Dr. Farmer ENG 101.Composition: Sections 110 MC and 130 MC Fall 2023

**Course Description**

From the 2023-24 undergraduate catalog: “This course introduces and develops analytical thinking and writing skills, with emphasis on the organization and development of the short essay. Nonfiction prose readings, designed to stimulate critical discussion and inquiry, provide a basis for writing and support intellectual growth; assignments are text oriented.” Three credit hours

**Meeting Times and Locations**

ENG 101 110 meets TR 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. in Lawson 214

ENG 101 130 meets TR 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in Lawson 214

**Office**

English Suite, Lawson 124-D.

**Office Hours**

All office hours are virtual and by appointment. Just let me know when you need to talk to me so we can schedule a time to meet through our Canvas class portal (ENG 101 110 MC or ENG 101 130 MC).

**Phone (discouraged)**

770-720-5633

**Email (preferred)**

[jaf@reinhardt.edu](mailto:jaf@reinhardt.edu)

**Program Learning Outcomes**

This is a general education/core curriculum course that therefore addresses no specific learning outcomes from any program.

**Reinhardt University Student Learning Outcomes (RUSLO):**

**Communication**

1. Students will demonstrate effective expression of ideas through writing, speech, and visual media.

**Critical Thinking and Inquiry**

1. Students will demonstrate integrative, critical thinking and inquiry-based learning using evidence, logic, reasoning, and calculation.
2. Students will demonstrate technological and scientific literacy, knowledge of various research methodologies, and the ability to seek out information.
3. Students will demonstrate independent thought and imagination; preparation for lifelong learning.

**Self, Society, and Culture**

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the traditions of Western civilization and their global context.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the diversity of societies and cultures; the ability to view themselves and the world from cultural and historical perspectives other than their own.

**Values and Ethics**

1. Students will demonstrate integrity and ethical responsibility.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of, and commitment to, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness.
3. Students will demonstrate stewardship and civic engagement, coupled with the ability to work with others both collaboratively and in leadership roles.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

As a result of taking this course, you will be able to:

* Organize an essay efficiently and effectively (RUSLO 1);
* Support an argument with full and relevant details (RUSLO 1);
* Write strong topic sentences (RUSLO 1);
* Craft good introductions and conclusions (RUSLO 1);
* Write prose that is free of errors in grammar, mechanics, syntax, punctuation, and usage (RUSLO 1);
* Engage critically and creatively with a text (RUSLO 2 and 4);
* Improve your reading comprehension and retention (RUSLO 4);
* Seek out information (RUSLO 3);
* Exercise good study habits (RUSLO 4);
* Keep a journal that reflects in-depth knowledge of a book (RUSLO 1).

**Required Texts**

*The Secret History*, by Donna Tartt

A three-month trial student subscription to *The New Yorker*, to begin October 2. This subscription costs $12 for twelve issues, comes with a free tote bag, and gives you unlimited access to the magazine’s archives. You will need this access because you will read, study, discuss, be quizzed about, and write an essay based on several articles from past issues of *The* *New Yorker*. As a way of enhancing your research skills, you will find these articles in the archives yourself.

**Supplies**

You will need the following items:

* A package of lined notebook paper for in-class, handwritten essays. If you have a spiral notebook with perforated sheets, please tear out a sufficient number of pages BEFORE you come to class to take a quiz or a test or to write a journal or an essay.
* A notebook or portfolio in which to organize and file all course materials. It is especially important that you keep track of all graded assignments in case I incorrectly record, or forget to record, a grade.
* A pencil or a blue or black ink pen. Handwritten work in any other color will not be accepted.

**Electronic/Wireless Devices**

You will surrender your cell phones to me at the beginning of the class and retrieve them when class is over. ***This*** ***policy is non-negotiable***.

**Attendance, Class Contributions, and Timely Completion of Assignments**

Because attendance is an essential component of success in any university course,I expect you to come to class prepared for discussion and active engagement with the material. In particular, ***before you come to class***, you are to read the assigned pages in *The Secret History* or to find, print, read, and study the assigned *New Yorker* articles.

***Your absence, whatever the reason, is not excused unless you are participating in a program or activity that requires you to be away on official Reinhardt University business.*** Otherwise, if you accumulate four (4) unexcused absences, you will automatically receive a *W* if the withdrawal date has not passed or an *F* if the withdrawal date has passed. This policy means that you do not need to e-mail or phone me if illness or other crisis necessitates your absence. Nor do I need a note from a parent, healthcare provider, or any other individual unless your absence is due to a major life event, as described below.

