

# Fall 2020 English 1A Syllabus

English 1A-52955 / 95001: Reading and Composition 

## Contact Information

Instructor: Deborah Lyons

Office / phone: Annex 4 / 638-0300, ext. 3423

Email: [deborah.lyons@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:deborah.lyons@reedleycollege.edu)

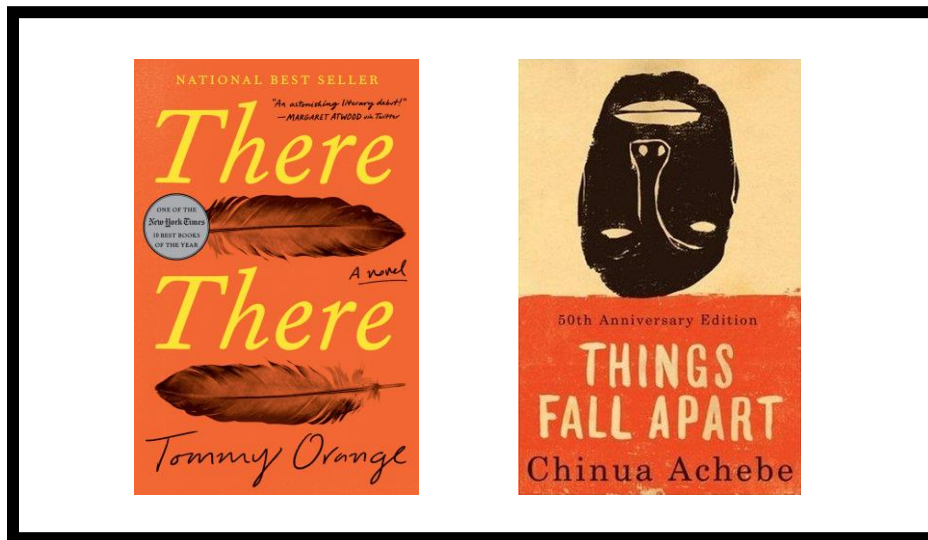
Zoom Office Hours:

Monday: 1:00-3:00, Tuesday: 5:00-6:00, Wednesday: 1:00-3:00, And by appointment.

Lecture Hour: TBA

## Required Texts

- Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*.
- Orange, Tommy. *There, There*
- All other texts will be available online through Canvas



## Overview

**Catalog Description:** 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

**What you can expect:** The theme for this course is “Rewriting the Story.” We will examine texts by Manuel Muñoz, Chinua Achebe, Tommy Orange, and more who interrogate the dominant cultural narratives that shape them and us. In response, you will write four essays that articulate your own ideas as well as draw on research from a variety of sources.

**Format:** This class is conducted entirely online through Canvas. You will study lectures, contribute to discussions, take quizzes, and participate in writing workshops. This is a 4-unit class, which means that you should allow for 12-16 hours per week for study. Each week you will read roughly 150 pages from our assigned texts, take a quiz, study presentations, and contribute to discussion forums. Other weeks will require you to locate sources and read and annotate these carefully on your own. Some weeks you will focus primarily on drafting or revising essays. Set aside distinct study times in your weekly schedule for the best chance at success.

**Communications:** The best way to reach me is via email or the Canvas messaging inbox. Please include your name and class section number in the subject of your email. I will respond Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Also, I am happy to answer any questions that you may have during my Zoom office hours.

At the start of each week, I will post an announcement about the week's assignments with a "To Do" list. Get into the habit of checking Canvas and your school email daily. Consider changing your notifications settings to receive messages and announcements directly to your phone or email.

**Weekly Due Dates:** With the exception of writing workshop activities, assignments each week will be due on Friday at 9:00 am. Occasionally you will need to complete items earlier in a week in order to allow time for your classmates to respond. Check the schedule for specific details and plan accordingly. Deadlines are strict for all assignments. All assignments have been carefully designed to build on each other to help you be successful in the course.

## Student Learning Outcomes

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### English 1A

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

1. Write multiple essays of at least 1,500 words, including at least one research paper with documentation 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 which show a command of mechanics
    - controlled and sophisticated word choice
    - writing in third person
    - 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
    - a lack of intentional and unintentional plagiarism
  2. Write one or more organized, independently-written in-class essays with thesis and adequate support.
  3. Read and understand college-level prose.
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## Grades and Assignments

Assignments	Points
Quizzes	50
Discussion Forum Posts	100
Reading Reflections & Topic Proposal	100
Research preparation and presentation	100
Essay 1	50
Essay 2	150
Essay 3	150
Essay 4*	300
	Total: 1,000

*\*As per the English 1A Course Outline of Record and English 1A rubric criteria, you must write a passing research paper and annotated works cited to be eligible to pass this class.*

**Grading Scale for English 1A:** 90 - 100% = A; 80 - 89% = B; 70 - 79% = C; 60 - 69% = D; 0 - 59% = F

**Quizzes (5 points each)** include multiple choice and open-ended questions based on assigned readings and class lectures. All quizzes are open note but you will be most successful if you thoughtfully complete the readings before taking the quiz.

