

## English 1B: Literature & Composition

### Fall 2018

**Instructor:** Jacob Aharonian

**Class:** TTH 1-3:00PM

**Section:** #0873

**Class Room:** Jacobs 126

#### Instructor Contact Information

**Office:** Call 671

**Phone:** 707.494.9418

**Email:** jaharonian@santarosa.edu

**Office Hours:** Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:00PM

\* Or by appointment

**\*\* This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.**

**You are responsible for knowing any changes in assignments, deadlines, or readings.**

#### Course Description

English 1B is an introduction to literature course that focuses on the continued development of critical reading and analytic writing skills by engaging with representative genres in literature and literary criticism. In this class, we will learn how to become more critical thinkers about the world we live in through the close study of particular works of fiction, poetry, drama, and literary criticism. Together, we will learn how to become critical readers of these texts and how to write proficiently about those texts.

#### Required Texts

- Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*
- Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*
- Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
- O'Connor, *Complete Stories*
- Robinson, *Gilead*
- Tolstoy, *The Kreutzer Sonata & Other Stories*
- A good college level handbook (*recommended*)
- A good dictionary and thesaurus (*recommended*)

These texts are available in the SRJC bookstore.

#### Other Course Materials

- A sturdy binder, folder, or notebook for keeping all class handouts, written assignments (including essays), and notes. **Keep all graded assignments until class is over.**
- Access to a computer with internet access for word processing, email, and library research. In addition to in-class handouts, the syllabus, class calendar, assignment directions, and other written materials will be provided on the class website which can be accessed through my faculty homepage. You are responsible for checking our class site, downloading course materials and printing hard copies for your use if you lose the material.
- A USB flash drive or some other memory device to save your written assignments on. You should keep hard copies of all assignments and back-up copies on a disk.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

As an **active** participant in this class, by the end of the semester you will:

1. Demonstrate reading skills that allow you to comprehend, analyze, and interpret works of fiction, literary non-fiction, poetry and drama.
2. Write a well developed, logically organized and thesis-driven interpretive essay using one or more critical approaches to literature.

3. Identify and distinguish among the elements of a successful summary, response, analysis and interpretation.
4. Define common literary terms and apply them to the analysis of specific texts.
5. Demonstrate an appreciation of literary works whose aesthetic treatment of enduring human questions distinguish them from those whose focus and purpose are primarily commercial.

### **Participant Responsibilities**

As a member of this class, you are a participant in a community of learners with the following responsibilities:

- Come to class prepared and ready to engage in active learning. This includes completing all homework assignments; reading, rereading, and annotating texts; preparing questions, ideas, and observations for lively discussion, and being alert and ready to learn.
- In this collaborative learning environment, you will be learning with and from your fellow classmates. You must arrive on time and ready to work.
- Listen to one another carefully and respect the views of your classmates. It's OK to ask questions, float ideas, and make mistakes, as these are important parts of the learning process; it's also good to challenge others' ideas so long as it is done in a respectful manner with the goal of learning—not arguing—at heart.
- Conduct yourself appropriately, showing respect and consideration for your fellow students and teacher, and following the college community's standards of conduct. (See <http://www.santarosa.edu/admin/scs/section1.html> for official standards.)
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other unnecessary electronic devices *before* coming to class.
- If you must miss a class, contact a classmate to find out what you have missed.

### **Assignments**

**\*\* Full Details for all assignments will be given in class.\*\***

- Reading assignments are listed in the Assignment Schedule. You should read, reread, and annotate the selections. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings by having your notes, observations, ideas, and questions ready for discussion at the start of the class. Bring your copies of the assigned readings to every class session.
- Reading Responses & Questions: Each *week*, you will be required to turn in observations, questions, and reflections from the required reading for that week. This can either be typed (1/2 page) or handwritten (full page). These should include pertinent passages you found compelling (and why you found them so) as well as questions the texts brought up, or questions you have for further clarification.
- In-Class Writing and written homework: Throughout the semester, you will write in-class responses to readings or answer reading questions in class or as homework. These assignments are helpful in recalling specific details and formulating ideas for analysis and interpretation.
- Family short essay: Your first short assignment will require you to write briefly (no more than two pages) on a unique feature of your family--quirk, tradition, etc. Detailed information is provided at the end of the syllabus.
- Three literary analysis essays (totaling 3200-3900 words): During the semester, you will write analytical essays on the various genre we will study in class. The essays will require research and consideration of current literary criticism. The goal of these papers is to enhance your ability to think critically about a text, to engage with current scholarship on a text, and to practice writing literary analysis.