**Absence Due to Official University Business**

The only exception to policies governing class attendance applies to students required to be away on official University business. In accordance with the policy stated in the undergraduate academic catalog, if you are one of these students, your absence is excused. Therefore, you can make up all missed work—but your absence still counts among your four allowed.

Specific policies governing make-up work for students whose absence is excused and students whose absence is not excused appear in the sections below.

**Major Life Event**

A major life event is a crisis that requires you to be absent for more than two full weeks or four (4) consecutive class meetings. Should you find yourself in this situation, you need to send official notification to Dr. John Miles, the VPAA, and Dr. Walter May, the Vice President for Student Affairs. This notification should include an explanation of the crisis and supporting documentation from a credible source. Dr. Miles and Dr. May will then inform me of your circumstances, and we will work collaboratively to determine the best course of action. A brief illness, a funeral, a court date, a transportation problem, or a personal matter that causes you to miss class for a day or two is not a major life event. Therefore, I do not need notification from any source for these things since they automatically count as unexcused absences.

**Virtual Class Meetings**

If an emergency on my part or a virus-related, campus-wide crisis necessitates a switch to online, synchronous learning, you will join the class remotely at your usual time­­—11:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.—using the BigBlueButton feature of Canvas:

* Log into Canvas through Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Firefox Browser.
* Find and choose your course (ENG 101 110 MC or ENG 101 130 MC).
* Click the BigBlueButton link on the left side of the page.
* Join by clicking the blue Join button.
* I recommend that you select the Microphone option when you join so you can speak with your classmates and me. Just remember to mute your microphone when you are not talking, to minimize static and background noise.
* You may instead select the Audio option when you join, but you can listen only. You can still communicate with your classmates and me through Chat.

**So I can be sure everyone knows how to access the class virtually, I have scheduled a virtual meeting for Tuesday, 22 August. We will not meet physically on this day. Instead, you will join the class at your regular time (11:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.), using the procedure described above.**

You will use the same process to meet with me virtually outside of class.

**Recordings of Class Proceedings**

You are welcome to record class proceedings, using a cell phone. Your phone can be set to record while it is in my possession.

If we are meeting via the Big Blue Button, we will have the advantage of the Record feature, which allows every lecture to be recorded and then saved for seven (7) days. Remember, however, that after seven days, the recording is gone for good, and there is nothing I can do to retrieve it.

**Grade of Incomplete**

If you are in good standing in the course (that is, making a *C* or better), miss one important assignment due to a major life event, and want to qualify for an Incomplete, you must provide me with a valid, verified, written excuse from a credible source. To remove the Incomplete, you must make up the assignment during spring semester 2024.

**Workload**

ENG 101 has a workload appropriate to a university course, and you must maintain consistent and regular study habits to keep pace with your assignments. Specifically, you should plan to spend at least three (3) hours outside of class for every hour spent in class. Thus, in this three-hour academic course, you should anticipate spending at least nine hours a week in reading *The Secret History*; finding, reading, and studying the assigned *New Yorker* articles; and preparing for in-class quizzes, tests, discussions, and writing assignments. Success in all your courses begins with a commitment to adapting yourself to the rigors of university academics.

**Oral Reading Quizzes and Novel Test**

On the dates noted in the syllabus, you will have an oral, fact-based quiz on the assignment from *The Secret History* or *The New Yorker*. Each quiz will contain at least twenty (20) bonus points and focus on information you should know if you have read the work with reasonable care. **Oral quizzes cannot be made up unless you are absent due to official University business.** Then I must receive advance notice from a University employee, and you must make up the quiz the next class day at the end of class. If you are absent for any other reason, you will earn a zero for that day’s quiz. Consistently earning bonus points on every quiz will enable you to compensate for at least one day’s absence.

If you are not away on University business and miss the novel test, you will not be permitted to make up the work. If you are away on University business the day of the test, you must arrange to make up the work during final exam week (November 27 – December 1).

**Written Work: Journals**

You will write a weekly in-class journal on *The Secret History*, basing your response on a topic I post under Files in Canvas the day before the journal is due. Beforehand, you may prepare a sketch map, which you will learn about during the first two weeks, and bring it to class on journal days.

**If you ARE NOT away on official University business the day an in-class journal is due, you will not be permitted to make up the work.** If you are absent on official University business the day you are to write an in-class journal, I will help you arrange a time when you can write your journal under supervision in the Center for Student Success (CSS). To avoid a zero, you must make up the journal assignment within a week of your absence. I will drop everyone’s lowest journal grade.

