



English 1B (Online) | Intro to Literature | 3 units | Summer 2008

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Course Description

English 1B is a literature survey and composition course that is designed to follow English 1A. Students will be introduced the major literary genres: fiction, poetry, 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 200 pages per week and to write papers related to the reading assignments. They will also be discussing the literature on the Blackboard website, which is our electronic forum and virtual classroom, so it is important to keep up with the reading. Students should plan to spend 20-25 hours a week on this course, reading, writing and discussing the literature for the class. Students need to access the computer each day to read announcements, check the assignment schedule, post on the Discussion form, and look through and respond to email.

Expected Outcomes/Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Develop reading strategies that include drawing inferences, anticipating developments and conclusions, recognizing the reader's position in relation to the literary work, and analyzing the process by which the individual reader perceives the meaning in the work.
- Recognize and differentiate between denotative and connotative meanings, literal and figurative language, and levels of usage and their effects in literature and in the student's writing.
- Identify the influences of history, geography, culture, and differing perspectives in the literature and in the student's writing.
- Recognize the connections between literature and other disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, history, and sociology.
- Read and understand specific problems of poetry, detecting argumentative structures, specific poetic forms, speaker and audience, and relationship of sound and structure to meaning.
- Read and understand specific problems of fiction, recognizing plot structures, distinguishing between realistic fiction and surrealistic or metafiction, recognizing the impact of point of view, analyzing the nuances of human behavior as represented in the characters, and detecting the attitude of the story teller from the language of the story.
- Read and understand specific problems of drama, recognizing the ways in which drama shares the conventions of fiction or poetry as well as the ways stage conventions and strategies make it different.
- Develop writing strategies to analyze individual works, persuade readers to consider the writer's position and view, relate parts of works or whole works to each other, and to use the writing process to discover and refine meaning for the writer.
- Develop persuasive writing strategies to convince readers of the validity of a position, point, or observation: shared goals, writing accessible to the reader, logical development and support of an argument or position, and confrontation with or acknowledgment of opposing arguments.
- Control the several rhetorical approaches to writing about the reading: definition, classification, comparison and contrast, analogy, and persuasion or argument.
- Use critical vocabulary accurately in writing and discussion.
- Use and differentiate between the skills of paraphrase, summary, citation of sources and supporting evidence.

Required Texts:

Backpack Literature, an Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama, Kennedy (ISBN: 0-205-55103-3)
 A Pocket Style Manual, 4th Ed., Hacker (ISBN: 0-312-40684-3)

Required Programs:

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

Email and Blackboard access:

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. Go to Personal Information and enter your e-mail address. You will need to be officially enrolled before you will be allowed to enter the site.

Grading:

Essay 1 (Diagnostic/Personal)	10%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	15%
Essay 4 aka The Final	25%
Short Assignments	10%
Blackboard Discussion	25%

The grading scale is as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
100-90%	89-80%	79-70%	69-60%	59% & Below

Essays:

All work must be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type of a standard typeface (Times Roman, preferably). You must submit your work via the Assignments area. You must submit files in one of the following formats: Word documents (*.doc) or Rich Text Format files (*.rtf). For each essay you will receive a prompt that will outline the specific requirements for each essay.

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. Please consider the following:

- 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.
- Finally, remember that a significant portion of your grade is based upon the quantity, but more importantly, the quality of your participation.

Late Work:

Late papers will not be accepted unless you have contacted me prior to the deadline posted for the assignment. There will be no make-ups of missed short assignments for any reason.

Short Writing Assignments

During the semester, there will be a number of short writing assignments given. These assignments generally ask you to draw connections between the readings recently covered and formulate a well thought out response.

Attendance:

Although an online class does not chart attendance per se, you do need to make your presence known every week. There will be a reading response assignment every week and Discussion Board assignments in addition to the major papers. If you fall behind at any point during the course of the semester, you will find it extremely difficult to catch up.

Cheating and Plagiarism

The following is adapted from Fresno City College's website on cheating and plagiarism.

CHEATING

Cheating is the act of deception by which a student misleadingly demonstrates that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise. Examples include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Copying or allowing another to copy a test, paper, project or performance.
- ✓ Using unauthorized materials during a test, for example, notes, formula lists or "cheat sheets."
- ✓ Taking a test for someone else or permitting someone to take a test for you.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one's own without giving credit. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- ✓ Incorporating the ideas or words of another's work without giving appropriate credit.
- ✓ Representing another's artistic or scholarly works, such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, etc., as one's own.
- ✓ Merely changing a few words or making a few structural changes to another's work is still plagiarism when passed off as one's own work.

PENALTIES

Penalties for cheating and plagiarism are severe and can follow you the rest of your college career. At the minimum, you will receive an F on the assignment and a warning, but plagiarizing in a major essay will result in an immediate F for the class and a write-up for your student record. You may also be liable for more severe penalties, up to and including expulsion from the college. **The bottom line is that the college and I take this very seriously and so should you.**

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.

Contact and Conferences

At different times during the semester, a student may need time with me or I may request a conference with him or her. I check my phone messages and email daily at the email address on the front page. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are experiencing a problem, have any questions, need help or clarification from me, or have ideas and suggestions for the class. I am here to help you succeed.

Course Changes

This syllabus may change during the course of the semester to better address the class's needs. A handout explaining the new expectations will accompany such changes.