#### **English 1A: Reading and Composition**



Reedley College, Fall 2016

Instructor: Jacob Eckrich E-mail: jacob.eckrich@reedleycollege.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Information: 59181; TTH 6:00PM - 7:50PM, Computer Technology Lab, Room 1 &

59167; TTH 2:00PM – 3:50PM, Social Sciences Room 35

#### **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 prepares students for ENGL 3. Students must successfully complete written course work to receive credit. Placement for this course is designated by the college assessment process or successful completion of English 125.

Course focus: The Rhetoric of Humor. In this class our readings and discussions will revolve around humor and comedy, how it works, their cultural/societal value, and why humor and comedy are important and loved. We will read funny essays/stories, as well as more critical texts about humor/comedy. American essayist and humorist E.B. White once said, “Analyzing humor is like dissecting a frog. Few people are interested and the frog dies of it.” What he is referring to is the idea that you if analyze something that’s funny, it’s no longer funny. This is somewhat true. So in this class we will not be deconstructing jokes, but rather looking at comedy and analyzing its worth and value, and how it impacts us. So yes, we will have a lot of laughs in class, but we will also study why those laughs are significant in a greater context.

**“Think before you speak. Read before you think.”** –Fran Lebowitz

 

###### **Required Texts, Materials and Expenses**

* *From Inquiry to Academic Writing; A Practical Guide, 3rd edition,* ISBN: 978-1457661693
* *Humor: A Reader for Writers* ISBN: 978-0199362684
* *Death Defying Acts* ISBN: 978-0573695391
* *The Little Seagull Handbook with Exercises (Second Edition)* ISBN: 978-0393935813
* Various essays posted on Canvas
* Pens/pencils, notebook, internet access



###### **English 1A Goals and Outcomes**

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**Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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1. Write a documented research paper of at least 1,500 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
2. Complete a timed essay independently in class
3. Summarize and comprehend college level prose

###### **Prerequisites and Advisory Notes**

Designated score on English placement test, or satisfactory completion of English 125. Not recommended for students learning English as a second language.

###### **Important Dates**



4/10-14: Spring Break

#### **Projects and Assignments**



Assignments: Most nights, you will have homework accompanied by an assignment. These will be completed and posted on Canvas under the Assignments tab.

Formal Writing Projects/Papers: In this class, you will have three formal writing projects of various lengths. These writing projects are meant to get you to read, write, and respond as both a student in the university and a public intellectual. More information about these writing projects will be given to you during the semester. Generally, these projects require you to write multiple drafts before a project is complete, and they must be written toward an audience, which means you will need to contextualize and explain your claims and examples, give readers a clear sense of why your responses and ideas matter, and be proofread in the final text. We will talk more about this as they come up. However, these writing assignments are vitally important. They will always be typed according to standard MLA format (12 pt font, double spaced, Times New Roman, etc) and turned in via Canvas by class time unless otherwise stated. Each paper will have a draft that you turn in online. Your papers, drafts, and workshops together will be worth 100 points each.

Midterm and Final Exam: For this class, you will also have a midterm and final exam. Both of these are in class writing exams for which you will be given a prompt and you will have a 1 hour and 50 minutes time to write. You will need a Bluebook for each exam. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Please note the dates of these exams in your calendars. There will only be make ups in extreme circumstances.

Extra Credit: I will only assign some minimal extra credit assignments within the last couple weeks of class to make up for absence or missed assignment. This does NOT include papers/exams.

#### **Professionalism Policy**

 

There are certain expectations of you as a college student that I expect you to adhere to. Failure to adhere to professionalism will cause you to lose points in this area.

Attendance and Participation in Class Activities: For this class, attendance and participation is vital to passing. You must complete assignments, quizzes, and in class activities to be marked present. There will be no “excused or unexcused absences.” Therefore, you will can be excused from participation 3 times during the semester, for any reason, before it starts negatively affecting your participation grade. After that, you will lose 25 of your 50 professionalism/participation points for the fourth missed day. After four absences, or four consecutive absences, you will be dropped/failed from the class. Remember, being in class and not working, or being more than 15 minutes late (or leaving more than 15 minutes early) counts as an absence. There are no “excused or unexcused” absences.

Tardiness: Being late to class is unacceptable. The first thing that we do in class every day is a journal, and though this seems like flexible time to come in to some, this is not true. Therefore, every three tardies will count as one absence. There is no grace period. If you are tardy, please tell me at the end of class. Failure to tell me that you were late so I can note it, will stay on the books as an absence.

Class Participation: Come to class prepared and willing to participate in class discussion and group activities. Merely being in class is not enough, you must also participate. For full class participation credit (professionalism on the grade break down) I expect that you will

1. have the homework done for the day and be prepared with the necessary materials, including books and handouts
2. have thought about the homework, will come with questions, experiences, thoughts, challenges, etc,
3. be willing to take risks by discussing things you don’t understand or by bringing topics to our discussions.
4. Write in class when asked to write. If you cannot meet these standards, you will be marked absent for the day.

