**English 1A- College Reading & Composition** Instructor: B. Nakamura

7:30-9:20AM Tuesday & Thursday, CCI 202 brice.nakamura@fresnocitycollege.edu

Class #55052 Office Hours: TBA

Final Exam Date: May 19, 2015 Add/Drop Date: Jan. 30, 2015

**Required Texts and Materials**

*From Inquiry to Academic Writing*, second edition, Stuart Greene & April Lidinsky

*Freakonomics*, Steven Levitt & Stephen Turner

Flash drive, pencils, pens, lined paper, highlighters, Microsoft Word

**Course Objectives and Outcomes**

1. Write a documented research paper of at least 1,500 words that includes:

a. a sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion

b. a clearly defined, arguable thesis sentence

c. supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible secondary sources

d. correct usage of MLA format, including a works cited page

e. sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, fragments, and mechanics

f. controlled and sophisticated word choice

g. writing in third person/universal

h. an avoidance of logical fallacies

i. demonstration of an awareness of purpose and audience

j. appropriate and purposeful use of quotations

k. correct in-text citations

l. an annotated bibliography of multiple sources

m. an avoidance of intentional and unintentional plagiarism

2. Complete a timed essay independently in class

3. Summarize and comprehend college level prose

**Course Conduct**

*Homework*: meworkntss: by appointment onlyedun

Homework will mainly consist of reading the assigned texts and posting to the discussion boards on Blackboard, along with various other assignments. Please make sure you are keeping up with the homework. Homework will be due at the start of class, unless I give specific instructions.

*Warm-Ups & Quizzes*: Warm-ups will typically be an informal response, graded on a credit/no credit basis. Quizzes will serve as a way for me to check if everyone is completing the reading assignments. Many of these will be multiple choice or short answer; some will ask for a longer response. They may also ask you to apply concepts from the book rather than just regurgitating what has been said in the book. Most quizzes will be given at the start of class; if you are not in class on time, I will not accept any of your answers for the quiz.

*General Writing Assignments*: We will be doing a lot of various writing assignments in and out of class. There may be several drafts as you go through the writing process: **keep all of your drafts for every paper**. I may ask to see these earlier drafts or request a digital copy to check for authenticity before I will accept the final draft. Please make sure that you are following MLA format for all drafts that you submit to me. Many assignments will be submitted to an online database such as safeassign or turnitin. For this reason, I **strongly** recommend that you use Microsoft Word to write your papers. It is your responsibility to make sure that you have a file format that will be accepted by the database.

*Reading Assignments*: We'll be reading a large amount of materials throughout the semester. Some of the material may be easy, but some of it may require you to read it more than once to gain a clear understanding. Failure to keep up with the reading will affect your performance in class and ultimately your final grade. I will also give points for notes or annotating the texts. Typically, these will be worth a substantial amount of points, given that you are taking notes over a course of a few weeks as we go through a reading. In addition to this, I *may* allow you to use any of your own handwritten notes on the tests & quizzes.

*Peer Response Workshops*: Throughout the semester, we will use class time to read and suggest revisions on peer drafts. This gives you a chance to get feedback on your paper before submitting it for grading, as well as help keep you on track with assignments. You MUST have a completed draft to receive credit for these assignments. There is no way to make up the workshops; failure to attend or bring completed work will result in a zero for the workshop, in addition to 10% off the final essay grade.

*Research Paper:* you will select a current issue of your choosing and present an argument on the perceived problem/issue at hand, with several scholarly sources to support your opinion. There will be several steps to the research paper, including a prospectus, annotated bibliography, and workshops.

*Classroom Culture:* It is critical that the classroom remain an open, respectful environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas without any fear of backlash. If, at any point, you become overly negative or hostile towards another student, you will be asked to leave. It’s also important that you are maintaining your focus on the instruction. Therefore, if you disrupt the class in any manner, you will be asked to leave.

*Midterm & Final Exam*: There will be an exam at the end of the semester on the day of the final. The Midterm will be sometime during or around the 9th week of class (subject to change).

