



English 1A | Reading & Composition | 4 units | Fall 2009

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**Instructor:** Rick Garza **Office:** Annex A-2 **Phone:** 638-3641 ext. 3308  
**Hrs:** MW:11-12:30; F: 11:30-12:30 **email:** rick.garza@reedleycollege.edu

Section: (53031) T: 9-10:50 SOC 35; Th: 9-10:50 HUM 62 | (53032) F: 9-10:50 CCI 202 + WEB

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## Course Description

Reading, analyzing, and composing college-level prose, with emphasis on the expository: studying writing as a process; exploring different composing structures and strategies; editing and revising one's own writing; conducting research (gathering, organizing, evaluating, integrating, and documenting information) culminating in a term research paper.

## Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Write an acceptable 5-7 page documented research paper.
- Employ thesis statements, topic sentences, supporting data, introductions, and conclusions.
- Write with attention to audience and without logical fallacies.
- Target research from valid sources, incorporate quotes and paraphrased text as support, and avoid plagiarism.
- Determine the correct citation pattern, and discriminate among sources, especially Internet sources, for accuracy and validity.
- Employ Standard American English for the various requirements of universities and the workplace such as avoiding slang, conversational diction and sexist language, and following common usage guidelines.
- Use an effective organizational structure depending on purpose and rhetorical mode.
- Demonstrate mature and cogent language crafted for clarity, power, rhythm, texture, tone and grace.
- Edit for errors in sentence construction, punctuation and mechanics.
- Write an acceptable essay with thesis and adequate support independently in class.
- Generate ideas through an effective prewriting strategy such as outlining, free writing, or clustering.
- Compose and complete a written essay within an allotted time.
- Summarize and comprehend **college level** prose.
- Identify the model, summarize the thesis, and locate supporting information of assigned writing, especially the college level essay.
- Name rhetorical devices such as irony and parallelism and translate metaphorical language, so as to determine an author's intent, both explicit and implicit.
- Answer questions from assigned reading differentiating between an author's intent and personal reaction.
- Describe, evaluate, and question the purpose, audience, organization, and style of assigned readings.
- Determine a writer's background, historical period and cultural niche for discussions of bias, diversity or shifting perspectives.

**Required Texts and Materials:**

The Writer's Presence, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed., (ISBN: 0-312-48686-3) McQuade-Atwan  
 The Things They Carried - O'Brien (ISBN:0-7679-0289-0) Broadway  
 A Pocket Style Manual, 5th Ed., Hacker (ISBN: 978-0-312-593247)

A notebook for the **exclusive** use of this class, note paper and writing utensils for in-class writing assignments, and a stapler (unstapled work will not be accepted)

**Strongly Recommended:**

An internet connection, email address, a dictionary, and a flash drive.

**Grading:**

Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3 (Midterm)	20%
Essay 4	15%
Essay 5 (Final)	25%
Workshops	5%
Short Assignments/Homework	5%

The grading scale is as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
100-90%	89-80%	79-70%	69-60%	59% & Below

**Essays:**

You will write a total of five (5) essays. Each will be worth 100 points. All final drafts must be typed and follow Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. For each essay you will receive a prompt that will outline the specific requirements for each essay.

**Workshops:**

Before you turn in an essay, you must also have the paper workshopped. Each workshop is worth 50 points (30pts for your rough draft and 10pts for each Say/Do Outline completed). For these workshops, you will be required to bring in a current copy of your paper. **If your draft is not completed by the date that the workshop is scheduled, you will lose the points for the workshop.** The maximum number of points that can be earned by completing Say/Do Outlines is 20 for each workshop.

**Late Work:**

Generally is not accepted. If you miss a class or forget to do an assignment you cannot make up the work. Essays may be accepted late at a minimum of 10% off of the final score for each day it is late. You should consult the instructor prior to missing a due date in order to avoid penalty.

**Quizzes / In-class Writing:**

During the semester, there will be a number of short, in-class writing assignments given. These may include quizzes on the assigned reading from the textbook. Each of these assignments will be worth 5 points each. If you miss the class in which the assignment is given you cannot make it up.

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend/participate in class regularly. There are no “excused” absences. Students will be dropped prior to the final drop date after missing two consecutive weeks of class or accumulating the equivalent of two weeks of absences. “No-shows” on the first day of class will be dropped and only readmitted based upon seat availability. Late arrivals and early departures count for half an absence.

**Disruptive Behavior and Sexual Harassment**

Reedley College is committed to the principle that instructors and students must treat each other with courtesy and respect, and it will take action to enforce college policies regarding behavior that violates this principle. These policies are set forth in the student code of conduct at Reedley College.

**Mobile Communication Devices must** be turned off. If the vibrate mode of your phone causes it to vibrate to the degree that your classmates can hear this vibration, turn your phone completely off. If you are observed text-messaging during class you will be marked absent for the day.

**Guests are not allowed.** Only those enrolled in the class will be allowed in the room.

## **Important Dates:**

Friday, August 28th - Last day to drop a full-term class for a refund

Friday, September 4th - Last day to register for a full-term class

Friday, September 4th - Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a "W"

Monday, September 7th - Labor Day (no classes held, campus closed)

Friday, October 16th - Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grade assigned after this date)

Wednesday, November 11th - Veteran's Day (no classes held, campus is open)

Thursday-Friday, November 26-27th - Thanksgiving holidays

**Final: 53031=Tuesday, December 15th | 53032=Monday, December 14th**

## **Cheating and Plagiarism**

The following is adapted from Fresno City College's website on cheating and plagiarism.

### **CHEATING**

Cheating is the act of deception by which a student misleadingly demonstrates that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise. Examples include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Copying or allowing another to copy a test, paper, project or performance.
- ✓ Using unauthorized materials during a test, for example, notes, formula lists or "cheat sheets."
- ✓ Taking a test for someone else or permitting someone to take a test for you.

### **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving credit. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- ✓ Incorporating the ideas or words of another's work without giving appropriate credit.
- ✓ Representing another's artistic or scholarly works, such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, etc., as one's own.
- ✓ Merely changing a few words or making a few structural changes to another's work is still plagiarism when passed off as one's own work.

### **PENALTIES**

**Penalties for cheating and plagiarism are severe and can follow you the rest of your college career.** At the minimum, you will receive an F on the assignment and a warning, but plagiarizing in a major essay will result in an immediate F for the class and a write-up for your student record. You may also be liable for more severe penalties, up to and including expulsion from the college. **The bottom line is that the college and I take this very seriously and so should you.**

**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.

**Contact and Conferences**

At different times during the semester, a student may need time with me or I may request a conference with him or her. I check my phone messages and email daily at the email address on the front page. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are experiencing a problem, have any questions, need help or clarification from me, or have ideas and suggestions for the class. I am here to help you succeed.

**Course Changes**

This syllabus may change during the course of the semester to better address the class's needs. A handout explaining the new expectations will accompany such changes.