

## English 1B-14 Online Distance Learning Syllabus

### OVERVIEW

Hello and welcome! This course is designed to develop advanced critical thinking, and uses sophisticated literary texts and argumentative writing assignments to hone this crucial skill. The course is arranged by literary genre. We will spend two weeks studying fiction, two weeks analyzing poetry, two weeks understanding and critiquing drama, and the final two weeks working expressly with critical theory as it pertains to the other three genres.

Although the bulk of your grade comes from the four original essays you will compose, much of the understanding of the texts and development of skills you will need to exhibit in passing work will come from your study and re-reading of the texts and modules. To encourage this process and guide your study towards each of the four major essays, I have created short writing assignments called **responses**. Additionally, you will take two exams. The first of these, the midterm, comes after we have completed fiction and poetry. The final exam will be on drama and critical theory.

In addition to the rental text from the bookstore and Voltaire's *Candide*, please stay current with the reading assignments contained in the modules. The assignment list attached here will guide you through the readings and remind you of deadlines. Out of fairness, **no late work will be accepted**. To pace yourself, skim ahead on the assignment list and look beyond what is immediately due. The two longest works you will read are due at the end of the first and third months: Voltaire's *Candide* and Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Although you will read other short stories and plays, it is best to begin reading each of these as early as possible, so that you will not feel rushed through a complex text upon which you will be composing a challenging paper. Also, please note that there are four major essays and that the fourth of these is an eight to ten page research paper. It is best to begin each of these as early as possible to give yourself ample time for revision and editing.

Because you have elected to take this class as a summer course, you will be responsible for completing assignments in one week which would normally take place in two weeks during Fall or Spring Semesters. Additionally, because this is a distance learning course, you are responsible for managing your own time and meeting all deadlines without classroom instruction. Expect to devote an average of eight hours per week to reading, studying, and writing. If you ever need assistance or clarification regarding your assignments, contact me.

### TEXTS

Roberts, Edgar V., and Henry E. Jacobs. *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing*. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2004.  
ISBN #0-13-048584-5

(This primary text is a rental and is available at the TC bookstore).

Voltaire. *Candide*. Any edition will suffice, provided your translation is in English.

(Purchase text at TC bookstore, any major bookstore, or online).

### CONTACT ME

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Taft College  
29 Emmons Park Drive  
Taft, CA 93268

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:00am  
or by appointment

Office is: In the C.A.S.A. building (the old counseling center that adjoins the cafeteria)

You should contact me as often as necessary. Do not hesitate or be scared. I encourage and welcome all questions and comments. It's a good idea to call during office hours. If I do not answer, it is because I am meeting with a student. Always leave your name, a call back number, and a quick mention of the assignment you are calling to discuss. Private messaging through the Discussions and Private Messages tool is fabulous as well.

#### SUBMISSION OF WORK

Most of your assignments will be submitted through the Assignments tool in this shell (see the navigation pane on the left hand side of the screen? Click "Assignments.") They may be submitted as inline documents or word attachments. Once graded, the comments will be returned to you through the Assignments tool and your points will be posted in the Gradebook (you may access this at any time). **However, all four major essays will need to be submitted through turnitin.com.**

Your turnitin.com class ID is **2270195**

The class turnitin.com password is **Voltaire**

#### ASSIGNMENTS AND DEADLINES

All assignments are due on the date listed, by 11:45 pm.

