

English 1A Online: Reading and Composition

Summer 2016: June 20-July 29

Instructor: Kate Watts

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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

College level skills in reading and writing

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Reedley College catalog describes English 1A as a course that emphasizes “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.” This means that we will be focusing on both reading AND writing academic prose. We will study a variety of texts, from the novel, *Dreaming in Cuban* to op-eds and academic articles, videos, short documentaries, films and multimedia artworks. We are going to focus our analysis on the abstract idea of **diaspora**. This is a term that originally was used in the Bible (James 1:1 and 1 Peter 1:1) to describe the body of Jews living outside the land of Israel. Today, *The Oxford English Dictionary* describes the current definition of diaspora as, “Any group of people who have spread or become dispersed beyond their traditional homeland or point of origin.” All of the texts that we will be reading will address this concept in one form or another. We will be examining a variety of texts including Oscar Martinez’s *The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail* that address this issue. For your final paper, you will choose and then research one aspect of the Syrian diaspora.

*Important Note: This class is covering the same amount of material in six weeks that is normally covered in eighteen weeks. This class will be extremely rigorous and will require your complete engagement along with a tremendous amount of motivation in order to pass. To make matters worse, this is an online class. Online classes are much harder than a face to face class even during a normal semester.

Required Texts & Materials

Garcia, Christina. *Dreaming in Cuban*. New York: Ballantine. 1992. Print.

Martinez, Oscar. *The Beast: Riding the Rails and Dodging Narcos on the Migrant Trail*. Verso. 2013. Print.

Various links and PDFs posted to Blackboard under “Readings”

1 three ring binder or other folder to organize and keep the syllabus, readings, handouts and your writing. Even though this is an online class, it is imperative that you download, print out, read and annotate the assigned readings carefully. You will be asked to refer to the readings often- having them in one place along with your writing helps to keep you organized and successful in an online environment.

An electronic system to back up ALL of your writing-flash drive, email or server. Do not rely on blackboard to save your work. ALWAYS back up your work. There will NEVER be a time when you can say you don't know what happened to your draft. There will NEVER be a time when you can say you emailed your draft but now you don't have it anymore and somehow you can't find it. Protect yourself from ever being in that situation...because if you are, it will mean a zero for that assignment and perhaps failing the class altogether.

Computer Requirements

- **Skills Needed:**
- Know basics of word processing (saving files, using spell check, using grammar check, moving text, using the help function, etc.)
- Know how to access and navigate the Internet (use a browser, utilize search engines, save and/or print from the Internet)
- Know how to send e-mail and attachments.
- **Hardware Needed:**
- Pentium (PC) or Mac equivalent
- Home Internet access is desirable. You can use the computers on campus, but they are not always available.
- **Software Needed:**
- The most common word processing format is Microsoft Word. If you use another word processing program, you will need to save your work in Rich Text Format (RTF).
- Adobe Reader. This can be downloaded for free. Many handouts will be uploaded as PDFs.

Communication & Conferences

Communication: Please always make sure to check both our course site and your district email for announcements as well as other essential course information. All emails should be sent to kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu NOT through blackboard email. **All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line** and begin with “Dear Ms. Watts....” Or “Dear Professor Watts.....” I will be available from 12-5 daily. If you email after 5 pm, you will not receive a response until the following day. If I do not answer your question to your

