

995 N. Reed Ave.

Reedley, CA 93654

reedleycollege.edu

## English 1A - Reading and Composition

**Course Syllabus**

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| **Semester/Year:** Fall 2013**Section:** 50465**Credits:** 04 | **Instructor**: Ms. Lyons **Office Hours:** Please contact me to arrange a time**Phone number:** (559) 326-4640**Email**: deborah.lyons@reedleycollege.edu  |
| **Length:** 18 weeks (Aug 12 - Dec 13)**Time:** MW6:00-7:50pm**Rooms:** Mon Soc 35 / Wed Hum 62 |  |
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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 and annotated bibliography.

**Required Texts**

Ballenger, Bruce. *The Curious Researcher: a Guide to Writing Research Papers.* 7th ed. Boston:

Pearson, 2012.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *The Best American Essays of the Century.* Boston: Mariner Books, 2001.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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| *Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*  |
| 1. *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*
	* *sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, fragments, and mechanics*
	* *controlled and sophisticated word choice*
	* *writing in third person/universal*
	* *an avoidance of logical fallacies*
	* *demonstrating an awareness of purpose and audience*
	* *appropriate and purposeful use of quotations*
	* *correct in-text citations*
	* *an annotated bibliography of multiple sources*
	* *an avoidance of intentional and unintentional plagiarism*
2. *Complete a timed essay independently in class*
3. *Summarize and comprehend college level prose (will include a full reading)*
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| **Student Learning Objectives***In the process of completing this course, students will:*  |

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| 1. *Write several revised essays, including at least one documented research paper.*
	* *Arrange and integrate ideas in a multiple body essay, complete with topic sentences, supporting data, and background, as necessary.*
	* *Indicate an arguable thesis.*
	* *Gather, analyze, and synthesize peer-reviewed sources and/or original research such as interview, survey, or observation.*
	* *Employ MLA formatting guidelines.*
	* *Reduce dependence on the instructor’s guidance; students will ultimately independently and accurately recognize and self-correct errors in sentence construction, punctuation, and mechanics.*
	* *Craft increasingly mature and cogent writing while choosing the appropriate tone and academic voice.*
	* *Practice sound choices in identifying and avoiding logical fallacies.*
	* *Employ appropriate use of third person universal.*
	* *Identify appropriate audiences for their compositions.*
	* *Employ quotations, discriminating among sources for accuracy and validity.*
	* *Employ MLA formatting guidelines for Work Cited Page and in-text citations.*
	* *Develop annotated bibliography from sources for a research paper.*
	* *Recognize the appropriate use of sources, while avoiding intentional and unintentional plagiarism.*
2. *Write an organized essay(s) with thesis and adequate support independently within a class period.*
3. *Read and understand college level prose, including:*
	* *identifying the model, summarizing the thesis, and locating supporting information.*
	* *naming rhetorical devices such as irony and parallelism and translating metaphorical language, so as to determine an author’s intent, both explicit and implicit.*
	* *answering questions from assigned reading differentiating between an author’s intent and personal reaction*
	* *describing, evaluating, and questioning the purpose, audience, organization, and style of assigned readings*
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**Assessment**

*Class Participation*. Your participation includes your contribution to general class discussion and small group activities. As there are frequent in-class assignments, lack of attendance or arriving late to class will impact your final grade. Missed in-class activities, such as quizzes, reading responses or group presentations cannot be made up. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to find the information on Blackboard before the next class. Check your Reedley College email and Blackboard frequently.

*In-Class Writing / Forum Posts*. Many class sessions will begin with ten minutes of in-class writing based on the reading assignment or your current essay. You will be allowed to use your book, but remember that you need to do all the assigned reading before you come to class. In-class writings will be graded based on the level of detail and thoughtfulness and how clearly you demonstrate that you have done the reading. Keep in mind that you must arrive to class on time, with your textbook, and having completed the homework in order to complete these writings.

*Quizzes*

There will be a number of quizzes throughout the semester, both in and out of class. These will be short answer questions based on chapters from *The Curious Researcher.* You will be allowed to refer to the book, but keep in mind that the quizzes will be timed and you will be more successful if you have read the material carefully beforehand.