- Critical Response: For this assignment, you will read one of the critical essays related to Flannery O'Connor. You will read the article, and write a one-page, single-spaced summary of it. Then, with other students, you will discuss the article with the class and how it relates to the readings. A sign-up sheet will be handed out to you.
- Midterm Exam: For your Midterm Exam, you will write an in-class, timed essay analyzing a text provided to you. This exam will test your ability to critically analyze a text and to write an interpretation of the meaning of the text.
- Final Research Project: After conducting research on current criticism of a class text, you will write an 5-7 page essay analyzing the text. A detailed prompt will be handed out later in the semester.

### **Writing Assistance**

As a student at SRJC, you are eligible for free, individual assistance on all your writing assignments at the English Writing Center. When writing and revising your essays, it is essential to get feedback from other writers. The **Writing Center** offers one-to-one consultations with faculty members and instructional aides from the English Department to help you improve your writing skills.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Your grade in this class will be based on your accumulated points for the assignments listed below based on the grading scale of 90-100%=A; 80-89%=B; 70-79%=C; 60-69%=D:

In-class writing & homework	50 points
Reading Response (13 @ 10pts)	130 points
<i>Family Writing</i>	40 points
Essay One	140 points
Essay Two	140 points
Essay Three	150 points
Critical Response	50 points
Midterm	100 points
<u>Final Exam Essay</u>	<u>200 points</u>
TOTAL	1000 points

If you are uncertain about your class standing at any point in the course, please arrange an appointment, or see me during office hours.

Please note that turning in all the assignments, participating faithfully in the community of the class, and attending regularly win you the right to have your work evaluated. You must complete all the course assignments and participate heartily in the class in order to be considered for a passing grade.

**All readings, assignments, and homework should be completed by the day on which they are listed on the Assignment Schedule.**

### **Extra Credit**

There is no extra credit given in this class. That doesn't mean, however, that there is no chance of changing your grade for the better. If you are dissatisfied with the graded assessment of your writing, I will gladly re-read and re-grade that assignment *one time only*. This applies *only* to full-length essays (not in-class writings or response pieces). If you take part in this offer, it will require two things from you: 1) a substantial revision of the paper. I don't want to simply re-read the same paper with a new comma or different title; the paper must show real, concerted effort at revision. 2) In light of this, you *must* come meet with me *in person* to discuss the essay and the changes made to it. Often (but not always) this process has the benefit of potentially raising the grade for the paper half a letter grade.

## Policies and Expectations

### **Student Responsibilities**

As a member of the academy, certain expectations will be placed upon you for the duration of your time in this course. Since this is a three-unit class, I expect that students spend *at least* six hours *per week* of study on their own. The reading load for this class will be fairly difficult to navigate; any failure to spend a significant amount of time preparing for class will diminish your chances of doing well at the end. This includes setting aside time for accomplishing both the required reading and subsequent writing.

It is also your responsibility to come to class prepared to speak to the readings. This level of English demands an on-going competence in critical thinking and discussion skills; these goals cannot be attained without concerted participation from you. I have already read these novels and essays—I am interested in what *you* have to say about them.

It is your responsibility to turn off all electronic devices while in class (e.g. cellphones, iPods, etc.), unless they allow you to heartily contribute to the class discussion (i.e. Kindles or other e-readers). English is not a discipline that requires technology; as such, those devices are not necessary to the learning of this class.

It is your responsibility to arrive on time and stay for the duration of class (see Attendance Policy below).

### **Attendance**

Missing even a single day and being late can result in missing information, insights, exercises and announcements that are crucial for your success in this course. Of course emergencies arise, so bear in mind the following:

- I will drop any student who misses the first two class meetings.
- If you miss **two consecutive classes** at any time during the semester, leave me a message to let me know whether you intend to stay in the class.
- If you desire, exchange phone numbers/e-mail addresses with two or three classmates. If you miss class, call or email a classmate immediately to find out what you missed. **DO NOT CONTACT ME FOR THIS INFORMATION.**
- A total of 3 (three) *unexcused* absences during the semester will result in the lowering of your standing **one full letter grade**. More than that and you will be dropped from the class.
- Consistent tardiness (i.e. more than 3 in a row) will count as one unexcused absence.
- Likewise, leaving class early without first consulting me will result in an unexcused absence.

