# English 1A: College Reading and Composition

**Fall 2020**

Instructor: Kamilah Okafor Email: kamilah.okafor@reedleycollege.edu

CRN: 52864

Canvas Chat Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Format: Online

## Course Overview

This course is designed to cultivate critical thinking skills through reading, writing, and analyzing rhetorical compositions at the college level. Emphasis will be placed on exposition: studying writing as a process, exploring different composing structures and strategies, editing, and revising, conducting research, and learning to critique peer writing. **Students must successfully complete written course work to the spirit and letter of what is expected in this class to receive credit.**

### *Required Texts/Materials:*

* Ousborne, Jeff, *Reading Pop Culture: A Portable Anthology,* 2nd edition, ISBN:9781319006624
* Bullock, Richard, Michal Brody, and Francine Weinberg, *The Little Seagull Handbook with Exercises*, 3rd edition, ISBN: 978039360264
* Flash Drive/Online Storage Drive (ex: Google Drive/OneDrive) for saving assignments.
* Access to Canvas (CV) and Web Advisor account.
* Access to a home/library computer and Wi-Fi.

### *Course Content*

This course will focus on analyzing readings from the textbook, a longer work, and your own research. The course will be divided into writing projects, writing formative assessments, and a final essay exam. The focus for this course will be analysis of the rhetorical framework of both visuals and texts. Each final paper will be preceded by drafts, and you will be expected to participate in a workshop for each essay. Growth comes from practice; therefore, all assignments are used to calculate the final grade.

## Student Learning 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:
* 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
* demonstration of 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
1. Complete a timed essay independently in class
2. Summarize and comprehend college level prose (will include a full reading)

## Course Requirements

### *Homework and Canvas Activities*

All homework and written coursework assignments should be submitted on Canvas by their assigned deadlines. Assignments will be due every two days unless certain circumstances occur. **I will not accept any late work.** If you are having trouble submitting your assignment on Canvas, you will need to contact me 24 hours before the assignment is due. Please do not email me any class work.  If there are further problems, contact Canvas for technical support.

### *Discussion*

This class will engage in online group and large class discussions on Canvas throughout the semester. You will be required to apply your knowledge and/or views on a given discussion topic, maintaining respect for your fellow peers and the instructor in this environment. This is an opportunity for you to engage with your peers and hear different perspectives and exchange ideas. These discussions will have specific requirements that will need to be fulfilled to receive credit.

### *Class Participation:*

It is mandatory to be prepared for all weekly classwork by completing all reading and homework assignments. Class participation includes participating in online discussion activities, online peer review workshop, and other online activities. I reserve the right to give surprise quizzes if the class participation is not meeting my expectations.

### *Writing Projects:*

This semester you will write three major essays. As we move through the course, each writing project will challenge you to add more knowledge, skills, and practices of writing to what you already know from the assignment before.

### *Rules for Essays:*

For every day your drafts are late, you will receive a 5-point deduction on your essay grade.  If I do not receive a rough draft of your essay before turning in your final draft, you will not only receive a 0 on the rough draft, but a non-passing grade on your final draft. To become a better writer, it is important to participate in the entirety of the writing process.

### *MLA Guidelines:*

All writing projects must be formatted with one-inch margins with 12-point, Times New Roman font. A Works Cited page is mandatory for all essays and an annotated bibliography will be required for the research essay. All writing must adhere to MLA guidelines.

### *Peer Review Workshop:*

Workshopping is an important component to this class. It gives you the opportunity to get audience feedback on your writing; they are also an opportunity to get ideas for approaching various writing tasks, to understand the range of rhetorical components – besides grammar – that are available for revision, and finally to assess a piece of writing for its rhetorical effectiveness. Participating in these online workshops will help you to read and revise your own work with more fluency and expertise.

### *Reading:*

Reading and writing go hand in hand. The reading we will do in this class will be necessary for online class discussion, for modeling approaches to writing, and for developing a better understanding about form, rhetorical approach, and the use of evidence in writing. I will expect that when a reading assignment is due that you will have **read the text actively**; that is, you will have annotated your text and will be ready to complete the written assignments and engage in conversation with others about the reading in online discussion boards.

