English 3H- Honors Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking

**Mercy or Meddling? Thinking Critically about International Aid**

Deborah Lapp, FA 2016 MWF 11-noon in SOC-30

Check your email throughout the summer; here’s mine:

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Summer reading with the Honors Program:

*Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace…One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

Read this in June—There are several things to talk about, but stop and write notes when you have thoughts. On pages 228-230, for example, I wonder if you would do what the “bearded boy with the dreadlocks” (228) did, or if you are convinced that “when we increase literacy, we substantially reduce tensions” (228) “’What difference can one person make?’” (229). What is at stake if, “’The fact is the CAI is Greg’” (230).

Make sure you notice when Jon Krakauer appears in Mortenson’s book.

*Three Cups of Deceit* by Jon Krakauer

Read this in early July. Don’t let too much time lapse between reading *Tea* and reading *Deceit.* It’s a slim little book, but you MUST read the endnotes (just like footnotes, but they come at the end, on page 72). The first endnote is on page 3 (a little #1 floating in the first full paragraph). Go to page 72 to see what’s up with that.

🡪look up Krakauer’s charity:

[www.himalayan-foundation.org/live/project/stopgirltrafficking](http://www.himalayan-foundation.org/live/project/stopgirltrafficking)

🡪consider relating your Honors community service to topics you think of while reading these books.

**As REVOLTING as it may be, please follow election news.**

You have until Thanksgiving to read this, but it’s a fun, often funny, novel and makes for **great summer reading**:

*The Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle

T.C. Boyle will be coming to campus in the Spring. He is a hot shot, blue chip writer, and you get to meet him! If you take my English 41 class (online in the Spring), we’ll be reading this and a few more novels and short stories by Boyle and looking at how he portrays women. With *Tortilla Curtain*, we’ll be looking at the US relationship with Mexico and Mexican immigrants

**We won’t have any textbooks**, but we will have two more little books, which we will cover weeks 4-8 (Labor Day to mid-term), one poetry and one memoir, by an Army veteran and splendid writer whom we will meet:

Thursday, October 13th

mark that date on your calendars now.

*Here, Bullet (poetry, includes the poem “Hurt Locker”)*

*My Life as a Foreign Country* both by Brian Turner

Your final is based on these two essays:

“Lifeboat Ethics” by Garret Hardin

<http://www.garretthardinsociety.org/articles/art_lifeboat_ethics_case_against_helping_poor.html>

and

“Famine, Affluence, and Morality” by Peter Singer

<http://www.utilitarian.net/singer/by/1972----.htm>

**English 3H Lapp FA 16 Syllabus by Weeks:**

Week 1 (8/15,17,19) Summary and *Three Cups of Tea*

Week 2 (8/22,24,26) Analysis and *Three Cups of Deceit*

Week 3 (8/29,31, 9/10) Claim, Warrant, Support

Toulmin Argument; Begin *My Life as a Foreign Country*

Week 4 (labor day, 9/7,9) *Here, Bullet* (poems)*, Hurt Locker*

Week 5 (9/12,14,16) Just War theory, pacifism

Week 6 (9/19, 21, 23) Analyze candidates on intnl policy

Week 7 (9/26, 28, 30) Support and rebuttal for Turner

\*9/28 @ 7PM @FAM: Farmworker presentation

Week 8 (10/3,5,7) Turner paper due, midterm grades

\*10/2 @ 2PM play at CSUF: *7 Playwrights, 7 Testaments*

Week 9 (10/10,12 and 10/13 7PM for Brian Turner)

Intro and questions for Turner’s visit Thursday

Begin *Tortilla Curtain*

Week 10 (10/17 class, 10/19 field trip in Fresno to see Leon Panetta at Fresno Town Hall (Saroyan Theater, Wed 10AM--carpool) no class Friday

Week 11 (10/24,26,28) election analysis

Week 12 (Halloween, my birthday, 11/4) presentations

Week 13 (11/7, VOTE on 11/8, 11/9, Veteran’s Day Friday)

Analyze election results

Week 14 (11/14,16,18) Immigration as international aid

Week 15 (11/21, 23, Thanksgiving) Finish *Tortilla* *Curtain*

Week 16 (11/28, 30, 12/2) *Curtain* paper due; begin final

Week 17 (12/5,7,9) parse Singer and Hardin

FINAL Wed 12/14 11-1 in Soc 30 on Singer and Hardin

\*new opportunities we’ll try to integrate into the syllabus