

English 1A Reading and Composition
M W 56332 6:00pm-7:50pm
Fall 2015

Instructor: Christian Dike
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Important Dates:

Aug. 28 – Last day to drop with full refund
Sep. 4 – Last day to drop without a “W”
Sep. 7 – Labor Day; no classes held
Oct. 16 – Last day to drop class (letter grades will be assigned after this date)
Nov. 11 – Veterans Day; no classes held
Nov. 26-27 – Thanksgiving; no classes held
Dec. 14-18 – Finals Week (Our final will on be Mon. Dec. 14th at 6:00pm)
Dec. 18 – End of Fall Semester

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. Students will write a minimum of 6,000 words in formal academic language.

Course Materials:

Patterns for College Writing: A Rhetorical Reader and Guide by Laurie Kirszner and Stephen Mandell

A novel to be named later

Binder for organizational purposes
Notebook – sewn spine, not spiral bound (composition book)
Flash drive
Pencil
Two different color ink pens (black, blue, red or green)

Attendance:

This is your education and it is something to be taken seriously: attend class. Students who miss more than four classes will be dropped. Allowances will be made for

emergencies and illnesses. If you will be missing an extended period of time for any reason (illness or otherwise), I would advise you to drop the class because you will simply be missing too much. Missing class will also negatively affect your participation grade, which, in turn, will take a toll your final grade. Every two tardies or early departures will count as one absence: don't let punctuality become an issue that brings your grade down.

In the even that you do miss class:

You are still responsible for any work due that day. As you will be turning in hard copies of work periodically, it is your responsibility to make sure your work is turned in on time, in class. I would suggest obtaining a classmate's email address so they can print and turn in your work. Any work assigned during your absence is also your responsibility: contact other members of the class to obtain notes, assignments or other materials (more on this shortly).

Class Policies:

This class will involve a great deal of discussion and interaction. We will be examining issues that are both controversial and thought provoking. You are expected to join in discussions in a thoughtful and adult manner: personal attacks or mean spirited remarks will result in your being removed from class and being counted as absent. Having an opinion and expressing your opinion can and should be done without ridicule or devolving outside the subject material. **You should be on topic at all times during class discussions, group sessions, partner sessions or assignments.**

Cell phones should be set to **silent**, not vibrate, and placed out of sight during class time. There are times when using the internet on your phone may be acceptable to further a discussion but should never be used for calls, text messages, games or general web surfing. These requirements also extend to laptops.

Check your email and blackboard regularly; at least once a day. Assignments, announcements and reminders will be sent out via blackboard. There are computers available for use in the open lab. Please visit one of the tech people in the open lab if you are unsure how to set up or use your email or blackboard account.

Do not let technology adversely affect your grade. When typing assignments or papers, be sure to save drafts to the computer, your flash drive and email a copy to yourself (Gmail has virtually unlimited storage, anyone can sign up, and it is completely free). Should the computer melt down, your work will be saved in at least two other places. Finish your assignments in a timely manner. If your printer malfunctions you will have ample time to print somewhere else. With the resources that are readily available, excuses involving breakdowns in technology will not be accepted.

Save everything until the end of the semester. If a grading dispute should arise (I am human and therefore prone to the occasional error), having the copy of your work with the grade on it will allow the problem to be rectified.

Assignment Policies:

All essays, written responses, homework must be typed and in MLA format. Work requiring multiple pages must be stapled, not paper-clipped or bound in a cover. Your work must be turned in within the first thirty minutes of class the assigned class period. **I do not accept late work.** The class will often have written activities and discussions about the reading in class. If you miss class, you cannot make these in-class assignments up and will lose points. **As stated previously: if you will be missing class on the day an assignment is due, you need to make sure a copy of your assignment arrives in class on time.** Do not email me a copy of your late work and expect to obtain credit. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact me **before** the due date and an extension will be considered on a case by case basis.

Essays:

Essays will be typed in Times New Roman size 12 font with once inch margins all the way around. All essays will be required to go through the entire writing process (pre-writing/generating ideas, multiple drafts, revising, editing, and final copy) to be accepted. You will receive participation or homework points for the assignments associated with the writing process.

From the Reedley College handbook (includes Willow International):

“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” (RC Catalog page 44).

Plagiarizing part or all of your paper will result in a zero grade and disciplinary action. Make sure you cite all quotes correctly in MLA format to avoid a plagiarism issues. **Failing to cite sources or using improper sources is considered plagiarism and will result in a zero grade like all other cases of plagiarism.** This is true even of mistakes, typos or accidental omissions.

Quotations are a tricky (and necessary) part of any academic paper; you must prove you point to your audience by using evidence pulled from the material or research. Without quotes as a marker of proof, your paper will not be taken seriously; however, overuse or too many quotes is simply rehashing another person’s work. For the most part, papers should be about ninety percent your words, ten percent quotes.

Responses:

As this is a composition class, you will be writing a great deal. You will be working on writing as an entire process and therefore will constantly take pieces of your writing through the process. You will be responding to readings, discussion questions or posts with approximately 400 words about once a week. These will need to be typed in MLA format and have a works cited page for any sources used.

Journals:

You will use your notebook as a place to respond to the reading assignments. They should be used to develop thoughts, questions about the text, and topics for discussion. These will be handwritten and less formal than the reading responses but may be collected at any time and graded for participation points. **You should have information written in your journal for every reading assignment throughout the semester.** More explicit information on the exact contents of a journal entry will be given as the class progresses.

Quizzes and Participation:

You are required to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading, answer questions, work in groups, revise writing and participate in blackboard discussion posts. Unpreparedness will result in loss of participation points. Students may be required to present to the class or pose topics for discussions: shyness, while I sympathize, is not an excuse for not participating. There will be five quizzes assigned throughout the semester; these quizzes will be wholly unannounced and cannot be made up.

Grading:

Assignments	% of Final Grade
Essays (5)	50%
Research Paper (entire process)	15%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Journal	10%
Quizzes	5%
Homework, participation, responses	5%
Final exam	5%

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

Revisions:

There are a certain few essays that will be eligible for revision. The policy on revision will be explained further in class and will be reiterated after every eligible essay is turned in.

ADA:

If you have a need for an academic accommodation or alternate materials, i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc. per the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please notify the instructor as soon as possible.

Course Outcomes:

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
 - 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
- B. Complete a timed essay independently in class
- C. Summarize and comprehend college level prose (will include a full reading)

Course Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

- A. Write multiple essays of at least 1,500 words, including at least one research paper with documentation.
- 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 an annotated bibliography from sources for a research paper.
 - Recognize the appropriate use of sources, while avoiding intentional and unintentional plagiarism.
- B. Write an organized essay(s) with thesis and adequate support independently within a class period.

- C. 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

General Advice:

This class will be challenging and will require diligence. Commit. Commit the time and effort to obtaining the high grade you want. Everyone is capable of receiving an "A," it is a matter of working hard enough to reach your goals.

Persistence

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.

Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

The slogan "Press On" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

Calvin Coolidge