## Grading and Evaluation

| **Course Work** | **Grading Percentage** |
| --- | --- |
| **Class Participation**: (includes online discussions, workshops, and quizzes) | 15% |
| **Assignments**: (includes written assignments) | 20% |
| **Writing Projects:** (includes rough drafts, final drafts, and other essay assignments) | 45% |
| **Final Written Exam** | 20% |

### *Grading Scale*

90-100% A

80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

 0-59% F

Completing all the major essays, drafts, writing activities, and peer discussions to the best of your ability will help improve your writing—and therefore your final grade. As with any college class, grades can change significantly due to a single missed assignment or project. Do not presume if you are receiving a certain letter grade on most your assignments that it will be reflected in your final grade for the class. The grade system and your overall performance in class will be strictly enforced.

## Attendance and Drop Policy

Attendance is highly important, and if you fall behind in the daily assignments you cannot make them up. You will be required to complete weekly assignments in the form of reflections, online discussions, homework assignments, quizzes and more.

### Absences/Drops:

During the first week of instruction**,**students who fail to complete the “Getting to Know You” assignments by Tuesday Evening by 11:59pm will be dropped: no exceptions. All students will be given a total of four absences. Students who do not complete ALL the weekly coursework will be marked absent for the week. **Students with five or more absences will be dropped.**

If you are unable to participate in a daily activity, it is your responsibility to get in contact with me. Excused absences are not guaranteed unless in extreme circumstances beyond your control (i.e. death in the family, medical emergencies, jury duty, or other extreme circumstances) with the proper documentation included.

### *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 and provide me with the accommodation documentation.

## College Policies

### *Let’s Talk Respect:*

Even in an online environment, this class is a place in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for t0he rights of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Students should participate in online discussion with **an open mind**: This means understanding and listening to different viewpoints or concerns that differ from your own and expressing your ideas in terms that are supportive to the learning process. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Do not take this class if it conflicts with your work schedule, as failure to not complete the classwork will not be excused. Some of our discussions/activities will result in the sharing of personal information. Our class may discuss topics that address class. gender, race, religion, sexuality that fall under controversial topics that reflect our country’s current climate. This is a judgment-free space. As such, all topics should be discussed with respect.

**Disrespect towards me or other students will not be tolerated. If your behavior is inappropriate for an academic learning environment, your class participation will be penalized.**

### *Plagiarism*

By enrolling in this course, you join a community requiring academic integrity. When you write your name on an assignment, you take credit for the work contained, whether that be an entire text or only a sentence. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty demonstrate a disrespect of the community and will not be tolerated.

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 college, and **will result in a** **failure of this course**. Please ask questions if you’re ever unsure BEFORE you turn in work. **Ignorance IS NOT an acceptable excuse.** You will automatically receive zero points on the assignment and may even be reported to the dean.

## Other Classroom Policies

### *Email Policy:*

As your instructor I am here to help you, so email me when necessary. The best way to contact me is through Canvas Inbox. I respond to emails during the weekdays (9:00am-Midnight is best). Any time not during the hours specified is not guaranteed a reply. Please allow a 24-hour period window for me to respond before emailing me again.

With that being said, I expect your emails to be professional and courteous. I will not attempt to translate text lingo. When you email me, please be sure your email includes a greeting (Dear Ms. Okafor), the body message, and a closing signature. Even an email is a form of writing, and I will only respond to professionalism.

### *Computer Access and Wi-Fi:*

You are required to have a regular computer and reliable Internet access.  Do not attempt to do your assignments on a phone, Notepad, or tablet without a keyboard. Accessing assignments via Canvas is a requirement.  If you do not have a home computer, you can go to the library.

## Final Notes:

If any changes are made to the syllabus or class schedule it is your responsibility as a student to make sure you are on top of all changes. Keep an eye out for emails, announcements, and/or ask a classmate.