

English 1B Online~ Spring 2016

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Office Hours: M 12-2, T 10-11, Th 10-11, F 2-3 (virtual) and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 1B is a literature survey and composition course that is designed to follow English 1A. Students will be introduced to four major literary genres: short story, poetry, the novel and drama. It is a three -unit course, which is fully transferable to University of California and California State University and most other public and private four-year colleges and universities. Students are required to read approximately 50-100 pages per week and to write papers related to the reading assignments. Students will also discuss literature on the Blackboard web site—our electronic forum and virtual classroom. Students should plan to spend 8-10 hours per week on this course, reading, writing and discussing literature for the class. Students need to access the computer each day to read lectures, check the assignment schedule, post on the discussion board, look through and respond to email, or write a paper. **Students need to be careful not to get behind—an online class can be deceptive as it might seem like less work, when in fact it requires more effort and engagement in many ways.**

Our theme this semester will be the concept of human identity and how writers create identity in fiction and poetry through the use of rhetorical devices. This concept is very relevant given a variety of trends in today's culture. We will begin examining this concept through our first assignment, "The Year We Obsessed Over Identity," a non-fiction essay by *New York Times* cultural critic, Wesley Morris. You will find this essay posted in our Course Reader on the sidebar.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- The Norton Introduction to Literature (Portable 11th edition) Kelly Mays, Editor. (ISBN-13: 9780393923391)
- Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth* (Any edition is fine as long as it is a full text version. Norton is best.)
- Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs. Dalloway* (Any edition is fine- there is an excellent electronic version by Penguin)
- Course Reader: on our Blackboard site in the form of links or PDFs.

- 1 three ring binder or other folder to organize and keep the syllabus, readings, handouts and your writing. Even though this is an online class, it is imperative that you download, print out, read and annotate the assigned readings carefully. You will be asked to refer to the readings often-having them in one place along with your writing helps to keep you organized and successful in an online environment.
- An electronic system to back up ALL of your writing-flash drive, email or server. Do not rely on blackboard to save your work.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

- **Skills Needed:**
- Know basics of word processing (saving files, using spell check, using grammar check, moving text, using the help function, etc.)
- Know how to access and navigate the Internet (use a browser, utilize search engines, save and/or print from the Internet)
- Know how to send e-mail and attachments.
- **Hardware Needed:**
- Pentium (PC) or Mac equivalent
- Home Internet access is desirable. You can use the computers on campus, but they are not always available.
- **Software Needed:**
- The most common word processing format is Microsoft Word. If you use another word processing program, you will need to save your work in Rich Text Format (RTF).
- Adobe Reader. This can be downloaded for free. Most handouts will be uploaded as PDFs.
- DO NOT USE MICROSOFT WORKS OR ANY OTHER PROGRAM THAT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR EASY CONVERSION.
- DO NOT USE GOOGLE DOCS-OUR SERVER DOES NOT ALLOW IT.

COMMUNICATION:

Please always make sure to check both our course site and your district email for announcements as well as other essential course information. All emails should be sent to kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu NOT through blackboard email. All emails should indicate both your purpose and class section in the subject line and begin with "Dear Ms. Watts..." Or "Hi Ms. Watts....." The language used in emails should be the same kind of language that you would use in an essay-NOT "Yo

dude, where u at?" Please note that my Friday office hours are virtual-you will be able to get me online between 2 and 3 every Friday. I will respond to your emails as soon as possible; however, if you email me late in the evening during the week (and sometimes after 8 is late for me!), don't expect to hear back from me until the following day. I will be available over the weekends, but not in the evenings. If you do not hear back from me within twenty four hours, please resend your email as that would indicate a problem with your first transmission.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Discussion Board: The Discussion Board is our virtual classroom. Every week I will post 2-3 questions/activities. Responding to the Discussion Board is worth 5-10 points per week. Since the discussion board is the "classroom" for our class, not posting to the discussion board is the same thing as not attending class. **Therefore, if you miss two weeks on the discussion board before the nine week drop date, I will automatically drop you from the class.** I will be posting assignments on the discussion board every week on Sunday afternoon. These assignments are generally due the following Sunday at midnight unless otherwise indicated. You will not be able to see your classmates's posts until you have posted your first initial response for each week's forums. The discussion board is a place for you to talk to each other about the material of the class. Because of this, I require you to respond to a minimum of two classmates for every posted assignment. I post the assignments, but I do not participate in your discussion. At the end of the week, I make comments to you individually regarding your participation, but I will also address the class as a whole in lecture form about what I am seeing on the discussion board. The language you use on the Discussion Board can be a bit more informal than the language you would use in an essay; however, your grade will be affected by the use of 'u' or 'i' etc. If your post is under the required word count, your grade will be affected. **More importantly, if it appears you did not do the required reading for the week, you will receive zero credit for that week's posts.**

