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Office Hours: By Appointment Only

English 3 (51265)  
MWF: 8:00—8:50  
PHY 75

## English 3: Critical Reading and Writing

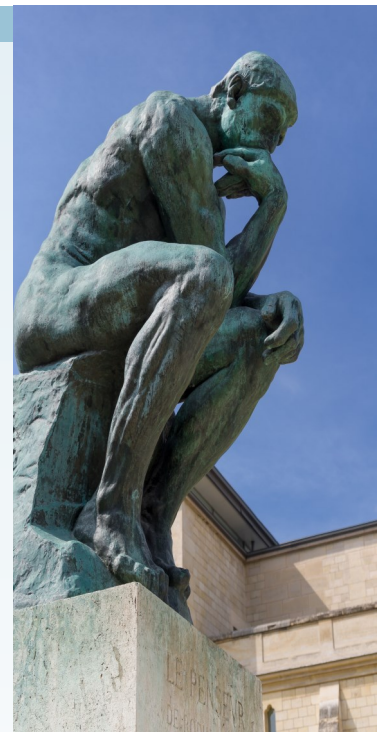
### Course Description

Designed to develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills beyond the level achieved in English 1A/1AH, English 3 will focus on the development of logical reasoning and analytical and argumentative writing skills based primarily on works of non-fiction in a variety of media. Students will write a minimum of 6,000 words (24 pages) during the course of the semester.  
PREREQUISITES: English 1A or 1AH.

### Further Description

This semester we will be studying “Objectivism,” the philosophy developed by the Russian-American writer Ayn Rand. Objectivism, explains Craig Briddle in *The Objective Standard* “advocates the virtues of rational self-interest—virtues such as independent thinking, productiveness, justice, honesty, and self-responsibility. Culturally, Objectivism advocates scientific advancement, industrial progress, objective (as opposed to ‘progressive’ or faith-based) education, romantic art — and, above all, reverence for the faculty that makes all such values possible: reason.” In other words, Objectivism, in part, promotes reason, critical thinking and independent thought and argument—skills you will be asked to master as part of English 3.

**Please note:** In order to take this class, it is assumed that you have already mastered the basics of introductory English classes (such as English 1A). As a result, you will be expected to complete collegiate-level reading and writing assignments. The expected workload for this class is 9 hours a week (3 lecture or class hours, and 6 hours of outside homework and study time), please plan and budget your time accordingly.



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**Four Major Units:** This semester our class will be split into four major units:

### **Unit 1: Welcome!**

- Review English 1A and MLA Formatting
- Set Goals/Academic Norms; Discuss English 3 Course Outcomes and Expectations
- Timed, Diagnostic Essay

### **Unit 2: Critical Thinking and Analysis**

- As Aristotle once claimed, “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”
- How can you maintain an open-mind while becoming a critical thinker? Can you identify effective argumentation and fallacies? Do you know how to use these tools in your own writing and argumentation?
- Rhetorical Analysis Essay

### **Unit 3: Exploring Objectivism**

- What exactly is “Objectivism”? How does Objectivism still apply to life and society today? How can you use Objectivism to become a more rational and critical thinker?
- Synthesis Essay and Annotated Bibliography

### **Unit 4: Research Project**

- You will create a well-researched and well-argued research paper. You will present your essay to the class.
- Research Paper, Formal Presentation, Semester Final

## **Required Texts and Materials:**

- *Everything's an Argument* by Lunsford, Ruszkiewicz and Walters (8th Edition. ISBN:9781319056278)
- Access (rent, buy or borrow) one of the following paired-documentaries (meaning you need access to both documentaries in the paired documentaries listed by topic below)
  - **Topic 1: Education in America.** *Waiting for “Superman”* and *the American Teacher*
  - **Topic 2: Fast Food and Diet/Nutrition.** *Super Size Me* and *Fat Head*
  - **Topic 3: Global Warming.** *An Inconvenient Truth* and *An Inconsistent Truth*
- Other readings posted to Canvas (you will need to print these and bring them to class with you)
- A binder or folder for class notes, handouts and returned assignments (keep all assignments until the end of the semester)
- Writing utensils and highlighters and a stapler or binder clip for submitting work
- USB flash drive to save and access digital work.
- Access to a computer, printer and the internet. You will be expected to check Canvas and the Class Notebook (Office 365) daily.

**Course Objectives:** 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

## Grades

Your grades will be point-based. Each assignment will be given a point value. Your final grade will be determined by adding up all of the points you earned and comparing your points to the grading standard. This semester, the total points possible will be out of 1,000 points. This means that in order to earn an A, you will need to earn a minimum of 900/1,000 points.

