**ENGLISH 001A - 54985**

**COMPOSITION AND READING**

**(4 UNITS)**

**Brandon Baker**

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**Embedded Tutor: Rosa Corcoles (she/her/ella)**

**Email:**[**rmcorcoles1@my.scccd.edu**](mailto:rmcorcoles1@my.scccd.edu)

**Available meeting times for Rosa:**

**Monday: 9AM-11AM and Tuesday-Thursday: 10AM-12PM, 3:00 PM-5:00PM**

**Summer 2021  
Reedley College Online**

**Email: brandon.baker@reedleycollege.edu**

***A Note on Remote Instruction:***

***Welcome to English Online! While I miss the classroom setting, I will do my best to create teacher-to-student/student-to-student interaction through discussion boards, emails, and lectures made to feel like you’re there in the room (3D glasses optional). This class will be taught asynchronously, meaning there are no required Zoom sessions. That being said, I check my emails every day and expect you to do the same. I am also available to set up Zoom meetings if you have any questions or need guided instruction one-on-one or in groups. Please stay in touch, stay involved, and let’s grow together and learn from each other in these unique times.***

**\*\*\*Computer access, Email, & Canvas**

This course requires computer use. Please check your email and Canvas on a regular basis. Not everything we will be doing is accessible using Canvas on your phone (plus, that generally doesn’t work as well).

These [tutorials](https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/subjects/technology/) will help if you need help with the more technical aspects of online learning (emailing, internet, mac, windows, computers).

**Course Description**

Welcome to English 1A! This is a transfer-level theory and practice in reading and composition.

Being able to communicate through the written word is important no matter what your goals are— and reading goes hand-in-hand with composition. In order to pass this class and continue towards your goals, you’ll need to display the ability to comprehend and analyze various texts, as well as communicate your unique point of view effectively through writing. The basic tenets of reading and writing will be vital to you having a competitive edge when you apply to a university and any job you may aspire to.

This is about you being able to communicate your message, your story, and your ideas in such a way that others will be able to understand what you mean. While there are ideas and structures required in academic writing, those tools and the ability to follow certain rules will help you better organize your thoughts for future writing. In other words: know the rules before you can break them effectively. :)

**Course materials/resources**

* FREE [Online Textbook](http://writingspaces.org/volume2) (*Writing Spaces: Readings on Writing Volume 2*) (please download so you can access this online as well)
* *The Alchemist*by Paulo Coelho (available in the library or Amazon)
* [Purdue Owl](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html) is a free online resource that covers all formatting for what we’ll be doing this semester. Please take advantage of this!

**Course Objectives**

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. Students will write a minimum of 6,000 words (total; not all at once) in formal academic language.

In the process of completing this course, students will:

* Write multiple essays of at least 1,500 words, including at least one research paper with documentation.  
  o Arrange and integrate ideas in a multiple body essay, complete with topic sentences, supporting data, and  
  background, as necessary.  
  o Indicate an arguable thesis.  
  o Gather, analyze, and synthesize peer-reviewed sources and/or original research such as interview, survey, or  
  observation.  
  o Employ MLA formatting guidelines.  
  o Reduce dependence on the instructor’s guidance; students will ultimately independently and accurately  
  recognize and self-correct errors in sentence construction, punctuation, and mechanics.  
  o Craft increasingly mature and cogent writing while choosing the appropriate tone and academic voice.  
  o Practice sound choices in identifying and avoiding logical fallacies.  
  o Employ appropriate use of third person universal.  
  o Identify appropriate audiences for their compositions.  
  o Employ quotations, discriminating among sources for accuracy and validity.  
  o Employ MLA formatting guidelines for Work Cited Page and in-text citations.  
  o Develop an annotated bibliography from sources for a research paper.  
  o Recognize the appropriate use of sources, while avoiding intentional and unintentional plagiarism.
* Write an organized essay(s) with thesis and adequate support independently within a class period.
* Read and understand college level prose, including:  
  o identifying the model, summarizing the thesis, and locating supporting information.  
  o naming rhetorical devices such as irony and parallelism and translating metaphorical language, so as to  
  determine an author's intent, both explicit and implicit.  
  o answering questions from assigned reading, differentiating between an author's intent and personal reaction  
  o describing, evaluating, and questioning the purpose, audience, organization, and style of assigned readings