**Discussion Forum Posts (5 points each)** include responses to readings or lessons and participation in writing workshops. These are intended to help you widen your understanding of the texts and to build the skills needed to complete essay assignments. Ask questions. Contribute to group activities. Respond to your classmates thoughtfully. Take an active role in your learning.

**Reading Reflections & Topic Proposal (20 points each)** Reading reflections are more thorough responses to the readings than discussion forum posts, allowing you to practice skills such as in-text citation and to deepen your critical analysis of texts begun in the discussion forums. They are intended to help you to gather quotes and develop your ideas and are part of the process of building the essays. You are welcome to draw on your ideas begun in discussion forums and reflections when drafting your essays.

**Research preparation and presentation (100 points)** Activities in this category are designed to give you the tools you need to succeed with your essays and include an MLA test and a library scavenger hunt. In preparation for the research paper, you will compile an Annotated Bibliography to demonstrate your close reading of the sources. In addition, you will create a presentation to share your final research project with the class.

**Essays (650 points total)** Essay 1 is a comparison essay in response to essays by Dinaw Mengestu, Manuel Muñoz, and Jumpha Lahiri. Essay 2 is an analysis of *There, There* by Tommy Orange. Essay 3 is an argumentative and source based essay drawing on themes raised in *Things Fall Apart*. Essay 4 is a research paper investigating the relationship between art, stories, and

stereotypes. You will draw on multiple sources to craft a thoughtful and supported argument. Essays will be graded on the thesis statement, organization, development of ideas, use of sources, and clarity based on correct grammar and appropriate style. See rubric for additional criteria. All essays are due by 9am on the due date, uploaded through Canvas to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism checking website. **Essays must be submitted on time to be accepted.** If for some reason you cannot access Canvas, you must email a copy of your essay directly to me so it is not counted as late.

## Class Policies

**Community:** While taking this class online may not have been your first choice, please remember that we are still a community. Reach out to others in the class and get to know them. Reach out to your instructor. I care about you and your success. If you feel isolated or that you are struggling with any aspect of the course, don't wait until you are overwhelmed to ask for support. There will be a variety of opportunities to connect with others including attending weekly Zoom meetings, participating in group discussions, as well as signing up for group tutoring through the Reading & Writing Center. If you have suggestions about what would help you to feel more connected to the class, please share so that I can incorporate your ideas and make the class better for all.

**Late Work:** I do not accept late work. All due dates for essays and assignments are firm. However, at the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest quiz grade, as well as your two lowest discussion posts. Exception: assignments that are due within the first two weeks must be completed and do not qualify to be dropped. If you are having difficulty on an assignment, particularly an essay, reach out for help early on.

**Technical problems:** Computer failure, lost USB drives, or other technology glitches will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse for late papers. Get into the habit of saving all work online (or emailing it to yourself) as a safeguard. You can also email an essay directly to me if Canvas is unavailable to ensure that your work is not counted as late. **Take responsibility for your timely completion of all assignments.**

**Attendance and drop policy:** Your participation matters! Logging into Canvas and viewing course content is not enough to be marked present or to be successful. This means that you need to complete weekly assignment as well as the essays. I will use the weekly discussion forum to track attendance. During the first week of class, you must complete the following to remain enrolled in this course. Failure to complete these first two assignments during week 1 will mean that you will be dropped from this course:

1. Introduction Video/post
2. Syllabus Quiz

**Respectful Learning Environment:** In this class, we will discuss a range of topics and hear a variety of opinions. Your participation is expected and encouraged. Your kindness and respect towards others is

also expected. Rudeness towards the instructor or other students will not be tolerated. Maintain a professional and respectful tone in the discussion forums and writing workshops, as well as in any online communication with the instructor or other classmates.

**Reedley College's Disruptive Student Policy:** "Reedley College seeks to develop responsible, democratic citizenship among the students enrolled. Students are responsible for their conduct. Failure to adhere to the college's standards will result in disciplinary action [... ] Reedley College's Student Code of Conduct Policy (Board Policy 5520 and Educational Code 76032) authorizes an instructor to remove a disruptive student from his or her class for the day of the removal and the next class meeting" ([See RC Catalog](#)).

