

English 3 | Critical Reading and Writing | 3 units | fall 2020

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Course Description

This course is designed to develop critical thinking, reading and writing skills beyond the level achieved in English 1A. The course will focus on the development of logical reasoning and analytical and argumentative writing skills based primarily on works of nonfiction.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student 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

Required Texts and Materials:

Rereading America, 11th ed., (ISBN: 978-1-319-05636-0) Bedford/St. Martin’s

A Place to Stand, Baca (ISBN: 0-802-13908-6) Grove Press

A Pocket Style Manual, 8th ed., Hacker (ISBN: 978-1-319-05740-4) Bedford/St. Martin’s

A computer with access to the Internet

Grading:

Essay 1	100 points
Essay 2	100 points
Essay 3	100 points
Essay 4	100 points
Essay 5	100 points
Quizzes	100 points
Final Exam	50 points

The grading scale is as follows: (note that scores are not rounded)

A	B	C	D	F
100-90%	89-80%	79-70%	69-60%	59% & Below
650-585 points	584-520 points	519-455 points	454-390 points	389-0 points

There will be no extra credit offered for this course.

Essays:

You will write a total of five (5) essays. Each will be worth 100 points. All essays must be typed and follow Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines. For each essay you will receive a prompt that will outline the specific requirements for each essay. Essays that do not follow directions or that fail to meet the minimum requirements will receive a failing grade or a zero at the instructor's discretion. All essays will be submitted to *Turnitin* via Canvas. Only new, original work may be submitted. **If you have submitted work to this class or another previously, you should not attempt to reuse that work--revision of that previous work is not a substitute for submitting new, original work.** All essays submitted are final drafts; there are no re-writes or revisions; work found to be plagiarized or contain plagiarized material will receive a failing grade or a zero at the instructor's discretion; in the event of plagiarism a student will not be permitted to redo the assignment for a grade or improved grade.

Lack of Effort Statement:

Your instructors at Reedley College want you to be successful in your classes and therefore expect you to 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 poor effort in areas such as, but not limited, following directions, meeting the minimum requirements, and basic skills; this paper will receive a failing grade. Successful students do the following: follow their instructor's instructions, pay attention to the appropriate syllabus and rubric requirements, attend class regularly, seek assistance from the Reading and Writing Center, ask their instructor for guidance during his/her office hours **DAYS BEFORE** their paper is due.

Quizzes:

There will be a total of 20 quizzes; each quiz is worth 5 points, for a total of 100 points. Quizzes are due on the posted dates. Each quiz may only be taken once; quizzes are not accepted late. Do not attempt quizzes until you've completed the corresponding reading material. Each quiz is timed; 10 minutes are allowed for each quiz; the timer begins as soon as you open the quiz; you must complete the quiz once you start it. Each quiz consists of 5 questions; all questions are multiple choice or true/false.

Attendance, Drop Policy, and Zoom etiquette:

Start of the semester: The first thing you should do is review the [syllabus](#) thoroughly and take the [Day One Survey](#). The Day One Survey (Syllabus/Course Policy Acknowledgement) should be completed by Tuesday 8/11/20, before 11:59 PM. If you do not complete the survey by this due date, I will assume you are no longer interested in taking the course; you will be dropped and

your place in the class will be offered to someone on the wait list. You will only be offered an add code to re-enroll in the course if space is available.

During the semester: While traditional attendance is not taken in this online course, your regular participation is expected. Regular participation means that you are completing the assigned work on time. Failure to complete the assignments on time will result in a drop from the course. All assignments will be used for conducting "attendance". Failure to complete an assignment by the due date will be considered an "absence". Students may be dropped from the course when the equivalent of two weeks or more of work have been missed at the discretion of the instructor at or before the end of the ninth week of the semester. Assignments may be completed ahead of the due dates; only incomplete assignments after the due date(s) will be considered "absences".

Zoom etiquette: Class lectures/discussion will be held live via Zoom. Attending these live Zoom classes is not mandatory--all sessions will be recorded and made available for those who cannot participate live. The Zoom sessions should be treated as a professional environment, like a traditional classroom. Please do not attend these sessions via video and/or audio if you are not in an appropriate environment that will minimize distractions for others who are participating. Any student determined to be intentionally engaging in disruptive behavior during these Zoom sessions will be reported and referred to the division dean and/or other appropriate administration for discipline. Inappropriate/disruptive behavior may result in failure or removal from the course.

Late Work:

Late work is *not* accepted. Technical difficulties will not be considered an exception for work not being submitted on time. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete your assignments--in an online setting technical difficulties are a likelihood and it is the student's responsibility to plan in advance for these potential problems.

Should you encounter an issue submitting your essay via Canvas you may email the completed file before the deadline as proof your work was completed on time. The actual file must be included in the email; Google Docs invitations are not acceptable.

In the event of an emergency you may contact me to discuss options; exceptions may be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the instructor.

Cheating and Plagiarism

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

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. Students will not be allowed to redo assignments due to plagiarism.

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 DSPPS as soon as possible.

Contact and Conferences

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are experiencing a problem, have any questions, need help or clarification from me, or have ideas and suggestions for the class. I am here to help you succeed.

Course Changes

This syllabus may change during the course of the semester to better address the class's needs. A handout explaining the new expectations will accompany such changes.

Important Dates:

Friday, August 21st - Last day to drop a full-term class for a refund

Friday, August 28th - Last day to register for a full-term class

Sunday, August 30th - Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” on WebAdvisor

Monday, September 7th - Labor Day (no classes held, campus closed)

Friday, October 9th - Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grade assigned after this date)

Wednesday, November 11th - Veteran’s Day (no classes held, campus open)

Thursday, November 26th - Friday, November 27th - Thanksgiving holiday