



**Course Syllabus**

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| **Semester/Year:** Fall 2016**Section:** 56249**Credits:** 4.0**Dates:** Aug 15 – Dec 16**Format:** Online via Blackboard | **Instructor**:  Deborah Lyons **Office Hours:** Please contact me to arrange a time**Phone number:** (559) 326-4640**Email**:   deborah.lyons@reedleycollege.edu |

**Course Description**

In this course, students will develop the process of writing, revising, and finishing essays, which includes the logical development and organization of ideas. Students will avoid common writing errors, develop their writing skills by reading model essays and analyzing rhetorical strategies, develop critical thinking skills by matching the structures of writing to meaning and audience, and by using writing as thinking to explore and express ideas. This course is a companion to ENGL 126 and prepares students for ENGL 1A. Students must successfully complete written coursework to receive credit.

**Online Format**

You can access the class in Blackboard through the Reedley College website. Login using your student ID. All course content is posted in weekly modules within each unit. While the class allows flexibility to do the work on your own schedule, you must finish each week’s assignments by the end of the week to receive credit. You will need to allow for 12 hours per week to study the content and complete assignments.

**Required Texts**

* *Models for Writers: Short Essays for Composition,* Alfred Rosa & Paul Eschholz, (12th edition).
* *The Tortilla Curtain,* T. C. Boyle

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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| *Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*  |
| 1. Write multiple papers of at least 1200 words which include an introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion of some sophistication. This essay will include:
	1. a clearly defined thesis statement
	2. unified supporting paragraphs, which begin with topic sentences
	3. quotations that support the topic sentences and the thesis
	4. supporting material and ideas,which exhibit critical thinking
	5. complete sentences which include a variety of sentence types (simple, compound, complex, and compound/complex sentence)
	6. descriptive vocabulary that exhibits growth and sophisticated word choice
	7. avoidance of fragments, comma splices, sentence fuses and other basic skills errors, such as capitalization, spelling, homophone issues, verb tense issues, subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, word choice issues, confused syntax, etc.
	8. use of MLA guidelines to set up essays, correctly use in-text citations for at least one source, and complete a works cited page
	9. writing that is free from plagiarism
	10. demonstrated awareness of how to write from the 3rd person point of view for a specific audience
2. Plan and revise independently, employing all stages of the writing process as necessary and appropriate.
3. Complete a multi-paragraph in-class essay with a thesis and support.
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| **Student Learning Objectives***In the process of completing this course, students will:*1.  learn about writing papers which include introductions, body paragraphs, and conclusions 2.  learn to write with some sophistication 3.  practice writing thesis statements4.  practice writing topic sentences5.  learn about using quotations and in-text citations that support the topic sentences and the thesis 6.  practice developing supporting material that exhibits critical thinking7.  develop an understanding of what a complete sentence is and practice using a variety of sentence types (simple,  compound, complex, and compound/complex sentence) 8.  learn about common sentence errors, such as fragments, comma splices, sentence fuses 9.  develop their usage of descriptive vocabulary that exhibits growth and sophisticated word choice 10.  learn how to follow MLA guidelines when formatting papers and using quotations and a works cited page 11.  learn about avoiding plagiarism12.  write papers in which they will use 3rd person point of view and practice addressing a specific audience 13.  practice using all stages of the writing process as necessary and appropriate 14.  practice writing in-class essays  |

**Grades**

*Final Grades*

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

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| Class Participation & Writing | 100pts  |
| Quizzes | 50pts |
| Timed Essay Exams | 100pts |
| Essays**Total** | 7501000pts |

*If you receive a failing grade (D or F) on an early essay assignment, you will be required to attend the Reading & Writing Center, Tutorial Center, and/or use the online Reading & Writing Center for a total of at least 6 hours.*

**Class Participation –  100 pts.** Your participation includes your contribution to discussion forums, grammar activities, and revision workshops. Late submission of discussion forums or revision workshops will not receive any points. Grammar assignments can be completed late (up to one week) for half points.

**Quizzes – 50pts.**There will 15 quizzes based on content in the class and the readings from *Models for Writers,* and *The Tortilla Curtain.* Questions will be a combination of multiple choice and open response. Your ten best quiz scores (each worth 5pts) will be added to calculate your final quiz grade. Quizzes can be completed late (up to one week only) to receive half points.

**Timed Essay Exams - 100pts.** There will be two timed essays (50 points each), a midterm and a final. You will be given a choice of prompts to choose from for each and will have two hours to complete the essay and upload/email it back.

**Essays – 750pts.**  The majority of your grade will be based on four essays: a personal narrative(100 points), a comparison/contrast paper based on readings in *Models for Writers* (150 points),an analysis of *The Tortilla Curtain* (200 points), and a brief research paper (300 points). Essays will be graded on the thesis statement, organization, development of ideas, use of sources, and clarity based on correct grammar and appropriate style. See rubric for additional criteria. All essays are due by midnight on the date given and will be uploaded to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism checking website. Late essays can be submitted up to one week after the due date, but will drop 5% of the grade for each day late.

*Personal Narrative - 100 pts.* For this 2-4 page essay you will explore the meaning of your name and describe how it was given to you and how you think it has shaped your life. Detailed guidelines will be provided.

*Comparison/Contrast - 150 pts.* For this 3-5 page essay you will choose two-three of the readings assigned from *Models for Writers* and compare/contrast a shared element such as writing style or theme, using relevant quotations to support your ideas. Detailed guidelines will be provided.

*Analysis of* The Tortilla Curtain *– 200pts.*For this 3-5 page essay you will analyze an aspect of *The Tortilla Curtain,* and use relevant quotations to support your ideas.  Topics and detailed guidelines will be provided.

*Research Paper – 300pts.* For the research paper (4-6 pages) you will investigate and report on the issue of “Slacktavism” based on readings in *Models for Writers.* After reading different opinions on the topic you will write a paper that develops your own opinion. You will refer to at least three of the assigned readings in your paper. This assignment will be in MLA format and it will include in-text citations and a Works Cited page. Additional guidelines will be provided.

**Class Policies**

*Late Assignment/ Paper Policy:*Missed assignments, such as discussion posts and revision workshops, cannot be made up. These must be completed during the week assigned.  Certain assignments such as quizzes and grammar activities can be completed up to a week after the due date for half points. To receive full credit, essays are due by midnight on the date given. Each day late will result in a 5% loss in the essay grade.

*Absences:* Online attendance is demonstrated by participation in discussion forums and completion of assignments. Simply logging into the class does not count as attendance or participation. Any student who does not access the class and post in the introduction forum by August 17 may be dropped. Any student who misses three weeks worth of work (at any time during the semester) 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.

**REEDLEY COLLEGE POLICIES (see page 45 of the RC 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.*

**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.

**Changes to the Syllabus/Schedule**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary for the benefit of the class to change policies on the syllabus or dates on the schedule.  Not checking your student email and Blackboard is not an excuse for not being aware of any changes that are made to the schedule or the syllabus.

**Important Dates**

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| Aug 15 | Start of Fall 2016 semester |
| Sept 5  | Labor Day Holiday (no classes held, campus closed) / Last day to drop a Fall 2016 full-term class to avoid a “W” on WebAdvisor |
| Oct 14  | Last day to drop a full -term class (letter grades assigned after this date) |
| Nov 11 | Veterans day (no classes held, campus open) |
| Nov 24-25  | Thanksgiving holiday (no classes held, campus closed) |
| Dec 12-16  | Final exams week, end of fall semester |