**Plagiarism:** All projects must be entirely your own work. You may not submit work you have written for another class. All essays will be uploaded to Turnitin.com a plagiarism checking website. Any work containing *any* material that you take directly from the internet or any other source (including your own work for another class) without proper documentation will receive a zero. Depending on the severity of the plagiarized material you may also be reported to the Dean of Instruction. To avoid this situation, speak with me as soon as possible if you are having difficulty completing an assignment.

**Administrative Policies:** For a complete list of Student Conduct, Rights and Responsibilities, as well as the Grievance Policy, please refer to the Administrative Policies beginning on page 46 of the 2020-21 Reedley College Catalog.

**Changes to the Syllabus/Schedule:** The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary for the benefit of the class.

## Resources

**Instructor Support:** If you have any concerns about the class, assignments, or your progress, please contact me as soon as possible. I am available during my office hours but also willing to meet at another time that is mutually convenient.

**Tutorial Centers:** The Math Center, the Reading/Writing Center, and the Learning Center are all using the same online tutor matching service. Additionally, all Math and English Courses, as well as many other high demand courses should have embedded tutors; that means students may be able to message their embedded tutor via Canvas in each course. If a student needs to search for a tutor, they should go to [www.tutormatchingservice.com/reedley](http://www.tutormatchingservice.com/reedley) sign up for a free account, and begin searching for RC tutors from all three Centers. Here is a tutorial video on how to use Tutor Matching Service: <https://youtu.be/xvRD7kSJNhs>

**Students with Disabilities/Special 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 talk to me as soon as possible. Contact Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) at (559) 638-0332.

**Other Resources:** There are MANY resources available to students on campus. To name a few: Emergency Services, Health & Psychological Services, Career & Employment Center, Reedley College Library, Food Bank, Information for Dreamers, and Counseling. Please let me know if you have a question or need and I will do my best to put you in contact with the appropriate service.

Important Date	Event
August 10 (M)	Start of Fall 2020 semester
August 21 (F)	Last day to drop a Fall 2020 full-term class for full refund
August 28 (F)	Last day to register for a Fall 2020 full-term class in person
August 28 (F)	Last day to drop a Fall 2020 full-term class to avoid a "W" in person
August 30 (SU)	Last day to drop a Fall 2020 full-term class to avoid a "W" on WebAdvisor
September 7 (M)	Labor Day Holiday (no classes held, campus closed)
October 9 (F)	Last Day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)
November 11 (W)	Veterans Day (no classes held, campus open)
November 26-27 (Th-F)	Thanksgiving holiday (no classes held, campus closed)
December 7-11 (M-F)	Fall 2020 final exams week
December 11 (F)	End of Fall 2020 semester

## English 1A Fall 2020 Schedule\*

Date	Unit 1
<b>Week 1</b> Aug 10	Course Introduction, Welcome to the Course & Student Success,
<b>Week 2</b> Aug 17	Critical Reading Strategies - Lahiri & Muñoz
<b>Week 3</b> Aug 24	Academic Voice and Introduction to Writing with Sources - Mengestu
<b>Week 4</b> Aug 31	Essay Format and Writing Process, Writing your story <b>Essay 1 Due Sept 4</b>

Date	Unit 2
<b>Week 5</b> Sept 7	<i>There, There</i> , MLA Format, page layout, in-text citations, works cited
<b>Week 6</b> Sept 14	<i>There, There</i> , Sentence Types
<b>Week 7</b> Sept 21	Thesis and support, Secondary Sources, Writing Workshop
<b>Week 8</b> Sept 28	Paragraph structure, Revision Workshop, <b>Essay 1 Due Oct 2</b>

Date	Unit 3
<b>Week 9</b> Oct 5	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Finding a research question
<b>Week 10</b> Oct 12	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> , Synthesizing Ideas
<b>Week 11</b> Oct 19	Writing Workshop, Transitions, Introductions, Conclusions
<b>Week 12</b> Oct 26	Revision Workshop, <b>Essay 3 Due Oct 30</b>

Date	Unit 4
<b>Week 13</b> Nov 2	Research Strategies, <b>Topic Proposal Due Nov 6</b>
<b>Week 14</b> Nov 9	<b>Annotated Works Cited Due Nov 13</b>
<b>Week 15</b> Nov 16	Drafting Workshop, Synthesizing Sources
<b>Week 16</b> Nov 23	Revisions and Conferences
<b>Week 17</b> Nov 30	More revisions, <b>Essay 4 Due Dec 4</b>
<b>Week 18</b> Dec 7	Final Presentation of Research, Course Wrap Up

**\*Note: this is not a complete list of assignments or readings. Pay attention to weekly announcements and list of items in each week's module for more information. The instructor may change the schedule as deemed necessary. Any changes will be posted to Canvas**