**English 3 Online: Critical Reading and Writing**

**Summer 2017**

**Instructor: Ms. Kate Watts**

**Email: Canvas (If Canvas is down, kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu)**

**COURSE GOALS & DESCRIPTION:**

English 3 is a course designed to develop critical thinking, reading and writing skills beyond the level achieved in English 1A. This course will focus on the development of logical reasoning and analytical and argumentative skills based primarily on works of non-fiction in a variety of media. Our task this summer is to first closely examine texts that will challenge you to think about and understand the powerful effects of rhetoric (spoken, written, and visual) on how humans think, speak, and interact with one another, and then to write three formal essays of increasing length and complexity. We will study a variety of texts, from op-eds and academic articles to videos, short documentaries, films and multimedia artworks culminating in a podcast with the focus on what the author/director/artist/photographer is *doing* and how this indicates the audience and the purpose of the text itself. You will then use that information to substantiate and clarify your own ideas.

It is CRUCIAL that you approach all of the readings with an open mind as critical thinkers. The point of this class is to help students develop the intellectual independence essential to critical thinking, reading, and writing. This class will ask you to examine your own assumptions-to question what cultural myths have shaped you as an individual- and, in doing so, allow you to grow in strength as both a thinker and a writer.

\*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 18 week semester. The idea that because you do not have to come to class things will be really easy is very deceptive.

**Required Texts & Materials**

Rottenbery, Annette T. & Donna Haisty Winchell.  *Elements of Argument* (11th edition*).* Bedford/St. Martin’s. 2014. ISBN-13 978-1457662362. (The first chapter is posted as a pdf in the Course Reader so you do not need to pay for express shipping if you are not purchasing at the bookstore; HOWEVER, beginning Week 2 there will be multiple assignments using the the remaining chapters.)

Various links and PDFs posted to Canvas under “Course Reader” on our Home page.

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 Canvas 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.

**Communication**

**Communication:** Please always make sure to check both the announcements on the Home page and Canvas email for essential course information. All emails should be sent through Canvas. In the event Canvas is down you can send to [kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu) but please try to avoid this. It it important to keep a record of all communications in one place. All emails should begin with “Dear Mrs. Watts….” Or “Dear Professor Watts……” This is common courtesy. It is also a good habit to develop for the working world. Please make sure if I do not answer your question to your satisfaction OR if anything at all is unclear to email again. This is an online class- constant communication is the key to your success.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**You will receive a weekly email detailing your tasks for the week in the order in which they should be accomplished. This weekly email will also be found on our announcement page. Each announcement will remain visible to you throughout the entire session. Your tasks will include the following:**

**Discussion Forums**: The discussion forums are our virtual classroom. Every week you will have assignments due on Wednesday and Sunday night. Unless otherwise indicated (for example, your first required post of the session is due Monday, June 19 by midnight), your posts will be due by midnight every Wednesday and Sunday night. I will post 2-3 questions/activities. Responding to the forums are worth anywhere from 5-20 points per week depending on the activities. Since the discussion forum is the “classroom” for our class, not posting to the discussion board is the same thing as not attending class. **Therefore, if you miss two posts on the discussion forum, 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 three of your classmates for every posted assignment. You will respond to the original question/assignment as directed. Once you have posted your initial post, you will be able to see what your classmates have posted. I post the assignments, but I only participate in a minimal way in your discussion- the occasional comment or correction. At the end of the week, I make comments to you individually regarding your participation, but I 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.**

**Response Papers**: You will have a response paper due at least once a week and perhaps twice. These response papers will range anywhere from 2 paragraphs to 2 or even 3 pages. They are assignments that teach you a specific skill like close reading or a specific rhetorical move like summary. Each response paper builds towards the essay for that unit. I will not accept late response papers for any reason. 10-30 points

**Lectures**: Formal lectures are posted AFTER students first comment on the reading. It is my job to facilitate and deepen your understanding of the material. If I direct student reading by posting lectures first, this limits student engagement with the material. There are occasional extra credit opportunities embedded in the lectures. Informal lectures are posted at the beginning of each week on the Home page.