Date	Reading Due	Assignment	Test	Points
M 6-16	Syllabus Begin reading <i>Candide</i>	Discussion Posting 1		5
W 6-18	1-43 in <i>Literature</i> Modules 1, 2	Response 1 Discussion Posting 2		10 5
M 6-23	47-62, 72-83, 86-90 in <i>Literature</i>	Response 2		10
W 6-25	<i>Candide</i> (entire book) Module 3	Response 3		10
M 6-30		<b><i>Candide</i> Essay*</b>		100
W 7-02	Module 4 609-622 in <i>Literature</i>	Response 4		10
M 7-07	634-649 in <i>Literature</i> 1019-1028 in <i>Literature</i>	Response 5		10
W 7-09	Module 5 Begin reading <i>Hamlet</i> (1306-1407)	<b>Poetry Essay*</b>		100

<b>Th 7-10</b>			Midterm	120
M 7-14	1163-1180 in <i>Literature</i> 1208-1215 in <i>Literature</i>	Response 6		10
W 7-16	Finish <i>Hamlet</i> (1306-1407)	Response 7		10
M 7-21		Response 8		10
W 7-23	1915-1927 in <i>Literature</i> Module 6.1	<b>Hamlet Essay*</b>		100
M 7-28		Response 9		10
W 7-30	Module 6.2	Response 10		10
M 8-04	Module 6.3	Response 11		10
W 8-06	Module 6.4	<b>Critical Interpretation Paper*</b>		150
<b>Th 8-7</b>			Final	120

\*Four major essays must be submitted through turnitin.com

#### GRADING

All points for all graded work will be posted in the **Gradebook** (click the link on the left). Critique for major essays will be returned through turnitin.com. Critique for normal assignments will appear in the **Assignments** section. All assignments are graded by points. At any time, you may visit the gradebook to view your current point total. To convert the point total to a grade, simply divide the points you earned by the possible points to date. The resulting percentage will correspond with this breakdown:

.90-1.00 = A

.8-.89=B

.7-.79=C

.6-.69=D

.59 or below = F

**450 points for Major Essays**—These four assignments, collectively, weigh heaviest on your grade. Do not miss even one of them. You will receive detailed grading criteria (rubrics) in the Assignments tool. Use these as a checklist before turning the essays in. For each day that your essay is late, I will automatically deduct one full letter grade from your final score.

**110 points for Responses**—Each session that an essay is not due, you will submit an informal, typed, double-spaced response to the reading. There are specific questions in the Assignments tool that each must be addressed in weekly writing. The purpose of these questions is to draw your attention to important elements of the reading, thereby starting a written dialogue between you and me. If you answer each part of the response accurately and submit it on time, you will receive 7 out of 10 points for that weekly. You will lose points if the work is not typed, or if you fail to address any of the questions. If you do all of this, but demonstrate that you have thought deeply about the questions, you will receive no less than 8 out of 10 points. If you do all of this, write a great deal, or provide a dazzling written insight demonstrating how thoroughly you have worked with the material, you will receive no less than 9 points. You will receive 10 points for an outstanding, perfectly composed effort that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the reading and well supported original thought. Responses will not be accepted if they are submitted late.

**240 points for Midterm and Final**—Each exam contains an objective identification section and an argumentative essay (open book and open note) about texts we have read. There will be study tips for each in Modules. The best way to prepare for these exams is to read actively, take notes as you read, and be sure that you understand what I expect of you in advance.

**10 points for Discussion Postings**—There are two required discussion postings. Follow the assignment guidelines for credit. I may require additional postings for points. If I do, I will notify the class through an announcement.

#### STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES OR IRREGULAR PROCESSING PATTERNS

Students with disabilities or students who think they may have a learning disability and who may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Student Support Services (763-7841 or 763-7927) as soon as possible to better ensure that any reasonable accommodations are emplaced in a timely manner.

#### PLAGIARISM

All work must be original. If you use the ideas or words of someone else as your own, you will receive an F and could be placed on academic probation. I will report all instances of plagiarism to the Vice President of Student Services and the Vice President of Instruction. Consistency of weeklies and proctored exams will give me a viable index of your writing and style. Furthermore, I will check any assignments I wish through [turnitin.com](http://turnitin.com)—even the responses. Don't cheat. It's just not worth it.

#### DROP DEADLINES

The last day to add June 19

The last day to drop this class is June 26

The last day to elect credit/no credit for this class is June 30

The last day to withdraw from this class July 16