**English 3 52828 Online: Critical Reading and Writing**

 **Spring 2018**

**Instructor: Ms. Kate Watts**

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**Office Hours: M 1-3, W 1-3, Th 10-12 in HUM 52/ F 2-3 (via email)/ by appointment**

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**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 semester 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 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. We will begin with a commencement address by the writer David Foster Wallace, and then move on to an essay by Professor Mary Louise Pratt that presents the concept of ‘the contact zone.” We will then refer to this concept for the remainder of the semester. The One Book/One College Reading: *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* will examine the ‘contact zones’ of medical and media ethics. Our textbook will be the source of formal argumentative terms and concepts.

**Required Texts & Materials**

Lunsford. *Everything’s an Argument 7th Edition*. ISBN 9781319085759

Skloot. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. ISBN 9781400052189

Course Readings: Posted in the appropriate modules on our Canvas site in the form of links or pdfs

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.

**Computer Requirements**

Always use Chrome as your browser. While your phone can show you some materials, many materials will NOT be available to you on your phone or in another browser. All uploaded documents MUST be in Microsoft Word. I will not accept Google docs or any other format. Word is available for free on the Reedley College Reading and Writing Center Home page. You will be receiving an invitation to join the Writing Center again (one was sent out last semester) so if you did not join at that time, you must do so now. It will then show as a ‘course’ on your Canvas page. I will be requiring you to use their services and/or links throughout the semester, so make sure to accept this invitation when it comes during Week 1 if you did not do this last semester.

**Communication**

 Please always make sure to check both our Canvas site and your Canvas email for class communicaions. I send out weekly reminders of your tasks for the week in the order in which these tasks should be completed. These announcements can always be accessed under “Annoucements” on our Course Site and will remain there throughout the semester. All emails should be sent to through Canvas only. All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line and begin with “Dear Ms. Watts….” Or “Dear Professor Watts……” The language used in emails should be the same kind of language that you would use in an essay. Please note that my Friday office hours are virtual-you will be able to get me online between 2 and 3 every Friday. I will respond to your emails as soon as possible; however, if you email me late in the evening during the week (and sometimes after 8 is late for me!), don’t expect to hear back from me until the following day. I will be available over the weekends, but not after 4 pm. If you do not hear back from me within twenty four hours, please email again because no response indicates some kind of error. For FCC and Clovis students:I can be available on Mondays or Wednesdays in Fresno at the Fig Garden Starbucks if you would like to meet without driving to the Reedley Campus.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Discussion Board**:

The Discussion Board is an important part of our class. Every week I will post questions and/or activities. Responding to the Discussion Board is worth 5 points per week. I will be posting the upcoming week’s assignments on the discussion board on Sunday afternoon. Our week runs from Monday morning until Sunday at midnight. Discussion board assignments are due the following Sunday at midnight. (The exceptions to this are the Writing Workshop Forums that occur three times throughout the semester-they are always due on Wednesdays because the essays are due on Sundays.) 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. When you respond to your classmates, try to extend the conversation as opposed to “That’s awesome!! ☺” I post the assignments, but I do not participate in your discussion. 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 and/or listeneing for the week, you will receive zero credit for that week’s posts.** Finally, if you plagiarize any part of a discussion board post, you will receive a zero for that week. If it should happen again, you will be suspended from the class until you can meet with the Dean of Humanities (see Academic Honesty below for complete policy on plagiarism).

**Response Papers**:

You will have frequent response papers. These will also be due Sunday at midnight unless otherwise indicated. These response papers will range anywhere from two paragraphs to two 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. If you choose not to submit response papers, I will not accept your essay for that unit. 5-10 points

**Total Points**:

Below is the point breakdown for the class. Please be aware if I find students are not participating on the discussion board, discussion board points may increase. Also, please note, I am a reflexive instructor. This means if I think the class needs more time and more discussion or another response paper for a certain unit, I will make changes to this point total.

**Essay 1**: 100 points (Revision is allowed for Essay 1 as long as the essay is submitted on time and follows MLA formatting and meets the page minimum. It is up to you to contact me within one week after Essay 1 has been graded if you would like to revise either essay.)

**Essay 2**: 100 points (No revision allowed)

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

**Response Papers**: 100 points (approximately)

**Discussion Board**: 100 points (approximately)

**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 spend approximately five weeks on each unit. I reserve the right to make any changes to the schedule. If any changes are made, you will be notified immediately.

**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. If this is an issue for you, please make use of the writing center on your home campus for review.

**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

**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 determine you have committed plagiarism, I will refer you to the Dean of Humanities, Dr. Todd Davis, for disciplinary action. You will receive a zero for the assignment, and, in most cases, this means you will fail the class regardless of the outcome of your meeting with the Dr. Davis.

**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. In addition, I will not provide feedback on late work. You are welcome to come to office hours to discuss your late work.

**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 semester any need for extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.