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

* Write a documented research paper of at least 1,500 words that includes:  
  1. a sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion  
  2. a clearly defined, arguable thesis sentence  
  3. supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and use credible secondary sources  
  4. correct usage of MLA format, including a works cited page  
  5. sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses,  
  fragments, and mechanics  
  6. controlled and sophisticated word choice  
  7. writing in third person/universal  
  8. an avoidance of logical fallacies  
  9. demonstration of an awareness of purpose and audience  
  10. appropriate and purposeful use of quotations  
  11. correct in-text citations  
  12. an annotated bibliography of multiple sources  
  13. an avoidance of intentional and unintentional plagiarism
* Complete a timed essay independently in class
* Summarize and comprehend college level prose (will include a full reading)

**Grades**

There are 500 points possible in this course.  **You must get a 'C' or higher to pass this course. A 'D' is not a passing grade for English 1A.**The combined total of points you earn will be represented by the following grades:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **450-500** | **A (90-100%)** |
| **400-449** | **B (80-89.9%)** |
| **350-399** | **C (70-79.9%)** |
| **300-349** | **D (60-69.9%)** |
| **0-299** | **F (0-59.9%)** |

**For accessibility purposes:**

* an A is 90% to 100%, which is 450-500 points
* a B is 80% to 89.9%, which is 400-449 points
* a C is 70% to 79.9%, which is 350-399 points
* a D is 60% to 69.9%, which is 300-349 points
* an F is 0 to 59.9%, which is 0 to 299 points

**Point distribution:**

* QUIZZES/ASSIGNMENTS/DISCUSSION BOARD = **100 POINTS**
* BOOK QUIZ = **50 POINTS**
* TIMED ESSAY = **50 POINTS**
* ESSAY #1 (Personal Essay/Revised Timed Essay) = **50 POINTS**
* ESSAY #2 (*The Alchemist*Book Response/Critical Analysis) = **100 POINTS**
* ESSAY #3 (Argumentative Research) = **150 POINTS**

**Timed Essay**

There will be one timed essay in which you receive a prompt and have a limited amount of time to complete the essay. This will be a rough draft for your first essay, which will be graded based on the usual ability to meet the requirements of the prompt.

**Core Essays**

You will write three core essays.

Each essay should meet the word requirement noted on the handout. If you fail to meet the word requirements, your grade will be impacted.

Some essays may require the submission of a rough draft prior to the final draft deadline.

You will be submitting your work electronically to a plagiarism detection service. You are required to submit your essay online through Canvas, and I will only accept Microsoft Word Documents (docx) or PDF's (no .txt!).

**Communication**

The best way to communicate with me is to email me at **brandon.baker@reedleycollege.edu** from your school email.

**Plagiarism**

A plagiarized assignment will receive a 0. Plagiarism includes any writing done by anyone but you. Any material that you include in your essay, even if it is only a sentence or two, which is not thought and written by you, must be cited. All work must be original for this class. Submitting writing created for another class, even if you have revised it for ours, is not acceptable. Repeated acts of plagiarism, however minor, are grounds for failing the course. If you’re not sure if something is allowable, ask me first. *Essays are submitted to Turnitin.com and other plagiarism detection services.*

In other words... don't cheat! Oftentimes, essays are flagged due to problems with quoting and paraphrasing, so make sure to pay attention to those particular lectures and please ask questions if you need help.

**Late Work**

Ultimately, everything you're about to read can be summed up with this phrase: Keep in touch (**brandon.baker@reedleycollege.edu**)! I get that life happens and things come up. Please keep in contact with me and please let me know (preferably in advance) if you need a little extra time to complete an assignment. What I worry about with late work is how it piles up; I have an intentional schedule that builds up to each essay and should make the completion of each essay fairly simple and rewarding for those who follow along. The more behind you get, the more the work tends to feel like it doesn't relate to anything and thereby doesn't fulfill its purpose. That being said, please make sure you plan ahead. If you are prone to computer problems, try turning assignments in a day early.