satisfaction OR you don't understand my response OR you did not receive a response EMAIL AGAIN. This is an online class- constant communication is the key to your success.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Discussion Board: The Discussion Board is our virtual classroom. Every week you will have assignments due on Wednesday and Sunday night. Unless otherwise indicated (the first post due June 20 for example) your posts will be due by midnight every Wednesday and Sunday night. I will post 2-3 questions/activities. Responding to the Discussion Board is worth 10-20 points per week. Since the discussion board is the "classroom" for our class, not posting to the discussion board is the same thing as not attending class. **Therefore, if you miss more than two posts on the discussion board, I will automatically drop you from the class.** I will be posting assignments on the discussion board every week on Sunday afternoon. The discussion board is a place for you to talk to each other about the material of the class. Because of this, I require you to respond to two of your classmates for every posted assignment. You will click on my post and respond-you will not be able to see your classmates's posts until you have responded to the assignment. I post the assignments, but I do not participate in your discussion. During the week, I make comments to you individually regarding your participation, but I will also address the class as a whole in lecture form about what I am seeing on the discussion board. The language you use on the Discussion Board can be a bit more informal than the language you would use in an essay; however, your grade will be affected by the use of 'u' or 'i' etc. If your post is under the required word count, your grade will be affected. **More importantly, if it appears you did not do the required reading, you will receive zero credit for that post.**

Essays:

Submission and format: All work must be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type of a standard typeface (Times Roman, preferably). You must submit your work via the Assignments area. You must submit files in one of the following formats: Word documents (*.doc or *.docx) or Rich Text Format files (*.rtf). **DO NOT use Google Docs- this format is not compatible with our server.**

Essay Policies: Major essays will be due every two weeks. **You will have the opportunity to revise Essay 1; however, if you hand in a sloppy draft-poor formatting, lots of typos etc.- or a draft under the page limit for Essay 1, you will not be allowed to revise.** The idea behind the point increase with each essay is that those students working hard will be improving. The extra points reward this engagement and subsequent improvement. I expect my comments on your first draft to be reflected in your writing on the second essay and the comments from the second essay reflected in the final essay. This means you pay close attention to the remarks. If you have any questions at all about my responses to you, email IMMEDIATELY for clarification.

Essay 1: 100 points (Revision allowed ONLY if the draft meets the required page limited and is properly formatted with a minimum of proofreading errors.)

Essay 2: 150 points (No revision)

Essay 3: 200 points (No revision)

Grades:

You can access your grades at any time by going to Tools > My Grades. If you see an error of any kind, it is your job to notify me.

Grading Scale: A 90-100% B 80-89 C. 70-70% D 60-69%

Class Schedule:

I post schedules for each unit one at a time. We will have three two- week units.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Reedley College English department has a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. All of the writing done in this class must be your own. This includes all homework assignments, discussion board posts and essays. You cannot use work from another class in this class. Additionally, if, instead of making your own decisions about how to revise, you have someone revise or edit an essay for you, the piece you submit is no longer your own work, and you are plagiarizing. If I suspect you have plagiarized, I reserve the right to require you to meet with me in person in order to determine whether or not you have committed plagiarism. At this time, I also have the right to ask you to perform a writing diagnostic in my presence in order to determine your identity. If you have committed plagiarism, I will refer you to the Dean of Student's office for disciplinary action. In addition, I will email the Dean of Humanities, the Chair of the English department and the Vice President of Instruction with the particulars of your offense.

With that said, because there are instances in academic writing when you are frequently required to use other people's ideas and language, often students have difficulty understanding how to paraphrase, summarize or use direct quotation without committing unintentional plagiarism. This is much different from plagiarism. If I feel you are struggling with this issue in your writing, I will communicate with you about this immediately.

COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSING DEADLINES

All assignments must be completed on the given due dates. I do not accept late work on the discussion board or for response papers. Essays will be docked one letter grade for every day late (this includes weekends). After the third day, I will no longer accept the essay.

DROPPING THE COURSE

I will assume that students who do not post to the discussion board by the end of the day, June 20, 2014, at midnight are inactive and I will drop them from the course. After June 21; however, it is your responsibility to officially drop yourself from the course if you are no longer active; otherwise, you will receive the appropriate grade at the end of the semester.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me **as soon as possible**. This is extremely important. Your need for accommodation **MUST** be verified by DSPS. If you do not send me this information in the beginning of the session any need for extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.

Important Dates:

June 20: Class Begins

July 1: Last day to drop without a letter grade

July 29: Class Ends (grades are submitted by August 1)

NOTES: (This is a place for you to jot down any questions you might have after you have read the syllabus.)