A journal will receive a grade of ✓+ (95), ✓ (85), ✓- (72), NC (60), or 0. NC means that you at least turned in something but that your effort was unsatisfactory. 0 is reserved for work that was not turned in or turned in late. Outstanding journals may receive a 100.

Journal grades will be based on the following:

* compositional matters such as grammar, mechanics, syntax (sentence structure), and punctuation
* content (that is, how effectively you respond to the topic, including how well you showcase your knowledge of the reading assignment)
* Progress toward using mapping, the writing strategy on which this course is based

**Written Work: Essays**

You will write three (3) formal in-class essays this semester. Writing problems (topics) appear on page 8 of this syllabus.

Formal essays must have properly capitalized phrasal titles and contain more than five paragraphs. Please observe all margins and **write (or print) legibly on every other line, using pencil or a black or blue ink pen**.

You will have two full class periods to write the first two in-class essays. At the end of the first writing session, I will collect the work you have done so far. You will have the full three-hour final exam period to write the third in-class essay. Beforehand, you are allowed to prepare a one-page sketch map and use it during the writing process.

If you are absent for any reason on the day an in-class essay is due, I will help you arrange a time when you can finish your essay under supervision in the Center for Student Success (CSS). To avoid a zero, you must complete the assignment within a week of your absence.

**Academic Honesty**

As a member of this academic community, you are bound by all provisions of the Reinhardt Honor Pledge, which commits you to “demonstrate honest behavior.” Honest behavior includes avoiding all forms of academic dishonesty. For the purposes of this course, your work will be deemed academically dishonest if you do one or more of the following:

1. Copy someone else’s words into a journal or essay and represent them as yours
2. Copy someone else’s sentence structure into a journal or essay, change one or more words, and represent the material as yours
3. Copy someone else’s ideas or order of ideas into a journal or essay and represent the material as yours
4. Download material from an Internet site and copy this material into a journal or essay
5. Allow another student to use your journal or essay as the basis for his or her work
6. Copy someone else’s answers on a reading quiz or the novel test
7. Allow another student to copy your answers on a reading quiz or the novel test
8. Use the Internet to answer questions on a reading quiz or the novel test
9. Use ChatGPT or any other AI source to prepare any writing assignment

The first documented instance of academic dishonesty will be penalized with a zero on the assignment. The second documented instance will be penalized with dismissal from class and a *W* or an *F* in the course. **No zeros earned as a result of academic dishonesty will be dropped.** Moreover, copies of all academically dishonest documents will be provided to the Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and to the VPAA, who will enter your name in his Book of Academic Misconduct.

**Grade Configuration**

Journals on *The Secret History*: 20%

Short-Answer Test on *The Secret History*: 11%

ReadingQuizzes: 12%

Essay 1: 15%

Essay 2: 19%

Essay 3: 23%

**Grading Scale**

A: 90-100

B: 80-89

C: 66-79

D: 55-65

F: 0-50

**The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, the legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation for this or any other class, please contact Reinhardt University’s Academic Support Office (ASO), register, and obtain the proper documents. ASO is located in the basement of the Lawson Building (phone: 770-720-5567).

**Center for Student Success**

The Center for Student Success, located in the library, is a free tutoring service available to all students. Though appointments are preferred, drop-ins are also welcome. To make an online appointment, do the following: Go to the Reinhardt University Web site and click on Academics. When the next page appears, click on Resources (left side of the screen) and then choose Center for Student Success from the drop-down menu. On the next page, check the tutoring schedule to make sure an English tutor is available at the time you want to attend. Then fill out the required fields in the Student Appointment Form and submit. Ms. Robertson, the CSS director, will confirm your appointment, usually within 24 hours. You can also make an appointment with a specific tutor through Calendly, which someone in the CSS can explain to you.

**Important Contact Information**

All students, faculty, staff and administration at Reinhardt University are subject to changes in policies if mandated by the State of Georgia. Current policies and procedures can be found at: <https://www.reinhardt.edu/back-to-campus>. If you have any questions, please refer to the Web site or contact Reinhardt University at the numbers below:

Campus Nurse within the Student Health Center  
[studenthealthcenter@reinhardt.edu](mailto:studenthealthcenter@reinhardt.edu)

770-720-5542

Public Safety

**Non-Emergency Phone:** 770-720-5789  
**Emergency Phone:** 770-720-5911  
[publicsafety@reinhardt.edu](mailto:public_safety@reinhardt.edu)

Dean of Students – Dr. May

[deanofstudents@reinhardt.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@reinhardt.edu)

770-720-5540

Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs – Dr. John Miles

[VPAA@reinhardt.edu](mailto:VPAA@reinhardt.edu) or [John.Miles@reinhardt.edu](mailto:John.Miles@reinhardt.edu)

Writing Problems

**Essay #1**

Henry, Camilla, Charles, Francis, and Richard think they have gotten away with murder; and at least where the law is concerned, they are correct. What evidence argues that the five Greek students are being punished in other ways for their crimes? In your answer, consider how the students suffer psychologically, emotionally, socially, and/or physically after the murders.

