

ENGLISH 1A 59059: Reading and Composition Fall 2023

Instructor: Mrs. Jade Martinez

Office Hours:

- ***Mondays and Tuesdays, 7:30am-8:15am***
- ***Mondays and Tuesdays, 3:45pm-4:30pm (by appointment only)***

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Meeting Location: Sanger West High School, room A109

Instructor Contact

Academia is a professional environment. When addressing your instructors, refer to them as Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Dr. unless they have asked to be referred to by their first names. Be sure that all correspondence is professional (no text-language emails) and follows all proper conventions of proper English usage (correct punctuation and grammar).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*The Reedley College catalog describes English 1A as a course that emphasizes “reading, analyzing, and composing college-level prose, with emphasis on the expository; studying writing as a process; exploring different composing structures and strategies; editing and revising one’s own writing; conducting research (gathering, organizing, evaluating, integrating, and documenting information,) culminating in a term research paper and annotated bibliography.” This means that we will be focusing on both reading AND writing academic prose. We will study a variety of texts, from the novel *Solito*, to op-eds and academic articles, videos, short documentaries, films and multimedia artworks. We are going to focus our analysis on the abstract idea of **diaspora**. This is a term originally used in the Bible (James 1:1 and 1 Peter 1:1) to describe the body of Jews living outside the land of Israel. Today, *The Oxford English Dictionary* defines diaspora as “Any group of people who have spread or become dispersed beyond their traditional homeland or point of origin.” All of the texts we will be reading this semester will address this concept in one form or another. It is highly relevant given the many people being displaced in our world today. A modern example of diaspora is the refugees escaping from war in Yemen and Syria. These people have been displaced by war. There are many other examples of this across many cultures. People are also displaced by poverty, by gang violence, and by weather. We will be examining a variety of texts that address this issue. For your final paper, you will research and analyze images of one specific current diaspora of your choice-examining both the historical background and the implications for today’s world. Current diasporas affect both foreign policy around the world and policies on immigration at home in the United States.*

Required Texts & Materials:

- Zamora, Javier. *Solito*. (ISBN 978-0-593-49808-8 paperback) *provided for you
- One notebook devoted only to this class *provided for you
- Access to a printer and printer paper (recommended but not required)

Course Schedule for English 1A

You will notice that I do not have the course schedule laid out with everything we are doing this semester.

I do not do this because as the class progresses, my “planned schedules” always change based on how students are doing and what help you need. That said, here is a general plan for when essays will be due.

Essay 1: A personal essay, to be developed in class during Weeks 5 and 6 (Memoir).

Essay 2: A timed essay on the book "Solito," written in class during Week 9 (around October 3).

Essay 3: Research essay on diaspora and its historical background and implications for today's world, to be started in Week 12 and continued through the end of the semester with submission in Week 17.

Essay 4: Timed essay during finals week wrapping up the semester and reflecting on what you have learned.

***I am awaiting clarification of whether finals will be during Reedley College(Dec. 4) or Sanger West (Dec. 11) dates.**

Important Dates

- August 7 (M) Start of Fall 2023 semester
- August 7 - October 6 (M-F) Short-term classes, first nine weeks
- August 18 (F) Last day to drop a Fall 2023 full-term class for full refund
- August 25 (F) Last day to drop a full-term class to avoid a “W” in person
- August 27 (SU) Last day to add a Fall 2023 full-term class in person
- August 27 (SU) Last day to drop a Fall 2023 full-term class to avoid a “W” in person
- **September 4 (M) Labor Day Holiday (no classes held; campus closed)**

- October 6 (F) Last day to drop a full-term class (letter grades assigned after this date)
- November 28 (T) Last day to change a Fall 2023 class to/from Pass/No-Pass grading basis October 9 -
- December 8 (M-F) Short-Term classes, second nine weeks
- **November 10 (F) Veterans Day (no classes held, campus open)**
- **November 23-24 (Th-F) Thanksgiving holiday (no classes held; campus closed)**
- December 4-8 (M-F) Fall 2023 final exams week December 8 (F) End of Fall 2023 semester

Student Learning Outcomes and the Skills You Need to Master

The goal of the course is to master the skills below. For each writing assignment, these skills will be placed in a rubric with the criteria you need to meet.

In this writing course, it is normal to excel in one area on a rubric for one essay while needing additional work on the same skill for another assignment. It does not mean you have failed; it shows that different writing tasks require different sets of criteria, and growth may vary. Embrace the challenges as opportunities for growth, and remember that success is built upon continuous effort and exploration of various writing techniques. Throughout this journey, I am here to support you every step of the way in honing your writing abilities and achieving your full potential.

SLO 1: ACADEMIC WRITING and READING:

Write a documented, well-organized research paper of at least 1,500 words that demonstrates critical thinking and command of the English language. AND

SLO 3 Summarize and comprehend college-level prose (will include a full reading)

Skill 1.1--Introduction Paragraph

Skill 1.2—Thesis

Skill 1.3—Topic Sentences

Skill 1.4—BODY PARAGRAPHS—EVIDENCE, ANALYSIS, AND SYNTHESIS

Skill 1.5—Conclusion

Skill 1.6—Overall Sentence Structure/Grammar

Skill 1.7— Overall MLA Format of Document and Correctly Formatted Works Cited Page If Sources Are Used.

- MLA FORMAT
- WORKS CITED FORMAT

Skill 1.8: Follows Instructions/Requirements

NOTE: For this skill, you either get a Yes or a No. You do not get points for it.

SLO 2: COMPLETE A TIMED ESSAY INDEPENDENTLY IN CLASS.

Skill 2.1—Write a basic introduction in a timed environment.

Skill 2.2—Writes a thesis in a timed environment.