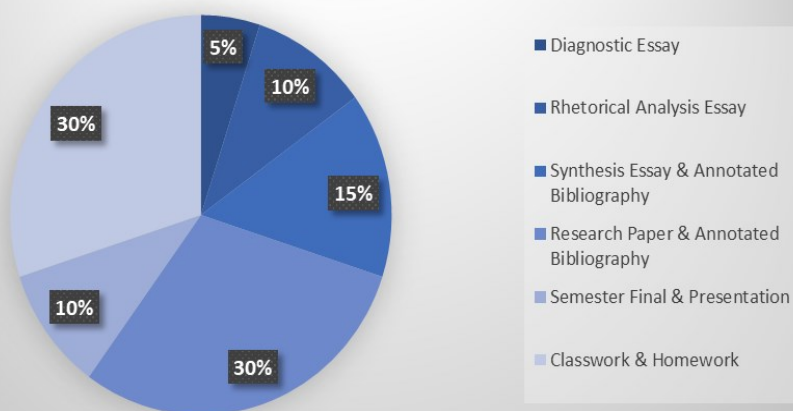
## Grading Scale:

- A: 100—90% (900—1,000 Points)
- B: 89.99—80% (899—800 Points)
- C: 79.99—70% (799—700 Points)
- D: 69.99—60% (699—600 Points)
- F: 59.99—0.00% (599—0 Points)

## Major Assignments:

| Category (Assignment)  | Points     |
|--|------------|
| Timed, Diagnostic Essay  | 50 Points  |
| Rhetorical Analysis Essay  | 100 Points |
| Synthesis Essay  | 100 Points |
| Synthesis Essay Annotated Bibliography   | 50 Points  |
| Research Paper   | 200 Points |
| Research Paper Annotated Bibliography  | 100 Points |
| Research Paper Presentation  | 50 Points  |
| Final Exam   | 50 Points  |
| Classwork & Homework<br><i>This includes but is not limited to: Reading Responses, Discussion Boards, Group Work and In-Class Activities, Group Presentations, Mandatory Workshops, etc.</i> | 300        |

Assignments (Total Percentage of Grade)



**Warning:** You must earn a C in order to pass this class, and for this class to count for transfer credit. Grades will be updated regularly on Canvas. Make sure to check them frequently. **Be sure to keep all of your work during the semester.**

### Objectivism: Never be Afraid to be an Individual and to Think Critically

“One cannot be a traitor to anything except one’s self” - Ayn Rand

“Independent thinking means making decisions and judgments for yourself using your personal ability to reason from the facts of reality.” - John Allison

“Think wrongly if you please, but I all cases think for yourself.” - Doris Lessing

“All rational action is in the first place individual action. Only the individual thinks. Only the individual reasons. Only the individual acts.” - Ludwig Von Mises

“A being governs its own actions. A thing which is always subject to the direction of another is somewhat of a dead thing.” - Thomas Aquinas

## Plan Ahead and Get Help!

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” - President Abraham Lincoln

“Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t—you are right.” - Henry Ford

“The word you desire can be won.” - Ayn Rand

“Learning to fail might be the most crucial learning of all.” - Chip Wilson

“You are not defined by your setbacks. You’re defined by your comebacks.” - Robyn Benincasa

“Procrastination makes easy things hard and hard things harder.” - Mason Cooley

“It’s our life. It’s the years awaiting us, and all that is still left to us, still possible— if we fight for it.” - Ayn Rand

## Do You Need Extra Help?

In order to be successful in college you must become your own advocate. If you ever need extra help—ask. If you are ever confused about something—ask. I cannot help you if you do not let me know you need help, do not wait until it is too late to ask for help. Luckily, there are several ways and opportunities for you to get the help you need at Reedley College;

- **Office Hours:** For now, I will not be hosting open office hours (this is subject to change). If you would like to meet with me for help, you will need to schedule an appointment. I will typically be available between 9 and 11 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday and between 1 and 3 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- **The Reading and Writing Center (HUM 58):** Open Mondays—Fridays from 8-4. Walk-ins are welcome. They also have Tutorials available online.
- **The Learning Center (in the library):** offers free tutoring for any subject. Tutoring is available in small group sessions or one-on-one. You can make an appointment or walk-in (you may need to complete a request for tutoring form if no tutor is available when you walk-in). The Learning Center is open Monday—Thursday 8:00-5:00 and Fridays 8:00-4:00
- **Free online tutoring through Canvas:** Just click on the “Smarthinking Online Tutoring” link.
- **24/7 Library Research Help:** this is available through Canvas. Just click on the link to open a chat session.
- **iPad and Laptop Rentals:** You can check out and use an iPad or Laptop from the Library for two hours at a time. This is important as you most of your reading assignments will be posted digitally through Canvas. This means you will either need to print them out or you will need to have access to them digitally (there are also laptops available in our classroom).
- **Computer Lab in the Library:** There is a computer lab available to you in the Library. You simply sign in and you are free to work until the library closes.