Note: Canvas will sometimes automatically give a 0 to anything that’s turned in late. I leave some assignments open for viewing beyond the due date in case you need to go back and view them (Discussion Board assignments, for example). This means that it may also let you submit work late, but there is no guarantee I will change it from the 0 if you haven't reached out.

**Procedures for Connecting with ALL Tutoring Services on Campus**

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 (Links to an external site.)](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: [Reedley College Tutor Matching Service Promo](https://youtu.be/xvRD7kSJNhs)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities  
  
Please, visit our DSP&S office if you are need of academic accommodations.  I cannot honor your accommodations if I am not aware of them.  This means you need to advocate actively for yourself.  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 Disability Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me as soon as possible.**

**Responsibility  
This is a college course, and you are responsible for your own learning. What this means is that I will help you in any way, shape, or form that I can. However, this does not mean that I will bend policies or lower standards for you. Ultimately, your success in this course will be determined by your hard work and responsibility.**

**P.S. - I WANT YOU TO SUCCEED! I am on your side. The respect I ask of you is mutual. Please reach out to me with anxieties, concerns, etc. Let’s make this interesting and insightful. Please participate actively; I expect to learn from *you*and I look at this class as a little family. I’m looking forward to getting to know you all!**

**BLANK PAGE REPELLANT (“BABY STEPS”)**

* Read Prompt, Read It Again, Read It a Hundred Times
* Freewrite
* Brainstorm
* Create your Thesis Statement
* Outline
* Write

**ESSAY CHECKLIST:**

* MLA Format? (Times New Roman 12, 1” margins, double-spaced, page numbers, etc.)
* Meets the required word count?
* Answers the prompt?
* Thesis Statement? Clear argument?
* Topic sentences? Transitions?
* Evidence? Examples? Research?
* Clear awareness of opposing argument? (for Argumentative Research Essay)
* Logical Fallacies? (errors in reasoning)
* Pretend your audience can’t read your mind. Show, don’t just tell.

**ESSAY RUBRIC:**

**A: An ‘A’ paper enlightens me. It makes it clear that you’ve read and understood the prompt. It makes it clear that you’ve engaged with the material. It doesn’t waste words.**

* It follows the prompt.
* It is clearly structured and organized.
* It has a strong thesis statement, topic sentences, and transitions.
* It has few enough grammar/punctuation errors to not distract.
* It makes me think by showing that *you are thinking.*
* It entertains and enlightens.
* I can read this once and understand your message.

**B: A ‘B’ paper may be similar to an ‘A,’ but \*may\* feel rushed or lack a clear structure. It might also have a distracting amount of grammatical/punctuation errors. It follows the prompt, and maybe all of the relevant information is there, but it lacks the organization or engaged response that is apparent in an ‘A’ paper.**

* It may feel rushed.
* It fulfills the assignment, but may not show deep thought.
* It may have a distracting number of grammatical/punctuation errors.
* It may have minor structural issues.

**C: A ‘C’ paper meets expectations and is considered passing. However, it may have a number of grammatical errors that make it hard to follow. It may have logical fallacies that distract from the arguments. It may wander and lack organization, using vague language and generalizations instead of specific examples.**

* It may be unorganized.
* It may contain sloppy grammar and punctuation.
* I may have to read it two or three times to understand what you are saying.
* It’s often missing a clear thesis statement.

**D: A ‘D’ paper is considered not passing. It is missing something asked for in the prompt. It’s generally shorter than it should be. It may feel more like a brainstorm than an essay. It generally has a distracting number of mechanical errors.**

* It’s missing something the prompt asked for (e.g. it’s too short).
* It feels like I’m reading an unorganized brainstorm.

**F: An ‘F’ paper is better than a 0, but it hardly represents the prompt assigned.  Some examples in the past have included papers that are far too short, are organized as lists instead of essays, written in all fragments or run-ons, contain swearing and slang, etc.**

* It ignores the prompt.
* It can’t be considered a college essay based on its appearance, grammar, punctuation, etc.
* It shows you don’t care or don’t understand the prompt.

**0: A paper that is invisible**