**Essay #2**

Criminologists have discovered that serial killers share certain characteristics. Specifically, serial killers:

Possess average or above-average intelligence (if they are organized killers)

Are charming

Plan their crimes methodically (if they are organized killers)

Are attracted to authority figures

Wear the “mask of sanity” that enables them to blend in socially and seem normal

Enjoy outwitting investigators

Need to exercise control

Are manipulative

Are adept at smooth talk and flattery that enables them to hook others

Lack guilt

Lack empathy

Can be “mission oriented,” believing they need to rid the world of undesirable people

Often have close friends and even lovers because they possess the social skills needed to form interpersonal relationships

Lack remorse

Come from an unstable family and have a particularly poor relationship with their father

Are egocentric and grandiose

Victimize people and animals

Have a high rate of suicide

Take trophies

In what ways is Henry Winter a typical serial killer? In making your case, you must choose at least four items from the above list to discuss.

**Essay #3**

In what ways are children shaped—for good or for ill—by the family? Your answer must specifically consider evidence from *The Secret History*, “Home Colleging,” “Memory Laps,” “Letting Go,” “My Brother’s Keeper,” and “The Ride of Their Lives.”

Schedule of Assignments

Aug. 15 Course Introduction

Aug. 17 Mapping: Writing Problems, Idea Statements, and Topic Areas

Aug. 22 Mapping: Introductions, TRS Elements, and Sketch Maps

**VIRTUAL CLASS MEETING**

**Instructions for joining the class via the BigBlueButton appear on pp. 3-4.**

Aug. 24 Mapping: Development

Aug. 29 Mapping: Wrap-Up Sentences and Conclusions

Aug. 31 Practice writing assignment

Sept.5 *The Secret History*: Prologue-Chapter 2

**Quiz #1** and class discussion

Sept. 7 *The Secret History*

**In-class Journal #1**

Sept. 12 *The Secret History*: Chapter 3 through the section ending with the words, “Shall I deal?” he said, and he reached for the cards again.

**Quiz #2** and class discussion

Sept. 14 *The Secret History*

**In-class Journal #2**

Sept. 19 *The Secret History*: Read through the section ending with the words, “I think that’s a good idea,” said Henry, going back to his book.

**Quiz #3** and class discussion

Sept. 21*The Secret History*

**In-class Journal #3**

Sept. 26 *The Secret History*: Read through the section ending with the words, “His mom likes modern architecture.”

**Quiz # 4** and class discussion

Sept. 28 *The Secret History*

**In-class Journal #4**

Oct. 3*The Secret History*: Read through the section ending with the words, “Just one,” he reminded me.

**Quiz # 5** and class discussion

**Oct. 4-6 Fall Break**

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Oct. 10*The Secret History*

**In-class Journal #5**

Oct. 12 *The Secret History*: Finish the book, including the Epilogue.

**Quiz # 6** and class discussion

Oct. 17*The Secret History*

**In-class Journal #6**

Oct. 19 “Home Colleging,” Patricia Marx, 19 Sept. 2011

**Quiz #7** and class discussion

Oct. 24 Begin in-class Essay #1

Oct. 26 Complete in-class Essay #1

Oct. 31 “Memory Laps,” David Sedaris, 24 Oct. 2011

**Quiz #8** and class discussion

Nov. 2 Letting Go,” David Sedaris, 5 May 2008

**Quiz #9** and class discussion

Nov. 7Begin in-class Essay #2

Nov. 9 Complete in-class Essay #2

Nov. 14 “My Brother’s Keeper,” Ada Ferrer, 1 March 2021

**Quiz #10** and class discussion

Nov. 16 “The Ride of Their Lives,” Burkhard Bilger, 8 Dec. 2014

**Quiz #11** and class discussion

Nov. 21 **Short-answer test on *The Secret History***

**Nov. 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Nov. 28 In-class Essay #3: ENG 101 130, 11:15 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

**Nov. 29 In-class Essay #3: ENG 101 110, 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**