

Syllabus for English 1B, Critical Inquiry and Literature

Course Information

Semester and Year: Spring 2021
Course ID and Section #: ENGL-1B, V0658
Instructor's name: Ken Letko
Location: Online
Number of units: 3.0

Instructor Contact Information

Email address: ken-letko@redwoods.edu
Canvas Message Tool (preferred)

Required Textbooks

Textbook title: *Fiction 100: An Anthology of Short Stories*
Edition: 13th, Print
Author: James H. Pickering, Editor
ISBN: 978-0-205-17541-3

Textbook title: *St. Martin's Handbook*
Edition: 9th, Print
Author: Andrea A. Lunsford
ISBN: 978-1-319-10753-6

Special Note: I will accommodate student use of the 8th print edition.

Catalog Description

A course using literature as a basis for critical thinking and composition. Students analyze issues, problems, and situations represented in literature and develop effective short and long written arguments (6000 minimum word total) in support of an analysis. This course is designed for those students who seek to satisfy both the full year composition and the critical thinking transfer requirements.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Write logical, well-developed, thesis-driven essays that respond to questions at issue raised by literary works.
2. Evaluate, use, and document evidence from primary and secondary sources to support, develop, or validate judgments.

Prerequisites/co-requisites/recommended preparation

Students will have successfully completed ENGL-1A or equivalent.

Accessibility

Students will have access to online course materials that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and College of the Redwoods policies. Students who discover access issues with this class should contact the instructor.

College of the Redwoods is also committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability or believe you might benefit from disability-related services and accommodations, please contact your instructor or [Disability Services and Programs for Students](#) (DSPS). Students may make requests for alternative media by contacting DSPS based on their campus location:

- Eureka: 707-476-4280, student services building, 1st floor
- Del Norte: 707-465-2324, main building near library
- Klamath-Trinity: 530-625-4821 Ext 103

During COVID19, approved accommodations for distance education classes will be emailed to the instructor by DSPS. In the case of face to face instruction, please present your written accommodation request to your instructor at least one week before the first test so that necessary arrangements can be made. Last-minute arrangements or post-test adjustments cannot usually be accommodated.

Student Commitment

This is a three-unit class, so you will need to engage with English 1B materials, classmates, and your instructor via Canvas three hours a week. This is a significant amount of screen time, so I suggest that you use a laptop or desktop computer. While you can log on to Canvas with a cell phone, I do not recommend using a cell phone to accomplish the weekly course work. An additional six hours a week should be about enough time to accomplish the required reading and writing tasks. Cumulatively, about nine hours per week should be a reasonable time commitment. Because the class has numerous deadlines, keeping pace with the work is essential.

Communication

Most of our communication will be through Canvas: my **Announcements** and postings to **Home**, your posted responses to **Assignments**, including discussions, as well as your direct messages through the Canvas Message Tool. Although I welcome email, you should know my CR Outlook in-box is where I receive many messages from varied sources. The likelihood of a quick response is much better if you use the Canvas Message Tool because it sorts messages by class and helps me stay organized. I prioritize messages from students!

I will respond to both Canvas messages and emails in the order I receive them, within about 48 hours, Monday through Friday. Be sure to put an appropriate label in the subject line of each correspondence, for example: **Research idea question!** When you ask a question, I will respond.

Submitting Work

Canvas will be the conduit to submit your work. Word docs and Portable Document Format (PDF) files are acceptable. Google docs are not. All files must be appropriately named. Make the sequence last name, first name, assignment name, distinctive detail, for example: Anderson, Lana, Essay 1, final draft.

Computer Skills

You will need to receive and send email, access and navigate Canvas, word process, save and send documents to both Canvas and turnitin.com

Computer and Internet Requirements

You should have a laptop or desktop computer with appropriate software, and you will need a reliable high-speed Internet connection. Keep in mind that this class is entirely online, so your ability to stay connected is essential. You are responsible for acquiring and employing computer resources. If power outages or problems with Canvas occur, our class will follow the protocols mandated by CR’s administration.

Accessing Canvas

Log into Canvas at https://redwoods.instructure.com. Password is your eight digit birthdate. For tech help, email its@redwoods.edu or call 707-476-4160. Canvas Help for students is at this link: https://www.redwoods.edu/online/Help-Student.