*Essays*. The majority of your grade will be based on three shorter essays (3-5 pages) and one longer (7-10 page) research paper. Your writing for the three shorter essays will draw on readings from *The Best American Essays of the Century* and your own thoughts, experiences and analysis*.* Topics and prompts will be provided. Essays will be graded based on their thesis statements, organization, development of ideas, use of sources, and clarity based on correct grammar and appropriate style. You must turn in any requested drafts or revisions as well as participate in revision workshops to receive full credit for each assignment.

*Research Paper.* For this 7-10 page research paper, you will be allowed to choose your own topic. (There are certain exceptions that will be explained in class and you must have your topic approved). Once you have chosen a topic, you will be providing a clear thesis (stance) on this topic and then develop your opinion by using at least 7 sources to support your own ideas as well as explain opposing viewpoints. This assignment will be in MLA format and it will include a Works Cited page and in-text citations. Your sources can be a mixture of books, interviews, newspaper, magazine, and/or journal articles.

*Annotated Bibliography*

An annotated bibliography is a useful tool in the research process. In preparation for writing your research paper, you will locate at least 7 credible sources and provide a brief annotation for each. This should be typed and follow MLA format. Instructions and examples will be provided.

*Timed In-Class Essay*

You will write two in-class essays. The first is a practice essay and will provide you an opportunity to make improvements before the final essay exam. Both in-class essays will be based on a reading we have discussed in class. You will need to bring a blue-book to class for each essay exam.

**Grades**

Policies are subject to change in order to create a positive learning environment. All assignments are subject to change. The weight of graded materials may be modified at any time. Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

 Essays, research paper & timed essay exams 60%

General writing assignments 20%

 Prewriting activities

 Drafts / Revisions

 Revision workshops

 Reading responses

 Other Assignments 20%

 Annotated bibliography

 Quizzes

 Forum posts

 Group activities in class

Additional assignments may be added at any time.

\*As per the English 1A Course Outline of Record and English 1A rubric criteria, you must write a passing research paper and annotated bibliography to be eligible to pass this class.

*Final Grades*

100% - 90% = A, 89% - 80% = B, 79% - 70% = C, 69% - 60% = D, 59%-50% = F

**Class Policies**

*Late Assignment/ Paper Policy:*Certain missed assignments, such as in-class activities, revision workshops, quizzes and reading responses, cannot be made up. To receive full credit, assignments and papers are due at the beginning of the class session on the due date. Late assignments / papers may be submitted within one week of the initial due date for a reduced grade of at least 10%. No assignments/papers are accepted after one week passed the due date.

*Absences:* The class will adhere to the Reedley College catalog attendance policy which states: *Students are expected to attend all sessions of classes for which they are enrolled. Excessive absence will jeopardize a student’s satisfactory progress in a class. Students may be dropped from a class if they fail to attend the first class session of the semester. As a guide, during the semester up to the final drop date, any student who misses more than two weeks of class meetings may be dropped.*

*Plagiarism:* **All projects must be your own work**; any work containing *any* material that you take directly from the internet or any other source without proper documentation will receive a zero.

*Respectful Learning Environment:* Students will not be allowed to use their cell phones in class. Be sure to turn them off or keep them on silent and stored in your bag. Use of computers in Hum 62 is reserved for English 1A class work. If it is found that you are doing anything else (Facebook, email, work for another class, etc.) you will be asked to leave. Also, be respectful in your discussions with me and your classmates, and do not talk with your classmates when I am talking or another student is talking to the class.

**Writing Center (HUM 58):** You are encouraged to enroll in the Writing Center’s English 272 course, a ½ unit tutorial class. The importance of this service to your success in English 1A cannot be stressed enough.

**Accommodations:**Please inform me of any special circumstances you might have. If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including alternate media requests, please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

**Important Dates**

Fall Semester 2013

August 12 ..........................................Instruction begins

September 2 ...................................... Labor Day Holiday (Campus Closed)

October 11.............................Last day to withdraw from college or to be dropped from 18-week classes

November 11 ................................Veterans Day Holiday (No Classes, Offices Open)

November 28-29.................Thanksgiving Day Holidays (Campus Closed)

December 13 .............................. Last day for degree and certificate of achievement candidates to file application for December 2013 completion date

December 9-13 ................................. Final examinations

December 13 ........................ End of Fall Semester 2013

December 16-January 1 ............................ Winter recess

**REEDLEY COLLEGE POLICIES**

The following is taken from page 44 of the Reedley College Catalog:

***Academic Dishonesty***

*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.*