**ENGLISH 1A: Reading and Composition Fall 2018**

Instructor: Ms. Kate Watts

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-1, Wednesday 11-12, Thursday 12-1, Friday 2-4 (virtual via Canvas email) and by appointment

Email: Canvas Inbox Only

**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. Our course theme is “Tribalism.” We will examine this theme and its current place in American culture in both negative and positive depictions.

We will begin with a short editorial from The New York Times, “Our Gang,” followed by Sebastian Junger’s *Tribe*, Tara Westover’s *Educated*, Meg Wolitzer’s *The Female Persuasion* and conclude with the podcast *S Town*. We will also study a variety of other texts related to our main theme along with our textbook, *From Inquiry to Academic Writing*, which will teach the fundamentals of college essay writing including the integration of quotation, research and MLA formatting.

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS

Greene. *From Inquiry to Academic Writing.* 2018, MacMillan*. Print*

Junger, Sebastian. *Tribe*. Fourth Estate: 2016. Print.

Westover, Tara. *Educated*. Random House, 2018. Print.

Wolitzer, Meg. *Female Persuasion.* Riverhead, 2017. Print.

From *Serial* & *This American Life*: *S Town*. 2017. Podcast.

Various links and PDFs posted to Canvas under “Readings”

#2 Pencils for Scantron quizzes

Notebook devoted to this class ONLY

Electronic ability to save your work.

Correct formatting. Word available for free. Only Word docs will be accepted for submissions.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Write a documented research paper of at least 1000 words which includes:
   1. A sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion
   2. An arguable thesis sentence
   3. Supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and credible secondary sources
   4. Correct usage of MLA format
   5. Appropriate and purposeful use of quotations
   6. An annotated bibliography of multiple sources
2. Write sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, and fragments.
3. Demonstrate sophisticated word choice
4. Correctly use in-text citations
5. Avoid plagiarism
6. Complete a developed essay independently in class
7. Self-edit for errors and revise compositions
8. Write in the third person
9. Summarize and comprehend college level prose

\*Please note you will write a total of 6,000 words for this class. All of the outcomes listed above along with this word count requirement are in alignment with the CSU and UC requirements for transfer. All assignments in this class are directly connected to these outcomes.

**Class Policies**

**Participation & Talking Points**:

Class participation is vital. In the third week of class, we will begin “talking points.” Talking points are assigned to five students for every class period (except for workshop and lab days). The talking point must be about the work of the class assigned for that day. If a student is absent or demonstrates they have not done the reading or thought deeply about the material of the class, they will be docked 5 points. If the student is absent, they will be docked 5 points. There are absolutely NO wrong talking points as long as the student is prepared and thoughtful. We will practice talking points together before they formally begin.

**Absences:** The class will adhere to the Reedley College catalog attendance policy which states: 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. As a guide, during the semester up to the final drop date, any student who misses more than two weeks of class meetings may be dropped.

**Reading Assignments**: We will be reading a large amount of materials every week. Failure to complete these reading assignments will be detrimental to your final grade. You will be quizzed for every reading assignment throughout the semester. Quizzes will generally be 10 points. Quizzes will require a scantron. Scantrons will be provided. #2 pencils will not.

**Peer Response Workshops**: Workshops are beneficial to both writer and reader; therefore, you will be workshopping your writing throughout the semester. Failure to attend workshopping sessions will result in a lowered final grade. You will be graded on both having material prepared for workshop and the quality of your responses to others’ writings.

**General Writing Assignments**: This class requires the completion of various graded writing assignments. All assignments must be completed within the timeframe provided. Written assignments must be in MLA format and on time. Please keep all of your prewriting and drafts of each out-of-class paper--I may ask to see your writing processes before accepting assignments.

**Expectations**: Papers submitted with careless proofreading and/or sufficient revision will be returned with a failing grade. If you have any concerns with any of these writing conventions, please meet with me, seek help in the Reading & Writing Center or online at the Purdue OWL (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/) PRIOR to an assignment’s due date.

**Paper Due Date Policy**: Papers will be docked one letter grade for every day late. After the third day, I will no longer accept your essay. Weekends count as days. (Please note choosing to not submit ANY essay for this class will make it mathematically impossible for you to pass the class.) Why a strict late assignment policy? To reinforce responsibility and time management skills needed in academics and the real world.