## Submitting and Revising Essays:

**English Department Student Error Statement:** Your instructors at Reedley College want you to be successful in your classes and therefore request you 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 lack of attention to correctness. This paper is also likely to receive a failing grade.** Successful students do the following:

- Follow their instructor's instructions and pay close attention to the rubric requirements.
- Seek assistance from the Reading and Writing Center, Tutorial Center, or Smarthinking
- Ask their instructor for guidance during his/her office hours
- Look for answers in their MLA handbook or online at the PurdueOWL website (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>) DAYS BEFORE their paper is due.

**Sharing Your Work and Workshops:** You will be required to share your whole essay or parts of your essay for peer review during mandatory workshops. Additionally, at my discretion, sentences and/or paragraphs may be taken from essays or other assignments and shared with the class to help illustrate grammar concepts, writing concepts, MLA guidelines and more. If/when I choose to share your work with the class, your name will be removed to protect your privacy.

**Submitting Late Essays:** It is your responsibility to make sure your essays are completed and submitted on time. All essays will be submitted digitally to Turnitin (through Canvas). It is your responsibility to ensure that your essay has uploaded properly. If you have problems submitting an essay, you must—at the very least—email me a copy of your essay to prove that it was completed on time. **However, you may submit your essay up to one week late for a grade reduction. For each class meeting that you submit the essay late, a full grade will be deducted from the overall grade.** No essay will be accepted after this point.

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*“The art of writing is the art of doing what you think you're doing. This is not as simple as it sounds. It implies a very difficult undertaking: the necessity to think. And it implies the requirement to think out three separate, very hard problems: What is it you want to say? How are you going to say it? Have you really said it?”*

*- Ayn Rand*

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**Essay Revision:** You will be allowed to revise two of your essays this semester (Rhetorical Analysis and Synthesis Essay). **In order to revise either of these two essays, you must have fulfilled the original essay requirements (correct length, correct number of sources, on the correct topic, etc.).** If you would ever like to revise an essay, you will need to read the feedback I have provided, and meet with me to discuss the changes you plan on making to your essay. Then **you will have one week to make the proposed changes and resubmit your essay.** When you resubmit a revised essay, you will need to make sure to submit all of the following:

- Original Essay
- Revised Essay with all Changes Highlighted
- An Author's Note which describes all the changes you made to your essay and why you made them (how do these changes improve/strengthen your essay?)

**Please Note: in order to earn a better grade on your essay, you must make major changes. Simply correcting a few grammatical mistakes or fixing part of one paragraph is not enough and will not result in a higher grade.**

## Classroom Policies & Expectations

**Classroom Activities/Participation and Homework Assignments:** 300 of the 1,000 points you have to earn this semester will be allotted to classroom activities and homework assignments. Please note, that while this only makes up 300 points, all of the major writing assignments are based on assigned readings and class discussions, which means your ability to successfully pass English 3 is directly tied to daily attendance and homework completion. Most homework assignments will consist of outside reading assignments, discussion posts and drafts of assigned essays. **All homework assignments, unless otherwise noted, will be due to Canvas the hour before class starts (7 AM) the day the assignment is due. No homework assignments will be accepted late.** In-class activities will typically consist of class discussions, small group or paired assignments, and workshops. **If you miss class due to being tardy or absent, you will not be able to make up the in-class activities you missed.**

**Late Work:** Late homework assignments, classroom activities, reading assignments, etc. will not be accepted late. Do not ask.

**Quizzes:** I do not currently plan to assign quizzes. However, if I can tell students have not been doing the assigned reading, I will start assigning quizzes without warning. **You will not be allowed to makeup missed quizzes or retake quizzes you have failed.** Quiz grades will count toward your classroom activities and homework assignments.

**Absences:** Attendance in this class is required. You are expected to attend all class sessions and to participate actively in all class activities (including group work, workshops, presentations, etc.). Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. You are responsible for completing all work on time, even when you miss class. You must check Canvas and the Class Notebook daily for announcements and reminders. You will not be allowed to make up tests, quizzes or other assignments that you missed. I consider an unprepared student (someone who has not completed the homework or who hasn't brought the appropriate materials to class) to be absent. Do not pack up or leave early, as this will constitute an absence. If you must leave early for some reason, please tell me ahead of time. **Please note that you will be dropped if you miss the first or second class meeting without contacting me before-hand. You will also be dropped by the census date (February 3rd) if you miss three or more class sessions without contacting me and/or you are earning a failing grade.**

**Tardy:** If you come late to class, enter the room quietly and take the closest open seat (nearest the door). Do not interrupt class to tell me that you have arrived, to ask what we are doing or to turn in an assignment. At the end of class, politely remind me to update your attendance record. You will not be allowed to make up an assignment you missed on account of your tardiness. Remember, physical copies of assignments will only be accepted at the beginning of class. If you arrive to class after work has been collected, your work is late and will not be accepted.