*Revising your work*: If you are unsatisfied with your grade on essays, I will allow you to revise it. From the day that you receive your essay back from me, you have 3 weeks to revise the paper. In order for this revision to be accepted, there is a 3-step process. First, revise the paper on your own based on my comments, and feel free to meet with me during office hours to discuss anything that you need clarification on. Next, take your paper to the Writing Center for a walk-in tutoring session and compare the drafts (original with my feedback and newly revised) with the tutor. Third, if necessary, make any additional changes based on tutor feedback and your own judgment. Submit all drafts (the original, your revision, and the final draft) to me with proof that you went to the Writing Center.

*Cell Phones, Tablets, & Other Electronic Devices*: Cell Phones are not allowed in class unless we are using them for an assignment, which may happen from time to time. It is disrespectful and distracting to yourself and other students in class. If you need to answer a call or reply to a text, please feel free to step outside to do so. If your cell phone goes off in class or if you are using it at any point during class time, you will be asked to leave and will receive no points for the day. Laptops and tablets are allowed for note-taking purposes, but you may be asked to leave if they become a distraction in any way. I am open to being recorded via listening device for lecture during class, provided that you clear it with me first.

*Late Assignments*: Blackboard submissions and homework must be completed before the start of class, or they will receive no credit. Typically, I will collect assignments & homework at the beginning of class. All essays will be due to me by the end of class on the day they are due. Please keep in mind that most of your work will be turned in via paper copy to me, unless I give special instructions. If you are unable to attend class, you may submit your work to me via email to ensure that I receive it before the deadline; however, you will not receive a grade until you bring me a paper copy of the assignment. If your paper is turned in to me after the due date, it may be turned in up to one week later. However, I will deduct 10% from your grade for every 24 hours you are late, starting with 10% for assignments less than 24 hours late. No papers or assignments will be accepted beyond one week from the deadline.

**Grading**

Grading will be based on percentages in the following categories:

Research Paper: 30%

General Writing & Reading Assignments: 30%

Midterm & Final Exam: 10%

Quizzes/In-Class Activities: 30%

100-90% A 89-80% B 79-70% C 69-60% D 59-0% F

**Course Policies**

*Instructor Contact*: I'm always willing to meet with students to discuss assignments and answer any questions. If you have questions, I'm also available by email. Please use your student email to contact me to avoid getting blocked by a spam filter. I don't reply to one-line emails. E-mail and Blackboard Announcements (sent to your email) will be the two primary ways in which I contact you. If you have not set up your student email account and/or are not checking it regularly, you may miss important announcements that I send outside of class time. If you send me an email, include your name and the class time to give me an idea of who you are. Also, please note that I may respond immediately or it may be several hours before you hear from me. I'm human; I need to eat, sleep, and binge on Nexflix just like the rest of you. I check my email at least once a day, so you'll most likely hear from me within 24 hours. In class, please call me “Mr. Nakamura.”

*Absences*: Your attendance in this class is required for you to earn credit. You need to be in class to be a part of the conversations, and contribute your ideas to our community of learning. If you miss a class for any reason, you will lose all points from class activities, workshops, discussions, etc for that day and will not be allowed to make them up. You are allowed to miss up to 2 weeks of class (4 sessions) before being dropped from the course. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to catch up before the next class session. Please do not schedule other activities during class time (i.e. Counselor or DMV appointments, things you have some degree of control over). I typically do not excuse any absences, aside from documented participation in school events or serious medical emergencies.

*Lateness*: being late to class is as unacceptable in the academic world as it is in the workplace. Some assignments (quizzes, warm-up writing, etc) will be given at the start of class. If you are late to class, you will not be able receive credit for these assignments. Similarly, you may lose points by leaving early. In addition to this, 2 tardies will count as one absence in calculating your attendance. Similarly, 2 instances in which you leave class early will count as an absence. A combination of leaving early and arriving late on the same or separate days will also count as an absence. If you are not present for at least half of the class time, you will be marked absent. Throughout the semester I will be tallying up your absences, tardies, and departures, and you will be dropped accordingly.

*Accommodations*: If you have any need of special accommodations or materials in alternate media, per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act please notify me immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

*Other Issues*: if you have a personal problem with something about this class, please let me know immediately so that we can get it resolved. I’m not particularly fond of the phrase “politically correct” but I don’t intend to offend anyone. Regardless, you are here to expand your mind, and be exposed to new ideas and ways of thinking. Some topics in class may make you uncomfortable or you may disagree with me or another student on a particular issue, but I ask that you remain respectful towards each other. I try to be a very flexible, understanding human being, most of the time. I wholeheartedly want you to succeed in my class, provided that you do the work I’m asking you to do.