**Revisions of written work**: Some of your written work is revisable for a possible increased of one letter grade. In order to revise, you must first meet with me in person regarding the paper. You may then submit a revision along with the required Revision Checklist (obtained from me during our conversation) and previously graded work. The Revision checklist might include a required visit or visits to the Reading and Writing Center. Any revisions turned in without substantial revision of content will not be accepted. Each revisable paper may be revised only once. Why only once? So you make smart, critical decisions on the content of your work after coming to office hours and/or attending tutorials.

**Plagiarism/Cheating**: Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s words OR IDEAS as your own with no citation for their work. Always err on the side of caution—if in doubt, cite it. Cheating includes having anyone else complete your work for you or turning in a paper you have written for another class. You will be caught, receive no credit on the assignment, and reported to the administration. If plagiarism and/or cheating are suspected, you may be asked to provide drafts of your written work and submit your paper to turnitin.com, a plagiarism-checking service. Keep all drafts of your writing assignments for these purposes.

The following is taken from page 49 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.

Cheating

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely. 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.

In short, don’t cheat or plagiarize.

Successful students do the following:

**English Department Student Error Statement:** Your instructors at Reedley College want you to be successful in your classes and therefore request you submit your best work. Successful students in reading and writing classes make sure that they carefully address the prompt, proofread their writing, and follow MLA guidelines.

Please note that an instructor may choose to read only the first page or less of an assignment and return it to you with little or no feedback if the paper demonstrates lack of attention to correctness. This paper is also likely to receive a failing grade.

* Follow their instructor’s instructions and pay close attention to the rubric requirements.
* Seek assistance from the Reading and Writing Center, Tutorial Center, or Smarthinking
* Ask their instructor for guidance during his/her office hours
* Look for answers online at the PurdueOWL website (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/) DAYS BEFORE their paper is due.

**Respectful Learning Environment**: Be considerate of others. Enter class on time prepared to share equally and respect the opinions of others. Read, listen, and participate attentively. Failure to comply will result in being asked to leave the class.

**Instructor Contact**: Academia is a professional environment. When addressing your instructors, refer to them as Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Dr. unless they have asked to be referred to by their first names. Be sure that all correspondence is professional (no text-language emails) and follows all conventions of proper English usage (correct punctuation and grammar). Again, we are reinforcing real-world skills.

**Grading:** You will be graded on a point system scale. Grades will be available on Canvas. If you are failing the course at mid-term, you may be dropped from the class.

**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.

\*All policies are subject to change in order to create a positive learning environment. All assignments are subject to change.

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

A final, important note: Keep in mind that in this class, and for your entire academic future as well, your education is dependent upon you. Your instructors are resources and facilitators. It is you who is responsible for the learning that takes place. And as George Washington Carver once said, “Ninety-nine percent of failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.” Be open to learn.

ENGLISH 1A SCHEDULE—SPRING 2018

All assignments and due dates subject to change. Updates will be given in class and posted to Canvas.

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| Week 1 | M: Syllabus; Introductions; Reading & Writing Center enrollment; Buy textbooks. HW: Read handout, “Our Gang” by Laila Lalami, for Wednesday’s Diagnostic (20 points).  W: Diagnostic & Conference Sign Ups |
| Week 2 | M&W: Conferences in CCI 202. Conference times available on Canvas. If a student should choose not to attend their conference, they will receive TWO absences, as they will have missed the equivalent of one week of class. |
| Week 3 | M: Introduction to Sebastian Junger’s *Tribe.* HW: Chapter One for Wednesday  W: Quiz Chapter One (10 points) HW: Chapter Two for Monday |
| Week 4 | M: Quiz Chapter 2 (10 points) HW: Chapter 3  W: Quiz Chapter 3 (10 points) HW: Chapter 4 + Epilogue |
| Week 5 | M: Quiz Chapter 4 + Epilogue (10 points)  W: Lab HW: Workshop Draft |
| Week 6 | M: Writing Workshop (20 points)  W: Paper 1 due 100 points |