Participation: Being physically present in your class is not enough. Remember, you need to also participate in class in order to get professionalism points. This means passing the journals and quizzes, being prepared, being courteous to your classmates, and being an active participant in learning. For full class participation credit (professionalism on the grade break down) I expect that you will 1) have the homework done for the day and be prepared with the necessary materials, including books and handouts 2) have thought about the homework, will come with questions, experiences, thoughts, challenges, etc, 3) be willing to take risks by discussing things you don’t understand or by bringing topics to our discussions. 4) Write in class when asked to write. If you cannot meet these standards, you will be marked absent for the day.

In Class Journals/ Quizzes: Most class sessions will start with some sort of writing. Sometimes these will be short in-class writings/reflections on the topics at hand, other times they will be quizzes about the previous night’s homework. These are designed to keep you on your toes, and keep you up with your homework. Stay responsible for what you’ve read at home, because you never know when you’ll be answering questions in the beginning of class about them. Failing quizzes or journals will hurt your participation points. You should be prepared to share your writing with the class at any point. These points will count towards your “Professionalism” grade.

#### **Grading Breakdown**

 

Where you get your points:

Paper 1: 100 points

Paper 2: 100 points

Paper 3: 100 points

Professionalism: 50 points

Midterm: 50 points

Final: 50 points

HW Assignments: Approx. 160 points

Total: Approx. 610 points

Grades are based on a raw points system:

90-100% = A

80-89% =B

70-79% = C

60-69% =D

0-59% =F

**Other Classroom Policies**

 

Late Assignment Policy: If you miss class for any reason, your assignment can and should still be submitted via Canvas on time. Missing class is NOT a reason to not turn in an assignment. **I do not accept late homework.** Turning in an assignment late will still result in getting zero points for that reading log. For major papers, you will lose 10 points for each day the paper is late. If you are missing class for an excused serious and compelling reason and need to turn in something late, this can be discussed in a case by case basis.

Phone Policy: If your cell phone rings or you are using your cell phone during class, you will be required to bring cookies or some other sweet to the next class period. The same policy goes for laptops, tablets, headphones, and other electronic devices.

Email Policy: I will respond to your emails within 24 hours during the week, and 48 hours over weekends and holidays. That being said, I expect your emails to be professional, courteous, and proofread. I will not respond to sloppy, hasty emails. If you do not know what constitutes a professional email please talk to me. I would also advise you to check your school email regularly, or set up the emails to forward to the email address you frequently check. I will often send you vital information through email. You are responsible for announcements made over email; not checking your email is not a valid excuse for missing an announcement.

Computer Access: You are required to have regular computer, word processor, and Internet access for this class. Do not attempt to do your assignments on a phone or tablet without a keyboard. I will rarely print assignments for you. You should be able to access assignments via Canvas. You should also be able to print the assignments that I do not print for you. If you do not have a home computer or the ability to print, you can do both in the library.

Grading: I will use the grade book to keep track of your assignments and absences, which you can access through Canvas.

Weekly assignments posted to Canvas will generally be due 2-3 times a week, usually ranging from 300-400 words each (approx. a little over a page, double-spaced). These are worth 5 points each, and are credit/no credit. If you follow directions and meet the requirements of the assignment, you will receive all 5 points. If you do not, you will receive 0. While 5 points may not seem like much, they add up. HW is worth about 25% of your grade. So if you do not do the HW, the best you could get is a C in the class, and that’s assuming you get 100% on all your papers (which won’t happen).

Sharing Work Policy: I believe that good writing deserves an audience and that having others read your work is a necessary part of the writing process. Therefore, I reserve the right to share your work with your peers. This includes projecting your work for the class to see. Therefore, make sure you produce work that you are proud of, and stay away from sensitive subjects that you don’t want others reading.

**College Policies**



**Plagiarism**

Remember to always quote and cite your sources appropriately, even if they are unpublished or from friends or classmates. An unacknowledged paraphrase, a patchwork from several sources, as well as the submission of someone else’s work (published or not), all constitute plagiarism in the eyes of the university, and a **failure of this course**. Please ask questions if you’re ever unsure BEFORE you turn in work. **Ignorance IS NOT an acceptable excuse.** The College’s language on plagiarism and academic honesty is: “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.” You will automatically receive a zero points on the assignment and the incident will be noted on your academic record if you are caught plagiarizing.

**ADA Statement**
If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (ie: Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the American With Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

**Academic Resources**



**Reading and Writing Center**

The Reading and Writing Center is there to help you with any assignment at any point in the writing project. I would encourage you to visit regularly. They take both appointments and walk-ins.

**NOTE: If you receive a grade of a D or F on the first writing project, you will be required to visit the Reading and Writing Center for a total logged 5 hours to be completed by the due date of the second writing project.**

Location: HUM 58
Phone: 559-638-0300 x3619

Email: rc.writingcenter@reedleycollege.edu

**Computer Lab**

Reedley College’s Computer Lab is located in the library. As a student, you can use the computers. You can also print for a small fee.

\*This syllabus is subject to change

