

REEDLEY COLLEGE  
EN [REDACTED] READING AND COMPOSITION  
SPRING 2000  
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Instructor: Gary [REDACTED]  
Office: A1 Office Hours: M,T,W,F 9:00-10:00 AM and TH 10:00-11:00 AM  
Office Telephone: 638-0300 ext. 3223 School Telephone: 638-3641  
E-mail: [oceancrest@hotmail.com](mailto:oceancrest@hotmail.com)

**Required Materials:**

- *Job* from the Hebrew Old Testament. Any well-accepted version such as the King James, the New King James, the NIV, the NASV, or the New Jerusalem will do. The Living Bible or other paraphrased versions and versions for children are unacceptable.
- *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, translated by Pevear and Volokhonsky, available in the book store.
- *Brief Handbook for Writers* by Howell and Memering, available in the book store.
- A formatted floppy disk compatible with campus computers, also available in the bookstore.
- I will provide additional photocopied materials.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this course is to improve your reading and composition skills through the study of challenging literature and cinema. Transferable skills: critical thinking; drafting and revising essays in terms of clear organization and effective style; researching and documenting sources.

**Disclaimer:** This is a nontraditional English 1A course. Instead of a textbook, we will be reading novels, studying philosophers and viewing movies. Much of this material is advanced in difficulty and will take much dedication and perseverance to get through (*Crime and Punishment* is 550 pages in length.) In this class you will be exposed to new ideas that may challenge the way you think, even the way you believe; some of the material will deal with religious belief, atheism, sex, murder, and madness in a frank manner. If this sounds problematic, I encourage you to drop this section and take a more traditional English 1A.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's ideas and/or words. Plagiarism involves everything from buying or borrowing an essay to improper documentation. Penalties for plagiarism may include expulsion from this class and from the college.

**Important Dates**

- Last day to drop a semester-length course and not have it appear on transcript: Friday, January 28.
- [REDACTED]

**Policies and Procedures**

**Minor Essays:** You will be writing anywhere from eight to ten short essays in class and out of class. These will be exploratory in nature and may develop into major essays. Format these essays in MLA format and staple them in the upper left corner. I will check them for completion and hand them back. You are responsible for saving these essays: keep them together on your computer disk; keep an extra disk of your essays at home; print out and keep hard copies in a file. No excuses for lost materials will be accepted.

**Major Essays:** You will be developing four major essays. These essays may be developed from other in-class and out-of-class writing. In order to pass this class, you must complete all major essay assignments. Failure to complete one paper assignment will result in an F for the course. I require typed papers in MLA format, double-spaced and on one side of 8.5"x11" sheets of paper. Staple the pages of each paper in the upper left corner before bringing to class. I will not accept a paper without a staple. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Due dates are final. I will not accept late papers, so if you are absent on a due date for any reason, be sure to hand in the paper early or make preparations with a friend to hand your paper in for you.

**Quizzes:** Keeping up with the reading is essential in this class. I will give pop quizzes often.

**Revision Workshops:** We will have in-class sessions in which you will read and respond to the essays of your peers, and vice versa.

**Attendance and Class Participation:** Your participation is vital to your success in this class. Read assigned pieces carefully, complete all homework assignments, and come prepared to contribute at least two points of discussion in class each day. Avoid blending in to the background. Five or more unexcused absences will result in an F for the course. If you come to class after roll is taken, then you will be counted tardy. Each tardy counts as one half of one absence. Note: Any work missed due to an absence may not be made up (with the exception of in-class assignments missed due to illness or university business. In these situations, an official department or doctor's note is required, and the test must be made up within the next week.).

**Conferences:** I encourage you to see me regularly in my office during my scheduled office hours listed above. If these hours don't work for you, schedule an appointment with me. I'll be happy to see you at another time.

Participation.....	5%
Quizzes.....	10%
Minor Essays.....	20%
Major Papers 1-3.....	30%
Major Paper 4.....	15%
Mid-Term Presentation.....	10%
Final Examination.....	10%

**Course Schedule by Week**

Jan 10: *Job* from the Hebrew Bible.

Jan 17: *Job*

Jan 24: *Job*

Jan 31: The philosophy of Soren Kierkegaard; \* **Paper 1 due.**

Feb 7: Kierkegaard.

Feb 14: Kierkegaard; the Poetry Philip Levine

- Feb 17 Thursday: poet Philip Levine, 7:00 PM, Forum Hall.
- Feb 18-21 Friday-Monday: Lincoln and Washington Days observed.

Feb 22 (Tuesday): Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*; the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. \* **Paper 2 due.**

Feb 28: *C&R*; video biography of Dostoevsky; Nietzsche.

March 6: *C&R*; begin the movie adaptation of *C&R*.

March 13: *C&R*; the stories of Charlotte Blake Alston.

- March 16 Thursday: story teller Charlotte Blake Alston, 7:00 PM, Forum Hall.

March 20: *C&R*; continue movie; \* **Mid-Term Presentations.**

March 27: *C&R*; continue movie; \* **Mid-Term Presentations.**

April 3: *C&R*; continue movie.

April 10: *C&R*; finish movie; the stories of Ron Hansen; \* **Paper 3 due.**

- April 13 Thursday: author Ron Hansen, 7:00 PM, Forum Hall.

April 17: NO CLASS ALL WEEK

- April 17-21 Monday-Friday: Easter Break.

April 24: Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors*.

May 1: Work on Research Paper.

May 8: \* **Paper 4 Research Paper due.**

May 15: Final Examination Week

- May 17 Wednesday: MTWTH class Final Exam, 10:30-12:30.
- May 19 Friday: MF class Final Exam, 10:30-12:30.