Skill 2.3—Writes topic sentences in a timed environment.

Skill 2.4—Writes multiple body paragraphs in a timed environment.

Skill 2.5—Writes a conclusion in a timed environment.

Skill 2.6—The essay has been properly edited in a timed environment.

Skill 2.7— Essay includes a correctly formatted Works Cited (if sources are used)

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

- A. Write a documented research paper of at least 1500 words which includes:*
 - 1. A sophisticated introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and conclusion*
 - 2. An arguable thesis sentence*
 - 3. Supporting details that exhibit critical thinking and credible secondary sources*
 - 4. Correct usage of MLA format*
 - 5. Appropriate and purposeful use of quotations*
 - 6. An annotated bibliography of multiple sources*

- B. Write sentences that exhibit a command of the complex/compound with minimal comma splices, sentence fuses, and fragments.*
- C. Demonstrate sophisticated word choice*
- D. Correctly use in-text citations*
- E. Avoid plagiarism*
- F. Complete a developed essay independently in class*
- G. Self-edit for errors and revise compositions*
- H. Write in the third person*
- I. Summarize and comprehend **college-level** prose.*

Essays

Submission and format: All work must be in MLA format. (This means typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type of Times Roman, preferably). You must submit files as Google documents or Word Documents, not via Notability.

Essay Policies: Major essays will be due approximately every three weeks. Essays 1-2 will be docked one letter grade for every day late (This includes weekends. Late essays are not eligible for revision and I do not comment on late essays.) After the third day, I will no longer accept the essay. I will not accept any late essays for the final essay of the semester.

You will have the opportunity to revise Essays 1 and 2 for an increase of one letter grade; however, if you hand in a sloppy draft-poor formatting, lots of typos etc.- or a draft under the page limit for either essay, you will not be allowed to revise. The idea behind the point increase with each essay is that those students working hard will be improving. The extra points reward this engagement and subsequent improvement. I expect my comments on your first draft to be reflected in your writing on the second essay and the comments from the second essay reflected in the final essay. This means you pay close attention to the remarks.

Essay 1: 30 points (Revision allowed) ONLY if the draft meets the required page limit and is properly formatted with a minimum of proofreading errors. This applies to Essay 2 as well.)

Essay 2: 50 points

Essay 3: 100 points (No revisions)

Essay 4: 150 points (No revision)

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.*

Response Papers/Forum Posts/Writing Workshops: Approximately 250 points

Required Coursework

Reading/writing homework:

To prepare for each class, you will usually be asked to read from our class texts (including articles I give you), watch videos on Canvas, and engage with the ideas/information in an active way, such as posting on a Canvas discussion board. When you do not have reading assignments or videos to watch, you will be working on writing and revising drafts of your papers.

- o Reading/writing homework will be graded complete/incomplete.*
- o At the beginning of each class period, we will do a “fess up” where I will ask you all to let me know if you were not able to complete the assignment for that day. Being on the fess up list occasionally is no big deal – we all need some slack every now and then. If you are on it repeatedly, I will want to speak with you because this is often an early warning sign that you are on the path to failing the course. At some point, if you do not start doing the work, you might be asked to leave class.*

Daily Exit Tickets:

- At the end of each class, you will get a homework assignment that is due that night on Canvas, our classroom management online site. Occasionally, you will have two nights for this assignment depending on the length. These tasks are meant to demonstrate understanding/skills on what we discussed that day. Sometimes, they will prepare you for the next class period. These assignments are also an incentive for you to come to class regularly and not fall behind. If you complete your reading/writing*

homework and stay engaged in class, the assignments should be straightforward. Plus, they should help you build content and confidence for your essays.

Grades

You can access your grades at any time by going to your Canvas grade book. If you see an error of any kind, it is your job to notify me. You will need a 70% or better to pass the class. Grades are on a point system.

Grading Scale: A 90-100% B 80-89 C. 70-70% D 60-69%

Late Work Policy

Exit Tickets and Homework

I know sometimes that life happens and it is easy to fall behind and get overwhelmed. Because of that, my policy is intended to help you stay on track and be successful. Because exit tickets are based on work we do in class, and other homework is meant to prepare you for class, these assignments cannot be made up. Occasionally, I will make an exception.

Timed Writings and Essays

These essays are the meat of our class, so if you are going to be late on an essay or miss one of our timed essays, please contact me ASAP so that we can make alternative arrangements.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism/Cheating: *Plagiarism is the act of using another person's words OR IDEAS as your own with no citation for their work. Always err on the side of caution—if in doubt, cite it. Cheating includes having anyone else complete your work for you or turning in a paper you have written for another class. You will be caught, receive no credit on the assignment, and reported to the administration. If plagiarism and/or cheating are suspected, you may be asked to provide drafts of your written work and submit your paper to turnitin.com, a plagiarism-checking service. Keep all drafts of your writing assignments for these purposes.*

The following is taken from the Reedley College Catalog:

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.

In short, don't cheat or plagiarize.

Attendance Policies

The class will adhere to the Reedley College catalog attendance policy which states: "Students are expected to attend all sessions of classes for which they are enrolled. Excessive absence will jeopardize a student's satisfactory progress in a class. Students will be dropped from a class if they fail to attend the first class session of the semester. As

a guide, during the semester up to the final drop date, any student who misses more than two weeks of class meetings may be dropped.

Phone Policy

See ["Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?"](#)

Be mindful. Be considerate of classmates and your instructor.

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 me **as soon as possible**. This is extremely important. Your need for accommodation **MUST** be verified by DSPS. If you do not send me this information at the beginning of the session any need for extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.*

****The instructor reserves the right to change this material at any time.***