

# English 1A: Syllabus Fall 2023

“Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter” – Chinua Achebe.

## Contact Information

Instructor: Deborah Lyons

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Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 12:30-1:30; Tues (Zoom only), Thurs 2:00-3:00

Zoom Room: <https://scccd.zoom.us/j/7784287514>

## Overview

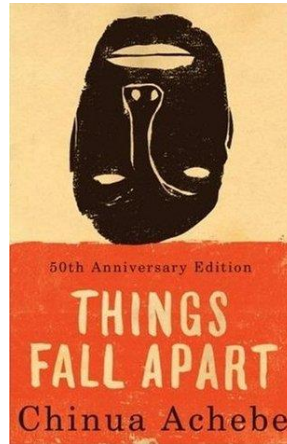
**What you can expect:** The theme for this course is “Stories and Power” We will examine texts by Manuel Muñoz, Gloria Anzaldúa, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Tommy Orange, Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and more who interrogate the dominant cultural narratives that shape them and us. In response, you will write three essays that articulate your own ideas as well as draw on research from a variety of sources. Some of the key questions we will consider include: What narratives have shaped my worldview and identity? How can stories provide alternatives to stereotypes? What is the relationship between fiction and history? In what ways can art challenge injustice?

**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 5,000 words in formal academic language.

## Course Texts

Text available for purchase in the Reedley College Bookstore or to borrow from the RC Library:

- Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart*
- All other texts are free and will be available as handouts in class and digital files on Canvas.



## Student Learning Objectives & Outcomes

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### English 1A

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#### Student Learning Objectives:

- ENGL-1A SLO1: Write a documented, well-organized research paper of at least 1,500 words that demonstrates critical thinking and command of the English language.
- ENGL-1A SLO2: Complete a timed essay independently in class
- ENGL-1A SLO3: Summarize and comprehend college-level prose (will include a full reading)

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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**Format:** This class meets twice per week and in-person class sessions will involve lectures, discussions, group activities, and writing workshops. It is a 4-unit class, which means that in addition to class time, you should allow for **8 hours per week for study**. Each week you will read a range of texts (some weeks up to 50 pages from the novel, *Things Fall Apart*), post annotations and reading responses to Canvas, study presentations and lectures, and contribute to discussion forums online or in class. 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. I will respond within 24 hours. If you do not hear back from me during this time, you are welcome to reach out again. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have during class or my office hours. 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. You are also welcome to meet with me during my office hours.

**Reading & Writing Center Tutors:** The Reading & Writing Center is an important resource for you. Enroll in their Canvas course to access help with writing strategies, reading skills, grammar help, and much more. **In addition, I encourage you to enroll in group tutoring through the RWC.** During tutoring sessions, a tutor will be available to support you as you study for this class. It is an excellent opportunity to get real time feedback and support from a trained peer as you complete the work. Watch for announcements!

**Extra Credit Events:** There are at least three literary arts events during the semester. Please plan to attend at least one of these events – all are in the Forum Hall from 7:00-8:00pm on the date listed. Watch announcements for details. To earn extra-credit, post a selfie from the event.

- **October 16: Brian Turner**
- **November 9: Mas Masumoto**
- **TBA: San Francisco Shakespeare Festival**

## Grades and Assignments

Assignments	Percentage of Total Grade
In-Class participation, Discussion Posts, Reading Responses, Annotations, Topic Proposal, Quizzes	10%
Presentations	10%
Essays 1-2	30%
Research Paper & Annotated Works Cited	50%

*\*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.*

**Due Dates:** 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. If you are struggling to complete work on time, please meet with me to make a plan to get you back on track.

## Skills Mastery Rubric

Criteria Description	Exceeds Mastery	Mastery Demonstrated	Some Mastery Demonstrated	Attempted but no Mastery	No Evidence Provided
Points	4	3	2	1	0

Your grade is based on demonstrated of each skill contributing to mastery of outcomes and identified in the assignments. Each skill is assessed based on a 4-point rubric attached to each assignment. Final grades are calculated by averaging the assessment level of all skills in the course using the following scale:

**A – 3.50-4.00 (87.5%-100%)**

**B – 2.75-3.49 (68.75%-87.4%)**

**C – 2.00-2.74 (50%-68.74%)**

**D – 1.25-1.99 (31.25%-49.9%)**

**F – 1.24 and below (below 31.25%)**

**Discussion Forum Posts:** Discussion Posts 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.

**Reading Responses:** 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.

**Essays:** In order to be eligible to pass the class, you must turn in all of the essays as well as the annotated bibliography. Essay 1 is a timed response to Unit 1 readings. Essay 2 is an analysis of *Things Fall Apart*. Essay 3 is an argumentative research paper on a topic based from course

themes. You will draw on multiple sources to craft a thoughtful and supported argument. In preparation for the research paper, you will compile an Annotated Works Cited to demonstrate your close reading and careful evaluation of the sources. All essays are due by 11:59pm on the due date, uploaded through Canvas to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism checking website.

**Presentations:** You will create two presentations during the semester, one on *Things Fall Apart* and another on your research paper.

## Class Policies

**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, reach out for help as soon as you are able. Maintain a professional and respectful tone in class as well as in any online communication with the instructor or other classmates.

**Technical problems:** Computer failure, lost USB drives, or other technology glitches will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse for missing assignments. Get into the habit of saving all work online (or emailing it to yourself) as a safeguard. For your best chance at success take responsibility for your timely completion of all assignments.

**Attendance and drop policy:** You must attend all in-person class sessions. If you miss three or more sessions you may be dropped. **If you are having difficulty completing assignments on time, reach out for help. I want you to succeed.**

**Plagiarism:** All projects must be entirely your own work. You may not submit work you have written for another class or drawn from AI. All essays and assignments will be assessed carefully and 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 44 of the 2023-24 Reedley College Catalog.

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

## Additional Assistance

**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 office hours but available to meet at other times.

**Students with Disabilities/Special Accommodations:** If you need any special accommodations please let me know. I want to ensure that everyone has equal access to a great education. However, requests for special testing accommodations must come through the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S). Phone: (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, Reading & Writing Center, 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 Dates

Aug 7	Start of Fall 2023 Semester
Aug 18	Last day to drop a Fall 2023 full-term class for full refund
Aug 25	Last day to drop a Fall 2023 full-term class in person to avoid a "W"
Sept 4	Labor Day Holiday (no classes held, campus closed)
Oct 1	Deadline to apply for graduation for Fall 2023 completion
Oct 6	Last day to drop a full-term Fall 2023 class (letter grades assigned after this date)
Oct 16	Extra Credit: Brian Turner, Forum Hall, 7:00-8:00pm
Nov 9	Extra Credit: Mas Masumoto, Forum Hall, 7:00-8:00pm
Nov 10	Veterans Day observed (no cases held, campus closed)
Nov 23-24	Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes held, campus closed)
Dec 4-8	Final Exams week
Dec 11-29	Winter Recess (campus is open Dec 11-22; campus closed Dec 25-Jan 1; spring semester begins Jan 8)