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**Hours:** [MW-8:30-10:30; F 9:00-10:00](#)

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## English 1B: Introduction to Literature

# Syllabus Spring 2013

**Texts/Supplies** *The Norton Introduction to Literature* (Booth/Mays, Portable Tenth Edition)  
*Old School* (Tobias Wolff)

**E-Mail and Online Site** To access the course site go to the following URL:  
<http://blackboard.reedleycollege.edu>. Login using your seven-digit student ID for your username and password. You will need to be officially enrolled before you will be allowed to enter the site.

All communication related to this class will use either our Blackboard course site (Announcements, Discussion Board, etc.) or your District-supplied e-mail address (@my.sccd.edu). Please check your district e-mail address regularly or find out how to forward messages from that address to an address you are in the habit of checking.

**Necessary Programs** In order to do work from home, you should have the following programs (all of which are installed on computers on-campus): Internet browser (such as Internet Explorer or Firefox); e-mail access; word processor (MS Word preferably, see Paper Format below); Adobe Acrobat Reader for research materials.

**Attendance** Although an online class does not chart attendance *per se*, you do need to make your presence known. Every week new Discussion Board threads will be posted in response to the assigned reading and lectures. Quizzes will be administered periodically and must be taken during the week that they are available. I will not extend deadlines for quizzes or tests for any reason. If you fall behind otherwise--in the reading, writing assignments, or discussion

board posts--at any point during the course of the semester, you will find it extremely difficult to catch up.

**Class Activities**

Like a traditional class, this class will consist of reading assignments, writing assignments, quizzes, tests, discussion activities, and lectures. The degree to which you are successful in this class will be a direct reflection of how seriously you take each of these activities. In a face-to-face format this class would require 150 minutes of classroom time each week. You should expect to spend at least that amount of time in addition to the time it takes to read material from the texts and write the assigned papers. If, for example, I determine that you are not watching the weekly lectures, I reserve the right to drop you before the ninth week.

**Discussion Board**

The Discussion Board is really where the "life" of the class takes place, and as such we want to grant it the importance it is due. So, let me make a couple of observations:

- First, unlike discussion in a traditional classroom, you have the opportunity to think carefully and deeply about the things that you "say" on the Discussion Board without the constraint of time pressure or the concern of whether or not your voice will be heard over the voices of others; you also have the opportunity to edit your remarks. Please take advantage of those opportunities.
- Second, because this is an academic environment, please do not consider the Discussion Board as analogous to text messaging, instant messaging, or e-mail to friends. Your comments should be grammatical and mechanically sound with regards to spelling and punctuation.
- Third, your role on the discussion board is *to talk with each other* about the reading. While I will be starting the conversation with questions, I hope that you will address your comments to each other. Make this a *meaningful* conversation rather than a make-work activity. I will, of course, answer questions that you have about assignments, but I'd like for you to use the discussion board as a way of learning from each other.
- Fourth, you should respond to each discussion thread that I start; you should also interact with at least one of your fellow class members, and you should do so well before the forum is scheduled to close.

- Finally, remember that while a significant portion of your grade is based upon the *quantity*, more important are the *quality* and *timeliness* of your participation.

**Late Papers** I will accept no late papers unless you have contacted me *prior to the deadline* posted for the assignment.

*There will be no make-ups of missed quizzes or tests for any reason, no matter how compelling.*

**Grades** There will be three papers on each genre (300 points), a midterm devoted to *Old School* (100 points) and a final (100 point essay, 100 point objective) during the course of the semester. The papers will be judged on the basis of style, organization, content, and the degree to which you have followed the directions for the assignment. *No essay seriously deficient in the area of mechanics (spelling, grammar, punctuation) will receive a passing grade.*

Your participation in discussion will be evaluated each time we finish with a particular genre (and *Old School*) and will be worth a total of 200 points. Quizzes conducted throughout the semester will be worth a total of 200 points.

The point and grade scales are listed below.

**Plagiarism** Use of another's work as though it were your own will not be tolerated. In the current Reedley College Catalogue, plagiarism is defined as follows:

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.

Verified instances of plagiarism occurring during the first nine weeks will result in a W. Instances of plagiarism occurring during the second nine weeks will result in an automatic F for the course. In both cases, the student responsible will be reported to the office of the Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, the Dean of Humanities, the Dean of Student Services, and the Chair of the Composition, Literature, and Communication Department.

**Extra Credit** During the course of the semester there will be several readings sponsored by Reedley College Speakers Series and Reedley College First Wednesdays at One series. Following your attendance at a reading you must complete and submit an Extra Credit Assignment within one week of the event to receive as many as ten points per reading. You must write as complete a response as possible. You may earn as many as forty extra credit points during the course of the semester. I will give you notice of dates and times.

**Please note:** *extra credit is just that--extra; if you are unable to attend extra credit events due to schedule conflicts, lack of transportation, or for any other reason, I will not provide alternative events or assignments.*

**Paper Format** All work must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12-point Times Roman type. Submitted papers *must* follow MLA Guidelines regarding manuscript format. You must submit your work via the Assignments area. You must submit files in one of the following formats: Word documents (\*.docx or \*.doc) or Rich Text Format files (\*.rtf).

**Accommodation** 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.

**Schedule of Assignments**

Discussion forums for short fiction, <i>Old School</i> , poetry, drama	<u>50 points each</u> 200 points total
Paper on Fiction	100 points
Midterm on <i>Old School</i>	100 points
Paper on Poetry	100 points
Paper on Drama	100 points
Final	100 point essay <u>100 point objective</u> 200 points total
Quizzes	200 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

**Grading Scale**

<b>A</b>	900-1000
<b>B</b>	800-899
<b>C</b>	700-799
<b>D</b>	600-699
<b>F</b>	000-599