### **Late Papers**

Papers that are submitted after the deadline **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**. If you know you will miss a class on a day an assignment is due, you must make arrangements to have a classmate turn in your assignment for you in class on the due date. All assignments are due *at the beginning of class*. I will not accept assignments via email, slipped under my office door during class, or if you come to class late and they have already been collected.

Rare circumstances may occur for which I may consider accepting an essay late; it is impossible to predict all the various conditions that would qualify for turning in a late paper (one example *may* be hospitalization), so it is at my discretion to decide what exigencies are appropriate for extending a deadline for an essay. You should operate under the assumption that if your paper is late, it will not be accepted.

NOTE WELL: Make-up work will not be accepted for in-class writing assignments and quizzes.

## Paper Format and Style

All papers must observe correct MLA format and bibliographic style. You should know what this looks like by now. If not, you can visit the Writing Center on campus, or purchase a writing manual with examples of MLA citation.

## Grading

Each paper will be evaluated using specific criteria geared to reflect the learning outcomes desired. I'll endeavour to communicate these outcomes as clearly as I can when assigning papers. But here's what grades generally mean:

- **A papers** demonstrate extraordinary creativity and brilliance. They are very well written, showing strong, vigorous (and correct) voice and style. They make fascinating contributions to the disciplinary conversation on the topic at hand.
- **B papers** demonstrate all the strengths of A papers, at a less successful level of execution. Their imagination and creativity may be less even, and their style may be less strong or vivid. They may demonstrate minor lapses in correctness.
- **C papers** represent adequate answers to the writing prompt. These papers accomplish what the assignment asked for, and they do so with reasonable creativity and adequately correct and graceful prose.
- **D and F papers** will receive this stamp:



As a rule, I am normally fairly quick about returning graded papers. Please know that I take the job of grading your work extremely seriously, and I take as much care in executing that job as I can. But do know this: I take it as my main responsibility to tell you (with as much care and grace as possible) when your work is strong and when it is weak. I *greatly* encourage you to come and discuss your writing with me.

## Plagiarism & Cheating

Submitting work that is not your own is *absolutely* unacceptable, and will be punished to the highest degree. Your writing style is unique, so it's usually easy for me to recognize plagiarism, whether it's a paper retrieved from the Internet, ideas and/or language copied from an undocumented source, or assignments written by friends. You are expected to write all of your own work, to document sources appropriately, and to act with full honesty and integrity as a college student. My Google kung-fu is stronger than yours, and I always find at least one student every semester who plagiarizes. *AT A MINIMUM* it will mean failure of the assignment and expulsion from the class for two (2) class sessions. The case will also be handed over to Student Services with the recommendation of dismissal from SRJC. I take plagiarism very, very seriously. **DO NOT DO IT.** A full copy of SRJC's policy toward cheating and plagiarism can be found here: <http://www.santarosa.edu/admin/scs/>. Please take responsibility for your education and do your own work.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you need disability-related accommodations for this class (e.g. note-taker, test-taking services, special furniture, etc.), please provide me with the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) as soon as possible. You may also speak with me privately during office hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD is located in Jacobs Hall, Room 101.

## Final Note

I reserve the right periodically to alter the syllabus and/or policies. For this reason, it's important for you to keep up on class business.

# **STUDENT CLASS POLICY AGREEMENT FORM**

Directions: Read, sign, and return this form to class on Tuesday 9/11/18.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, attest that I have read and understand the class policies of Jacob Aharonian's English 1B course. By signing below, I agree to follow the class policies and to abide by the consequences set forth in the syllabus for failing to follow the policies.

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*Student Name*

*Date*

English 1B  
Fall 2018  
*The Family Essay*

*"All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."*  
~Leo Tolstoy

As an introduction to your writing style, your assignment is as follows:

Write briefly on a unique trait, quirk, tradition, funny story, etc. that is part of your family story. Our readings for this semester will focus on all the messiness and beauty that family can provide--I'd like you to do the same. Your essay could focus on something mundane, beautiful, tragic or funny...whatever comes to mind.

In a two-page (maximum) essay, identify the particular element in your own family life to write on and elaborate upon it. Feel free write this however you'd like: reflective, essay format, etc.—I just want to get a sense of your identity as a writer, and begin to immerse you in some of our themes for this semester.

DUE: Tuesday 9/11

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