

**WELCOME TO ENGLISH 1A**  
**Spring 2011, Section 55090**  
**Tuesday SOC 35**  
**Thursday HUM 62**  
**2:00-3:50**

Instructor: Ms. R Krause

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Office Hours: Contact me for appointment

**Required Texts and Materials:**

- The Bedford Guide for College Writers 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, X.J. Kennedy, Dorothy M. Kennedy, and Marcia F. Muth, 2008. ISBN : 978-0-312-66772-6.
- Hunger of Memory, Richard Rodriguez.
- A novel, biography, or other full length book of your choice (subject to my approval).
- A dictionary.
- USB Flash Drive.
- Three ring binder, dividers, plenty of college-ruled paper, pens/pencils, stapler, file folders (for handing in papers).

**Prerequisites:**

- English 125 and 126 or placement by college assessment process.
- Ability to use word processing (saving files, using spell check, using grammar check, moving text, using the help function, etc.)
- Ability to access the internet and navigate the internet.
- Ability to send email and email with attachments.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

English 1A is equivalent to the freshman composition course at a four-year university. It focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing college-level prose; 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 research paper and annotated bibliography.

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

- A. Write a documented research paper of at least 1000 words 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

- o sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, fragments, and mechanics
  - o controlled and sophisticated word choice
  - o writing in third person/universal
  - o an avoidance of logical fallacies
  - o demonstrating an awareness of purpose and audience
  - o appropriate and purposeful use of quotations
  - o correct in-text citations
  - o an annotated bibliography of multiple sources
  - o an avoidance of intentional and unintentional plagiarism
- B. Complete a timed essay independently in class
- C. Summarize and comprehend college level prose (will include a full reading)

### **REQUIRED COURSE WORK AND GRADING**

Since this is a four-credit class, you should count on spending at least eight hours a week on homework outside class time—sometimes more. You will be graded on:

Class participation	Required
Small group exercises, summaries/responses, homework exercises, in-class exercises	1-10 points each
Quizzes, essay rough drafts, short papers, book write-ups	10-25 points each
3 essays	100 points each
1 research essay	200
2 essays written in class	50 points each

**Total points possible:** Approximately 1000

**Final grades are based on a percentage of total points possible:**

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

**Portfolio and Flash Drive:** To pass this class you'll need to master the small assignments as well as the essays and receive 70% or higher on your research paper. A portfolio demonstrates how well you have progressed through the semester. Please file all daily assignments, exercises, short write-ups, journal entries, rough drafts, essays, and prewriting in a three-ring binder under the correct tabs in order by date. NOTE: you are required to complete **all** assignments even if you don't turn them in. I will check your portfolios several times during the semester. In addition, store all of your work on your USB flash drive. **Bring your binder and flash drive to each class**

**session**. You will need to refer to your work from time to time for quizzes, in-class writings and presentations, essays, etc.

**Readings:** I chose our textbook The Bedford Guide because it contains many readings on various themes, an MLA research guide we will need for the research paper, and a handbook for sentences and mechanics—all in one. It is on reserve in the library, but you do need to purchase one for yourself to have in class. We will explore different themes throughout the term in hopes that you will find an interesting topic for your research paper. Some of these themes include education, relationships, pop culture, technology, stereotypes, and language. The full length text by Richard Rodriguez, Hunger of Memory, a memoir of his childhood, focuses on the chasm he perceives between the language spoken at home and that spoken in school and in public. You also will be able to choose another book of interest to you to read during the semester.

As you can see, there is a substantial amount of reading each week. We will discuss these readings in class and/or analyze them in small groups. Students are responsible for completing all assigned readings and exercises before class begins and to participate in class discussions and group activities during class. Summary/response write-ups on what you read will be assigned. They are meant to reflect depth of thought, a clear central focus, and your progress in language expression through the semester.

**Journals:** The purpose of journals is to help you find and develop your voice and your ideas for essays and other writings. It is important to capture ideas and thoughts that occur while reading and discussing or you will lose them. Try to see if you can relate your ideas to what you are learning in other classes as well. Journals will be checked three times during the semester. To receive full credit, entries must equal at least two full, typed pages per week, double-spaced. You will receive more instructions on journaling later.

**Essays:** The first three essays will be 4-5 pages long. In your first essay you will recall an experience and will work with the Writing Center during the process of writing this essay. Your second essay will compare two points of view from two of our assigned readings. In your third essay you will analyze an issue important to you and use both assigned readings and some sources you find yourself to support your ideas. Your final essay will be a longer research essay, 6-8 pages. This essay may grow from any of the topics you write about in your first three essays. Essays will be typed in MLA format.