Response Papers:

You will have a response paper due frequently depending on our focus. These response papers will range anywhere from 2 paragraphs to 2 pages. They are assignments that teach you a specific skill like close reading or a specific rhetorical move like summary. Each response paper builds towards the essay for that unit. I will not accept late response papers for any reason. 10-30 points

Essays, Midterm and Final:

Essay 1: 100 points

Essay 2: 100 points

You will have the opportunity to revise Essay 1 OR Essay 2. It is up to you to contact me regarding revision the first week after you have received your grade for either essay. If you do not contact me after the first week, revision is no longer an

option. In addition, if you should submit a sloppy draft that ignores MLA formatting or a draft under the page minimum, you will lose the option to revise.

Essay 3: 200 points (No revision allowed)

Midterm Timed Write: 50 points

Final Timed Write: 50 points

Grading Scale: 90%=A; 80%=B; 70%=C; 60%=D; 50%=F

COURSE POLICIES

Late papers are not accepted; contact me if you have an extraordinary situation **before** the due date. I will require documentation. Computer problems are the student's responsibility. If for some reason you cannot access Blackboard to post an assignment, wait a few minutes and try again. If Blackboard is down for a substantial length of time, you may email the assignment to kate.watts@reedleycollege.edu. I will record that you submitted the assignment on time; however, I will require you to submit the assignment to Blackboard again as soon as it is available. Discussion board grades are based on my reading of the discussion. **There are no wrong answers in this class as long as the discussion is thoughtful and developed.** The use of text message language 'u' for 'you' or lower case i for "I" or any kind of informal language will result in no credit for that posting. As the prerequisite to this class is English 1A, I expect that you will be familiar with MLA formatting. I also expect that you will know how to incorporate quotation and how to identify and use a scholarly source. **The correct integration of quotation is a requirement of every essay in this class.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Reedley College English department has a zero-tolerance policy regarding plagiarism. All of the writing done in this class must be your own. This includes all homework assignments, discussion board posts and essays. You cannot use work from another class in this class. If you plagiarize on the discussion board, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. If you should plagiarize on the discussion board again, you will also receive a zero, but this time you will be suspended from the class until you have met with the Dean of Students. **If I suspect you have plagiarized, I reserve the right to require you to meet with me in person in order to perform a writing diagnostic that will determine whether or not you have committed plagiarism AND/OR to confirm your identity.** In that instance, if I determine you have committed plagiarism, you will receive a 0 for the assignment and I will refer you to the Dean of Student's office for disciplinary action. In addition, I will email the Dean of Humanities, the Chair of the English department and the Vice President of Instruction with the particulars of your offense. I do not have to require a meeting in order to confirm any instance of plagiarism.

COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSING DEADLINES

All assignments must be completed on the given due dates. I do not accept late work on the discussion board or for response papers. Essays will be docked one letter grade for every day late (this includes weekends). After the third day, I will no longer accept the essay. If you contact me BEFORE an essay is due with a specific problem, we can work on resolving the issue together.

DROPPING THE COURSE

I will assume that students who do not check in on the discussion board by the end of the day, Monday, January 11th by midnight are inactive and I will drop them from the course. I will also drop any students who do not complete any of the first week's assignments. After the first week, any student who misses two weeks on the discussion board will be dropped.

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 in the beginning of the semester any need for extra time etc. will not be available to you retroactively.

BLACKBOARD: All courses announcements, the course schedule, assignments and your grades are available on our Blackboard course site.

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