**English 1A  -  Reading and Composition**

**Course Syllabus**

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| **Semester/Year:** Spring 2015  **Section:** 55053  **Credits:** 4.0 | **Instructor**:  Deborah Lyons  **Office Hours:** Please contact me to arrange a time  **Phone number:** (559) 326-4640  **Email**:   deborah.lyons@reedleycollege.edu |
| **Dates:** (Jan 12 – May 22)  **Time:** TTh 2:00-3:50pm  **Room:** CCI 202 | |

**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**

* Gaskell, Elizabeth. *Lois the Witch.* (Any edition).
* Shakespeare, William. *The Merchant of Venice.* New York: SparkNotes, 2003. Print.
* Ballenger, Bruce. *The Curious Researcher: a Guide to Writing Research Papers.* 7th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2012. Print.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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| *Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:* |
| *A.*       *Write a documented research paper of at least 1000 words that includes:*  o *a sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion*  o *a clearly defined, arguable thesis sentence*  o *supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible secondary sources*  o *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)* |

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| **Student Learning Objectives**   1. *In the process of completing this course, students will:*   *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.*  1. *Write an organized essay(s) with thesis and adequate support independently within a class period.* 2. *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* |

**Assessment**

**Class Participation – 10 %.** Your participation includes your contribution to general class discussion and small group activities as well as in class writing and grammar exercises. Lack of attendance or arriving late to class will impact your final participation grade.  Missed in-class activities cannot be made up.

**Presentations – 5%.** Your reading group will present on *Lois the Witch* and *The Merchant of Venice.* You will be graded on the content, clarity, cooperation, and creativity of your presentation. All members of your group must be on time to class to receive credit for your presentation. Half of your presentation score will be given by your classmates (so make it interesting)! Additional guidelines and topics will be provided.

**Quizzes – 10%***.* There will several quizzes throughout the semester. These will be multiple choice questions based on *Lois the Witch*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Curious Researcher*.  Your quiz scores (each worth 10pts) will be averaged to calculate your final quiz grade.

**Draft & Revision Workshops – 5 %**

In preparation for your essays we will have several writing and revision workshops. I will also meet with you individually to discuss your essay progress. You must come prepared, having completed the prewriting activities or a typed draft as required to receive points for workshops and conferences.

**Essays – 65%.**  The majority of your grade will be based on five essays: two timed in-class essay, two critical analysis essays, one on *Lois the Witch* and another on *The Merchant of Venice* and a research paper. Essays will be graded on the thesis statement, organization, development of ideas, use of sources, and clarity based on correct grammar and appropriate style.

*Timed In-Class Essays - 15pts* You will write two in-class essays, one during the second week of the semester (5pts) and one during finals week (10pts). Each essay should be a fully developed essay with an introduction, thesis, supporting body paragraphs and a conclusion. Topics will provided at the beginning of exams. You will have 50 minutes to write. You will need to bring a blue-book for each timed essay.

*Critical Analysis of Lois the Witch* and *The Merchant of Venice – 10pts each.* These papers (3-5 pages) will be your interpretation of a specific topic within each text. You will need to include specific evidence (correctly cited quotes) from the text to support your ideas. It should be a focused analysis of a particular element in the story rather than a retelling of the plot. Additional guidelines will be provided.

*Research Paper – 30pts.* For the research paper (5-7 pages), you will be allowed to choose your own topic within the theme of the course: “Community and Justice”. There are several stages to this assignment and you must turn in each one to receive full credit for the assignment. Stages include: a topic proposal, annotated bibliography, a draft and the final paper. You should use at least 5 sources to support all main aspects of your topic. This assignment will be in MLA format and it will include in-text citations and a works cited page. Your sources should be a mixture of books, interviews, newspaper, magazine, and/or journal articles.

**Annotated Bibliography – 5%**

An annotated bibliography is a useful tool in the research process. In preparation for writing your research paper, you will locate at least 5 credible sources and provide a brief annotation for each. This should be typed and follow MLA format. Instructions and examples will be provided.

**Grades**

*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

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| Class Participation | 10pts |
| Presentations | 5pts |
| Quizzes  Workshops | 10pts    5pts |
| Essays | 65pts |
| Annotated Bibliography | 5pts |
| **Total** | 100pts |

**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 (both as a hard copy and uploaded to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism checking website. Links will be available in Blackboard.). Each day late will result in a 5% loss in the grade.

*Absences:* 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. Any student who misses more than 3 class sessions 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 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.

**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**

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| January 12 | Instruction begins |
| March 13 | Last day to drop a class |
| March 30 – April 3 | Spring Recess |
| May 21 | Final Exam (2:00-3:50) |

**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.*

***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.*