*Plagiarism:* 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 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 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 contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicated 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. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services’ Office or the Vice President of Instruction’s Office.

**Class Schedule**

This is the tentative class schedule. It may be changed at any time at my discretion. All changes will be posted to Blackboard and students will be notified.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| W | Tuesday | Thursday |
| Jan 12-16 | Syllabus  Email  MLA Format How-To  Assign Expository Essay  HW: Introduce yourself, MLA format (2 pages) | Prewriting strategies  How to write an outline  Thesis Statements  HW: Outline for Essay |
| Jan 19-23 | Writing Introductions (Inquiry Ch. 9)  HW: Thesis Statement, try any 2 intro models, books | Textbooks due  Topic Sentences/Body Paragraphs  Conclusions  HW: Topic Sentences for Essay |
| Jan 26-30 | Avoiding plagiarism  Minor grammar review  Transitions  Sentence Structure  Essay Rubric/how I grade papers  HW: Persuasive Paper | **Expository Essay Due**  The revision process  Assign Paper 2: American Dream  Reading Strategies (Inquiry pg. 12)  HW: “I Have a Dream,” “Ellis Island,” “The New Colossus” |
| Feb 2-6 | MLK “I Have a Dream” (film and text)  Ellis Island/New Colossus  How to Quote sources  HW: Life of a Salesman | Life of a Salesman  Review Quotes  HW: Serving in Florida |
| Feb 9-13 | Serving in Florida  HW: “Roberto Acuna talks about farm workers” | “Roberto Acuna Talks about Farm Workers”  Common mistakes in essays  HW: Inquiry Ch. 1 |
| Feb 16-20 | Inquiry Ch. 1  Common mistakes in essays  Quotations/plagiarism review | American Dream Essay Workshop  HW: Inquiry Ch. 8 & 3 (p. 51-63) |
| Feb 23-27 | Inquiry Ch. 8 & 3  Critical Analysis  HW: American Dream Essay Due | **American Dream Essay Due**  Critical Analysis Group Essay  HW: TBA |
| Mar 2-6 | Midterm Prep  HW: Inquiry Ch. 4 | Inquiry Ch. 4  Assign Research Paper  HW: Inquiry Ch. 6 |
| Mar 9-13 | Midterm Exam Due  Framing Thesis Statements  Sample Prospectus  Inquiry Ch. 6  HW: Prospectus | Prospectus workshop  HW: Prospectus revision |
| Mar 16-20 | **Prospectus Due**  Research Workshop/common sources  How to Access Databases/conduct research  MLA Q&A; Sample Annotated Bibliography  HW: Annotated Bib, any tricky citations | Annotated Bibliography Workshop  HW: Annotated Bibliography revision |
| Mar 23-27 | **Annotated Bibliography Due**  Sample Research Paper  Common problems in student essays  HW: Research Paper | Research Paper Mini-Workshop |
|  | SPRING | BREAK |
| Apr 6-10 | Research Paper Workshop 1  HW: Research Paper Revision | Research Paper Workshop 2  HW: Freakonomics Introduction |
| Apr 13-17 | **Research Paper due**  Freakonomics Introduction  5 precepts/”themes”  HW: Freakonomics Ch. 1 | Freakonomics Ch. 1  Discussion Questions/Film  Writing Process Review  HW: Freakonomics Ch. 2 |
| Apr 20-24 | Freakonomics Ch. 2  Discussion Questions  Writing Process Review  HW: Freakonomics Ch. 3 | Freakonomics Ch. 3  Discussion Questions  Writing Process Review  HW: Freakonomics Ch. 4 |
| Apr 27-May 1 | Freakonomics Ch. 4  Discussion Questions/Film  Writing Process Review  HW: Freakonomics Ch. 5 | Freakonomics Ch. 5  Discussion Questions/Film  Writing Process Review  HW: Freakonomics Ch. 6 |
| May 4-8 | Freakonomics Ch. 6  Discussion Questions/Film  Writing Process Review | Freakonomics Paper Workshop |
| May 11-15 | Final Exam Prep | Final Exam Prep |
| May 18-22 | Final Exam  **Freakonomics Essay Due** |  |