**Syllabus for English 1A**

**Instructor:**Tina Ramsey

**Term:**Spring 2018

**Office:**  Madera Campus—R-5A

**Phone:** (559) 675-4803

**Email:**  tina.ramsey@scccd.edu

**Office Hours:                         MWF 9:30-10:30 am**

**TTh    2:00-3:00 pm**

And other times by appointment

**Class Dates and Times:        Section 85376**

**MWF              8:15-9:25 am—AV1-149**

**Section 56419 (Reedley Campus)**

**MW                6:00-7:50 pm—CTL 1**

**Section 85385**

**TTH              10:00-11:50 am—AV1-246**

**Section 85233**

**TTH                3:00-4:50 pm—AV1-148**

**Course Description:**This course stresses the development of analytical reading and the writing of college-level essays, including critical analysis, rhetorical forms, and collegiate research.  Students will read, analyze, and compose college-level prose, with emphasis on the expository; study writing as a process; explore different composing structures and strategies; edit and revise their own writing; and conduct research (gather, organize, evaluate, integrate, and document information), culminating in a term research paper and annotated bibliography. Students will write a minimum of 6,000 words in formal academic language.

**Course Objectives:**

The purpose of this course is to improve your college-level reading and writing skills.  To become a more effective writer, you will be learning how to approach writing as a process.  This will involve discovering topics to write about, drafting and developing these topics in an essay, and then revising your essays for clarity.

**Course Outcomes:**

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

1. Write a documented research paper of at least 1,500 words that includes:
   1. a sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion
   2. a clearly defined, arguable thesis sentence
   3. supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible secondary sources
   4. correct usage of MLA format, including a works cited page
   5. sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, fragments, and mechanics
   6. controlled and sophisticated word choice
   7. writing in third person/universal
   8. an avoidance of logical fallacies
   9. demonstration of an awareness of purpose and audience
   10. appropriate and purposeful use of quotations
   11. correct in-text citations
   12. an annotated bibliography of multiple sources
   13. an avoidance of intentional and unintentional plagiarism
2. Complete a timed essay independently in class
3. Summarize and comprehend college level prose (will include a full reading)

**Required Texts and Materials:**

Kirszner, Laurie G. and Stephen R. Mandell.  *The Blair Reader: Exploring Issues and Ideas*. 9th ed.  ISBN:  13:978-0-13-411037-0

Skloot, Rebecca.  *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. ISBN: 978-1-4000-5218-9

College-ruled, wire bound notebook of 100 pages

Consistent Internet access

**Recommended Texts and Materials:**

A good college-level dictionary

Portable flash drive

**Grading Scale:**

I use the standard grading scale of A = 90-100%, B = 89-80%, C = 70-79-%, D = 60-69%, F = 59-0%

**Course Requirements:**

            Essays                                     70%

            Other Writing                          10%

            Final Exam                              10%

            Journal                                    5%

            Workshops                              5%

            2 Conferences                         Required

            Attendance                              Required

**Attendance:**

Everyone is expected to be in class and on time.  If you are not in class by 5 minutes after class is officially supposed to start, you will be marked tardy.  Three tardies will result in an absence.  You are allowed four (4) absences for the semester.  Any number of absences beyond those permitted may result in your being dropped from the class.  **Note:  1. With the exception of school sponsored activities; there are no excused absences in this class.  If you are not in class, you are absent.  2.  There are no make-ups for in-class assignments that are missed because of an absence.  3.  If you leave class early you will be marked absent.  4.  Pay attention to the rules concerning absences and workshops.**

**IMPORTANT:  It is your, the student’s, responsibility to drop the course by the deadlines set by the college if you find you are unable to keep up with the work or attend class as it is regularly scheduled.**

**Assignments:**

There are many reading and writing assignments due throughout the semester.  Please refer to the Tentative Class Schedule for the due dates for individual assignments.  Keep in mind that all readings must be done before you arrive to class and that writing assignments are due in class on their assigned due date.

**Mid-term Portfolio:**

The Mid-term Portfolio will contain your completed essays and other writing assignments that are assigned for the first half of this course.

**Final Portfolio:**

The Final Portfolio will contain your last completed essays, including the research essay, and other writing assignments for second half of the semester.

**Essays:**

There will be various out-of-class essays assigned throughout the semester.  I will hand out guidelines for these papers, but the topics you write on will be ones of your own choosing. Please do yourself a favor—write about things you want to write about, not about what you think I want you to write about.

 These essays are required to be revised, typed, and doublespaced.  Drafts of the papers that are turned in to me must have all prewriting, rough drafts, and peer response sheets attached.  All drafts of papers are due **in class** on their assigned dates.  **Four Very Important Things to Remember:  1. Late drafts will have at least one letter grade deducted from the paper’s final grade in the portfolio.  2.  No draft material = no essay credit.  3.  Any draft I don’t see may not be put in the Mid-term or Final Portfolio.  In other words, submitting a rough draft for review is not optional.  If you do not submit a rough draft of an essay assignment prior to its portfolio due date, that essay will be ineligible for any credit in its assigned portfolio.  4.  All essays must be submitted in order to pass the class.  5.  There are no exceptions to the four previous rules.**

**Journal:**

You will be keeping a journal this semester, and you are to bring it with you for every class.  The journal is a place to experiment in your writing and to do some “thinking on paper,” without having to worry about grammar, spelling, or punctuation.  It will contain two parts. One part of your journal will be devoted to process writing and the second part will be devoted to responding to the assigned readings.  I will give you another handout that explains the journal in more detail.  Basically, you must complete 5-6 pages of writing per week in your journal.  **The journal is not graded.**  You will receive your points for the journal by simply completing the specified number of pages per week on time and by responding to the reading or journal prompts in a thoughtful/critical manner.

**Conferences:**

Everyone will be required to attend two conferences during the semester.  I will consider a missed appointment an absence from class.  The conferences are required, and each unattended conference will take 50 points off your final total of class points.

**In-class Essays and Final Exam:**

These will be short essays that will be assigned and completed in class.

**Workshops:**

Receiving feedback on your papers from an audience is an important part of the writing process.  In order for you to receive comments from other members of the class on your papers, you will be assigned to a workshop group. To receive credit for these sessions you must:  1. Be in class 2.  Bring copies of your rough draft for each member of you group (usually 3) 3. Complete a response sheet for every member’s paper.  It is very important to bring a rough draft.  **Two Very Important Things to Remember About Workshops:  1. People who do not bring drafts will not get full credit for the workshop.  2.  People who do not attend on workshop days will have two absences counted in the grade book instead of one.**

**Plagiarism and Cheating:**

Plagiarism and cheating are college no-nos.  Taking credit for someone else’s work is simply not acceptable on this campus, which, of course, includes my class.  The consequences for getting caught doing this are quite undesirable, so do yourself (and me) a favor and don’t do it.  The first time you turn in work that is plagiarized or copied from someone else, you will receive zero points for the assignment (an “F”), and you will not have the opportunity to do another assignment to make up for the lost points.  If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating again, you will be dropped from the class with an “F.”

**Disruptive Behavior:**

Disruptive behavior in the classroom is also a college no-no.  As a general rule, please treat the people you meet and work with in this class with courtesy and respect, and always use discretion when discussing topics in the areas of sex and violence.  Here are some more specific rules to remember:

* Do not use musical playing devices in class (e.g. iPods, MP3s, etc).
* Do not use cell phones in class for receiving calls or for texting. (If you carry a cell phone with you make very certain that you don’t receive any calls during class.)
* Do not leave class early without notifying me in advance with a valid reason for going.
* No food or drink in class.

**Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS):**

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor and the DSPS office.