**Essays:**

Major essays will be due every two weeks. You will have the opportunity to revise Essay 1 only; however, if you hand in a sloppy draft-poor formatting, lots of typos etc.- or a draft under the page limit for Essay 1 or a draft that indicates you did not do the reading, 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. Finally, please note I am always willing to take another look if you feel your grade is in error or in any way unfair.

**Essay 1**: 100 points (Revision allowed ONLY if the draft meets the required page limited, is properly formatted with a minimum of proofreading errors and demonstrates the student has done the reading)

**Essay 2**: 150 points (No revision)

**Essay 3:** 200 points (No revision)

**Grading Scale:**

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

**Submission of Essays**: I expect all essays to be submitted to Canvas. If, for some reason, Canvas is down and you are up against a deadline…then and only then, you may submit your essay as a word doc attachment to kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu. Specific instructions on how to submit an essay to Canvas will be included in the material for your first essay assignment. For anyone who might be new to Canvas, you will find it extremely easy to navigate.

**Class Schedule**: I post schedules for each unit at a time. We will have three two week units.

**Expectations**: As English 1A is a prerequisite for this class, I expect you to be completely familiar with MLA conventions-this includes formatting, the use and integration of quotation and the assembly of both an annotated bibliography and a works cited page.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

These outcomes have been determined by the Reedley College English Department and are in accordance with the guidelines determined by the UCs and the CSUs for a transfer level class in the humanities. These outcomes are non-negotiable. If you are unable to do the following, you will not pass English 3. Every assignment in this class is geared towards teaching you how to acquire the ability to achieve these outcomes. There are no assignments whatsoever in this class that could be deemed ‘fluff’ or ‘busy work.’

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

1. Write a synthesized and documented, critical analysis of at least 1500 words which includes:
   * sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and a conclusion
   * an arguable claim that aims to contribute to or alter pre-existing ideas on the subject matter
   * supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible, multiple secondary sources
   * researched and evaluated sources for use in the development of their own writing
   * correct usage of MLA format with correct use in-text citations and a works cited page
   * appropriate and purposeful use of quotations
   * causal analysis, advocacy of ideas, definition, persuasion, evaluation, refutation, and interpretation effectively in college-level prose
   * an annotated bibliography of multiple sources
   * correct citations (therefore avoiding plagiarism)
   * identification of logical fallacies in others’ writing and avoid them in their own writing
   * details related to main point and with complex analysis
   * evidence of self-editing for errors and revise compositions
   * use of third person/universal
   * awareness of writing for a scholarly audience
   * controlled and sophisticated word choice
   * sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, and fragments
   * use of denotative and connotative aspects of language
2. Read and critically evaluate college-level non-fiction material from a variety of sources on themes from different content areas
   * Distinguish between valid and sound arguments and invalid and unsound arguments
   * Recognize deductive and inductive language
   * Distinguish factual statements from judgmental statements and knowledge from opinion, identifying the deliberate abuses and manipulations of rhetoric
   * Make logical inferences from information presented
   * Recognize denotative and connotative aspects of language
3. Discuss issues, supporting their comments with reference to texts

You can see from the highlighted words that the focus of this class is writing, reading and discussing.

**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. I will be submitting your essays to turnitin.com as well as any questionable discussion board posts or response papers. 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. It is crucial that you understand the ethics of citation in order to pass this class. You will use MLA citing guidelines for all writing in this class. For MLA citation examples and details on using sources ethically, see the [OWL (Online Writing Lab) at Purdue](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/).

**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.

**DROP POLICY**

Students who do not check post to the “Let’s Talk” forum by midnight June 19 will be dropped. Students who fail to complete any of the assigned work for the first week of the session will be dropped. Students who choose not to submit the first essay will be dropped. Students who miss more than two discussion forums before the drop date of Friday, June 30 will be dropped.

**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 19: Class Begins**

**June 30: Last day to drop without a letter grade**

**July 28: Class Ends**

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