

**ENGLISH 3: CRITICAL READING AND WRITING
SPRING 2000**

Reedley College
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Office Hours: T/Th 2-3 loc. TBA

CLASS MEETINGS:

All meetings will take place in SOC 30. Semester classes will be held from 6-8:50 PM every Monday excepting holidays and the final examination period, which you will find listed below.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Welcome. The course intention is to further sharpen your college-level critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. As a continuation of your English 1A study, the primary focus will be the academic research/argument essay. We will approach this through the study and practice of such fundamentals as: critical reading comprehension, analysis, and evaluation, honing of the necessary critical skills required for substantive written response, and finally experience in the kind of vigorous verbal discussion that is crucial in most college classrooms. In addition, however, you will be required to maintain a level of commitment in participation, attendance, and coursework that is reflective of education beyond the high school level. Please be warned that this places the entire responsibility of your class status in your own hands, for it is this instructor's solid belief and experience that college and university classrooms are built around self direction and motivation.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS (ALL OF WHICH CAN BE FOUND IN YOUR CAMPUS BOOKSTORE):

Barnet, Sylvan and Hugo Bedau. Current Issues & Enduring Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking an Argument, with Readings. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999.

A college-level paperback dictionary.

3 large-size Examination Blue Books

Optional: A current handbook of English language usage which includes attention to MLA format use

Final exam date

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Because I feel very strongly that what we do in the classroom and when it is done should be in direct response to what each particular class needs and desires, you will receive a schedule of readings, assignments, and due dates bi-weekly. If at any time you find yourself unsure of what is required of you, it is your responsibility to inquire.

ATTENDANCE:

We only have a total of 15 meetings scheduled for the semester, and so it is absolutely crucial that you experience a maximum of this limited time we will have to spend together as a class. Thus you are allotted only 1 missed class period before your course grade begins to suffer. Please be advised that after 2 absences (at the time of your 3rd absence) you will be dropped from the course. However, if this 3rd absence occurs after the final drop date, you will fail the course.

In addition, consistent tardiness and early departures may also lower your grade, and there is no distinction made between "excused/unexcused" absences.

SOME IMPORTANT POINTERS:

***ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. IF YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE CLASS, PLEASE ADVISE ME IMMEDIATELY AND MAKE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS TO GET ME THE WORK.**

***VERBAL PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSION IS ESSENTIAL. SHYNESS, WHILE I AM SYMPATHETIC TO IT, MUST NOT PREVENT YOU FROM PROGRESSING AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE REST OF THE CLASS.**

***IT IS ALWAYS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP TABS ON YOUR OWN PROGRESS AND STATUS IN CLASS. DO NOT WAIT FOR ME TO REMIND YOU OF ANYTHING, BECAUSE I WILL NOT. SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE STUDENTS BUILD CONFIDENCE AND EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE ONLY WHEN THEY TAKE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR EDUCATION.**

***THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT WORK ASSIGNED.**

***ALL WORK BEYOND THE ASSIGNMENTS IN THE TEXTBOOK MUST BE TYPED, ESPECIALLY THE PAPERS. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTION TO THIS. WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT RESOURCES ARE LIMITED TO MANY OF US AT HOME, THE COLLEGE HAS A COMPUTER LAB THAT YOU MUST ALLOW TIME TO VISIT.**

HOLIDAYS PERTINENT TO OUR CLASS SCHEDULE:

M 1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
M 2/21 Washington Day
M-F 4/17-21 Spring Recess

IMPORTANT SEMESTER DATES TO REMEMBER:

F 3/10 Absolute last day to drop this class
Also mid-term report period
F 5/12 Last day of instruction

Our Final Exam

REQUIRED COURSEWORK:

Chapter Responses 100 pts.
Timed Essays 200 pts.
Oral Component 200 pts.
Mini-Papers 200 pts.
Final Research Paper 300 pts.
Total points possible for the course = 1000 pts.

FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Please note that you must receive a "C" or better in order to pass!

900-1000 A
800-899 B
700-799 C