Essays 1-3 may be revised for a higher grade. That's optional. If you choose to revise, your revision will be done with the help of the Writing Center. The research essay (Essay #4) may be revised if you pass the first one with a C or higher.

**Late homework:** I do not accept late assignments. All daily homework is to be completed before class starts the day it is due. If you are going to be absent, you need to make arrangements ahead of time to turn in your assignment early or to email your assignment to me before class begins on the day it is due. Since I understand that life

happens outside of class, each student has two “free passes” to use during the semester for any reason. You may use these passes for two missed homework assignments. Let me know when you use one of your passes, and you will not be penalized for not turning in that assignment. I do caution you to use your passes only in case of emergency and toward the end of the semester. Passes cover daily assignments only and do not cover essays, prewriting assignments leading up to an essay, rough drafts, or short writing assignments. All assignments in this class are required in order to pass, so you need to do them and file them in your portfolio even if you miss handing them in by the due date.

**Late essays:** Late essays will be docked one full letter grade, and I will not accept them after one week. A late essay is also not revisable.

### **PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE**

- **Be in class.** Participation in class is required. If you aren't in class, you aren't participating. Four or more absences during the semester will affect your participation grade. (NOTE that if you are absent you will lose any participation points given for class activities that day; pop quizzes may not be made up.) It will be difficult to pass the class if you miss more than six sessions. Doctor's appointments should not be scheduled during class time. In accordance with district policy, students who miss more than **four (4)** classes for any reason before the nine-week drop date will be dropped from the class. Students absent any time during the first week will be dropped.
- **Be on time.** Three late arrivals or early departures count as one absence and a loss of participation points. Also, late arrival may mean you won't be able to participate in group activities that are already under way (a further loss of points).
- **Be ready to participate.** Attendance in college is more than just filling a seat. Since we'll do a lot of writing, discussion, and workshop activities, your participation means this: bring everything you need for a session in English 1A—textbooks, other reading materials we are working on, binders with your work, notepaper, journals, flash drive, dictionary, etc. Then, when we are discussing, discuss. When we are writing, write. When I am lecturing, take notes. If you are not participating, I will either mark you absent or ask you to leave.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS REQUESTS:**

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 notify me as soon as possible.

## **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

**Computer use:** Please do not turn on the computers in the lab (HUM 62) until requested to do so, and turn the computers off when the class session is over. Do not use computers to check personal email or conduct personal business of any kind.

**Disruptive behavior:** If you disrupt class I will ask you to leave. I consider the following behaviors disruptive:

- **Cell phones and other electronic gadgets:** Turn them off and keep them out of sight during class.
- **Rudeness:** Courtesy toward your classmates and instructor is mandatory. I am interested in creating a safe environment for lively discussion where you can all present your ideas and points of view. Rudeness of any kind will not be tolerated. I will ask you to leave the classroom and perhaps the class altogether if you are rude to anyone during a class session or if you exhibit other disruptive or negative behaviors. Misconduct in the classroom will be reported to administration.

**Plagiarism and cheating:** Plagiarism is the act of using another person's words or ideas as your own with no citation for their work. Cheating includes having anyone else complete your work for you or turning in a paper you have written for another class. You will receive a zero for the assignment and probably an F for the class, be reported to administration, and may be dropped from the class.

The following policies are found on Page 44 of the RC Catalog.

*Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.*

### ***Cheating***

*Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.*

### **Plagiarism**

*Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.*

### **BLACKBOARD**

You are responsible for knowing what the assignments are at all times as I post them on Blackboard at least a couple of weeks ahead of time in addition to passing out hard copies in class. Sometimes assignments change, so check Blackboard often. You can also access your total points on Blackboard. In fact, you are responsible for checking your points to make sure they are correct. If you ever have a question about your points on Blackboard, let me know immediately. If you are interested in your letter grade at any point during the semester, I will let you know that, also.

**CONTACT ME** right away if you have questions, issues, or simply feel confused about anything we are doing in class. The gmail address above is reserved for students' communications and I check it several times during the day. I will get back to you promptly. I prefer that you contact me on gmail as I get a lot of different types of mail on my campus email and yours could get lost. If there is something we can't handle by email, I will be happy to set up a time to meet with you on campus.

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***I am looking forward to a new semester working with all of you. There is a lot to accomplish, and at times you will feel pressured. Your success is important to me, so talk to me and let me know how you are doing with the class. If you are in class, in class on time, and doing each day's assignment, I can pretty much guarantee that you will be able to do well in here. The class is a challenge, but it can also be fun.***