Evaluation and Grading Policy

English 1B is graded A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, F. Your final grade will be based on the following:

Table with 2 columns: Component and Percentage. Components include Reading (15%), Discussion (15%), Essay One (20%), Essay Two (20%), and Research paper (including plan and final draft) (30%).

Graded Work

Reading: Our reading will mostly be short stories in the Fiction 100: An Anthology of Short Fiction, thirteenth edition, edited by James H. Pickering. On a weekly basis, check Home and Announcements on Canvas. Then post your written answers. Use the format shown in the

“Active Reading” document (under **Files** on the menu at the left) to present your written comments. These required, frequent postings will be evaluated for copiousness, relevance, accuracy, clarity, sentences, and editing.

Discussion: Participate in all discussions on Canvas during the semester. Beyond your own posted comments and questions, you must also respond to your classmates’ postings. Your frequent and thoughtful participation will be evaluated for copiousness, relevance, accuracy, clarity, sentences, and editing.

Essay One: After we have read and discussed a few stories and considered some possible lenses, you will generate an essay of 900-1,000 words, using MLA in-text citations and a works cited list. A detailed assignment will provide additional requirements for the project, including a process to follow and a deadline.

Essay Two: After we have read and discussed additional stories and considered some possible lenses, you will generate an essay of 1,100-1,250 words using MLA in-text citations and a works cited list. A detailed assignment will provide additional requirements for the project, including a process to follow and a deadline.

Research Essay: This essay of 1,900-2,100 words will require a minimum of six sources listed on the works cited page and used for concrete support as in-text citations. A detailed assignment will indicate parameters for choosing a topic, a process to follow, deadlines, and other specifics.

Late Work

I strongly encourage meeting all deadlines, yet I know life can intervene, even in a well-planned schedule. As a result, I will accept late work without penalty for up to two weeks past the deadline. If you have missed an assignment, you will need to complete the work before the two-week window closes. If you are missing multiple assignments, you may want to discuss your best options with a counselor or advisor. The Research Essay will be an exception to the two-week grace period simply because the semester will be over.

Course Overview

Throughout the term emphasis will be placed on understanding the fundamentals of fiction and argumentation and how they can be applied to writing critical essays with in-text documentation in Modern Language Association format.

Students will develop skills in using one text to analyze another text, a lens and artifact paradigm. “Essay One” and “Essay Two” will follow discussions of the stories and traditional literary constructs: point of view, characterization, setting, plot and structure, as well as tone and style. Other patterns of analysis, explored initially through class discussions, will derive from psychological, sociological, historical, economic, and other established models.

Each major writing assignment will contain specific requirements, including deadlines for planning and completion. The “Research Essay” will serve as our final exam. Here are *tentative* dates for major assignments. Actual deadlines will be announced as they become viable.

	Launch	Plan Due	Draft Due	Final Due
Essay One:	Week 2	Jan. 29	Feb. 5	Feb. 11
Essay Two:	Week 6	Feb. 26	Mar. 5	Mar. 12
Research Essay:	Week 7	Mar. 31	April 30	May 12 (no 2-week grace period)

Manuscript Format

Use Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced, .5 inch indentation for paragraphs (no extra spacing between paragraphs), 1 inch margins all around, with page numbers preceded by your last name at top right. Your name, instructor’s name, class and section number, assignment label, date, and word count should be double-spaced and aligned left at top of first page; title is centered. This corresponds to MLA format with the addition of section number, assignment label, and word count. See pages 244 and 279 in *The St. Martin’s Handbook*, 9th edition or pages 405 and 442 in *The St. Martin’s Handbook*, 8th edition.

Here’s what the top of page one would look like:

Anderson 1
Lana Anderson
Instructor: Ken Letko
English 1B, Section V0658
Essay Two
February X, 2021
Word Count: _____
Title



Turnitin.com

“Essay One,” “Essay Two,” and the “Research Essay” will all be submitted to *turnitin.com*. If you already have an account, you can simply join our class; otherwise, you will need to create a new account at https://www.turnitin.com/t_home.asp?lang=en_us#. Here’s the information:

Class Name: English 1B, Spring 2021, V0658

Class ID: 27781582

Enrollment Key: college (This is case sensitive. Use the word college, all lower case.)

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change should circumstances warrant revision.