**Academic Behavior:** According to the Reedley College *Student Conduct Standards and Procedures*, if a student "Interferes with or disrupts faculty and administrators who are fulfilling their professional responsibilities that student is subject to discipline" (4). In order to maintain a safe learning environment, I expect you to be respectful and to work cooperatively with your classmates. This means coming prepared to class on time, staying on task and completing the assignment or activity, not talking out of turn or passing notes, and **keeping your cell phones turned off and put away**. If you are disruptive, I may ask you to leave (this will constitute an absence).

**Ensuring a Safe and Welcoming Classroom Environment:** We will work together the first couple of weeks of the semester to establish a list of rules ("Norms") that will govern our behavior and how we treat and interact with one another. This list of Norms will be posted to our Canvas page and will ensure that we have created a safe learning environment that ensures each student feels safe and respected. You will be expected to abide by these rules daily, or you may be asked to leave class.

**Electronic Devices:** Cell phones should not be out during class. Cell phones should be switched off and put away. If you have a personal laptop or tablet, you will be allowed to use it during class. However, I expect you to stay focused and on task (see Academic Behavior above). If your personal device becomes too much of a problem or a distraction, you will not be permitted to continue using it during class, which means you will need to bring printed copies of all assignments with you to class.



## Cheating and Plagiarism

- Cheating is defined as: acting dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage
- Plagiarism is defined as: the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

**If it is discovered that you have cheated or plagiarized on an assignment—at any point during the semester—you will receive a zero on that assignment and perhaps a failing grade in the class.** Additionally, a plagiarism report will be filed with administration. **Plagiarizing any of the major writing assignments (formal essays, presentation or annotated bibliographies) will result in a failing grade in the class.** Please note that you will submit your essays to Turnitin through Canvas, so if you plagiarize, you will get caught.

### Proper Email Etiquette:

Feel free to email me whenever you have any questions or concerns. However, you need to remember that when you email me you are emailing your instructor. Make sure your email contains all of the following:

- A salutation: Dear Mrs. Vizthum/Mrs. Viz/Mrs. V
- The body of your email should be polite and should conform to Standard Written English (avoid slang, abbreviations, misspellings and inappropriate language).
- A closing: Sincerely/Thank you...

Any email that fails to follow these guidelines—or an email that is unnecessarily rude or aggressive—will receive a “Try Again” message.

Please **allow at least 24 hours during the week for me to respond.** I don't typically check or respond to emails over the weekend and holidays. If you do not hear back from me after 72 hours, please send me a new email, as it is safe to assume that your original email has been missed or lost. Please make sure to include your name and section information in the email's subject line.

**Students with Disabilities/Special Accommodations:** Disabled Students Programs and Services provide specialized counseling, support services, and resources to students with temporary or permanent disabilities. For more information, contact Disabled Students Programs and Services at (559) 638-0332. **If you are in need of an accommodation due to a disability please provide me with your notification of authorized services form from DSP&S as quickly as possible, so that arrangements can be made.**

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*“Unlike any other creature on this planet, humans can learn and understand, without having experienced. They can think themselves into other people's places. We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already: we have the power to imagine better.” - J. K. Rowling*

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## Semester Units & Calendar:

Rather than provide you with a Tentative Schedule that covers the entire semester all at once, I will provide you with Unit Calendars for each unit. These Unit Calendars will be provided to you on paper (in class), on Canvas and in the Class Notebook.

## Important Dates

- January 13 (M) Start of Spring 2020 semester
- January 20 (M) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed (no classes held, campus closed)
- January 24 (F) Last day to drop a Spring 2020 full-term class for full refund
- January 31 (F) Last day to register for a Spring 2020 full-term class in person; Last day to drop a Spring 2020 full-term class to avoid a “W” in person
- February 2 (SU) Last day to drop a Spring 2020 full-term class to avoid a “W” on WebAdvisor
- February 14 (F) Lincoln Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)
- February 17 (M) Washington Day observance (no classes held, campus closed)
- March 13 (F) Last Day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)
- April 6-9 (M-Th) Spring recess (no classes held, campus open)
- April 10 (F) Good Friday observance (no classes held, campus closed) (classes reconvene April 13)
- May 18-22 (M-F) Spring 2020 final exams week
- **FINAL MONDAY MAY 18: This cannot be changed and I will not provide the final early. You are expected to be on campus this day.**