing. You'll write in almost every class and establish a writer's notebook. We will focus on the process of writing, from generating and organizing ideas to rethinking and revising the articulation of those ideas.

TEXTS:

Themes For Writers Paul Eschholz and Alfred Rosa. St. Martin's Press.

English Simplified

REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Attendance.** You are allowed 2 absences. These absences should be used for illness or legitimate emergencies. Two consecutive absences will force the instructor to assume that you are no longer interested in the successful completion of this class. After 2 absences the instructor will lower your grade by one. Continued absences will force the instructor to lower your grade again. Any additional absences will result in failure of this class. **Please be on time to class. Tardy students will be marked absent.**
2. **Journal.** You will produce a writer's journal this semester. The purpose of the journal is to provide you with a place for risk-free writing: I will not be looking for mistakes in grammar or punctuation: what I will be looking for is your engagement with the ideas you write about. This is not a diary, but a place to record your experiences, frustrations, and successes as a writer. I prefer the use of spiral notebooks because all of your writing will be held together for you.
3. **Writing Assignments.** You will write a number of in-class essays. You will also write approximately 6 to 8 formal essays that will be produced through a rough draft draft and one or two revisions. **All drafts of these essays must be neatly typed.**

4. **Portfolio of revised writing.** You will be submitting a portfolio of your best writing from this semester for part of your Midterm and Final grade. Your Midterm portfolio will consist of an unrevised in-class essay and one piece of revised writing with preliminary drafts and prewriting stapled to the back of the revised paper.

Your Final Portfolio must contain one unrevised in-class essay and three pieces of revised writing with preliminary drafts and prewriting exercises stapled to the back of each revised paper. Of the three revised essays, two must be expository. Incomplete or late portfolios will automatically fail.

5. **Homework and Class Participation.** Homework assignments must be completed before class time. All homework assignments are designed to make you think and prepare you for class discussion. Group discussion and class participation are an important part of your grade.

6. **Tests.** Tests will consist of essay questions about your reading. Journal assignments and class participation should help prepare you for tests.

7. **Workshops.** A complete draft of your paper will be due for workshops. It must be typed. During the workshop classes, you are also responsible for giving conscientious feedback--you are a reader, and therefore your insights are valid.

8. **Conferences.** You will have scheduled conferences with me at least two times during the semester; like class meeting, you must attend your conferences. We will discuss your writing in detail at these times.

9. **Grading.** If you successfully complete all of the requirements for this course, receive a passing evaluation of your portfolio, you will pass English A with a letter grade equal to your effort. If you do not successfully complete **all** of the requirements for the course, even if you receive a passing evaluation on either portfolio, you will not pass English A. We will discuss the portfolio and grading system at length in class.

REMEMBER: All work submitted this semester must be written by you. Do not plagiarize, which means presenting someone else's work as your own--whether it be their ideas, expression of those ideas, or rewriting of your own ideas by someone else. The university has a strict written policy on plagiarism; if you are unsure about this, check with me.