

## **English 101B: Introduction to Literature**

Ohlone College  
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**Required Books:** Books can be ordered online from the Ohlone College Bookstore. There are 2 required books for the course:

- Literature for Composition 8th Edition, Barnet, Burto, and Cain

This anthology includes readings for the short story, poetry, and drama units, as well as valuable information about writing about literature and sample essays. You will need to use it right away and throughout the class.

Important: Buy this textbook through the college bookstore, as it comes bundled with access to MyLiteratureLab--an online program with lectures, interactive readings, and sample essays that will be required for the class.

- Watching TV with the Red Chinese, Whisnant

This is the novel for the course, which we will read later in the semester. But buy it now so you will have a copy when you need to read it.

### **Course Requirements:**

- readings each week including literature, advice and guidelines for writing about literature, and postings by students and the teacher in the class discussion area
- weekly online discussion postings, usually two per week
- 4 essays

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Write a well-organized, critical essay which states a clear thesis about a work of literature supported by textual evidence.
2. Analyze, criticize, and advocate ideas about those works of literature.
3. Analyze the novel, short story, poetry, and drama and apply appropriate literary concepts to specific works of literature both in online discussion and writing.
4. Participate in literature, art, music, and other cultural activities for personal and social purposes.

### **Course Content:**

English 101B is a reading, writing, and critical thinking course designed to introduce you to the literary genres of short story, poetry, drama, and fiction. You will read, discuss, analyze, and, hopefully, enjoy literature. You will also learn to effectively express and support your ideas about literature in writing.

**Class Format:**

This class is taught entirely online through WebCT course management software. No face-to-face meetings are required. In order to familiarize yourself with online learning and with the WebCT software, it is strongly recommended that you review the information on the Ohlone Online website

<http://www2.ohlone.edu/instr/onlineeducation/>

especially the following: 1) Getting Started, 2) Orientation to WebCT, and 3) how to login to WebCT. It is highly recommended that you take the online Orientation for WebCT,

[http://www2.ohlone.edu/instr/onlineeducation/students/online\\_orientation.html](http://www2.ohlone.edu/instr/onlineeducation/students/online_orientation.html)

especially if you are new to using WebCT. Also, check out the Student Resources page.

<http://www2.ohlone.edu/instr/onlineeducation/students/index.htm>

If you have any problems logging on or using the online software, contact the Help Desk

<http://www2.ohlone.edu/instr/onlineeducation/helpdesk/>

as soon as possible: (866) 259-6244. You can call toll free 24 hours a day to get help!

**Class Work:**

Plan to spend about 12 hours each week doing work for this course. Most of the work, such as reading, can be done offline. Deadlines will be set each week for completing reading assignments and for participating in online class discussions. Students must meet these deadlines to receive full credit for their online discussions.

**Weekly Readings**

Each week you will be assigned reading in one of the required books, Literature for Composition or Watching TV with the Red Chinese, or on the online site associated with the textbook: MyLiteratureLab. These assigned readings take the place of lecture, providing advice about how to read, think, and write about the literature we read.

Reading will also be supplemented by visiting websites or participating in other online activities.

**Online Discussions**

Each week you will write a response to the readings and/ or a response to other students, and post your response in the discussion area. This is how we (students and teacher) will discuss the literature as a class. The discussion area will also serve as a place to practice writing skills and to get feedback from the teacher on your writing before you submit an essay. You should read all students' posts in the discussion area each week, as well as the teacher's replies to students' posts.

**Essays**

After each unit in the class--short story, poetry, drama, and novel--you will write an essay about the literature we have read and studied. You will have a choice of topics and a variety of approaches for writing about the literature. Essays will be submitted to the teacher and will constitute a large portion of the overall grade for the class.

**Student Conduct:**

Since you will be communicating with the instructor and with other students online, you must be familiar with netiquette. Read the Core Rules for Netiquette

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

and know that students who violate these rules, especially by perpetuating "flame wars" or by being rude in an online discussion, will have their messages deleted or, if after warnings their conduct does not improve, will be asked to leave the class.

Also, since you will be writing about literature, you should be familiar with quoting and citing sources and know how to avoid plagiarism. For a quick review, read Plagiarism: What It is and How to Recognize and Avoid it.

<http://www.indiana.edu/%7Ewts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

This class is structured so that students can--and should--use their own ideas, in reference to the literature we read. But if you feel the need to research, always quote when you use someone else's words and always acknowledge your sources of information when you use someone else's ideas. It is never acceptable to copy ideas or cut and paste words from others' writing. Students who plagiarize will most likely fail the class.

Please read one professor's response to a fictional student who plagiarized a paper in an English class to understand why plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense, one that defeats the purpose of getting an education: Dear Plagiarist.

<http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2009/07/02/couser>

Personally, I share this professor's feelings and beliefs about plagiarism--students, particularly at this advanced level, should be capable of developing their own ideas in response to the literature and, if they feel the need to consult other sources, should know how to use these wisely and with documentation, if need be.

**Grading:**

Most students will do well in this class if they do all the readings, "attend class" regularly by participating in the online weekly discussions and receive passing grades on their papers.

- Online Discussion Posts= 20%

Grades will be determined by the student's complete, timely, and appropriate participation each week. That is, if a student posts in response to the week's assignments, meets the deadlines, and fulfills the guidelines for the weekly posts, he or she will receive full credit. Think of this as class discussion--make a good faith effort to respond thoughtfully and carefully to the literature and to classmates' ideas, just as you would in a traditional classroom.

- Short Story Essay= 20%

- Poetry Essay = 20%

- Drama Essay = 20%

- Novel Essay = 20%

Essay grades are determined by the student's ability to thoughtfully address a given topic and to effectively express ideas in writing. In other words, unlike the online discussion posts, you will be evaluated and graded on the content of your ideas and on your writing.

**IMPORTANT:** A student must have at least a 70% average on the essays. A student with an essay grade average of less than 70% will NOT pass the class.

**Instructor Contact:**

Email is the best way to contact me. I check my email at least twice a day: once in the early morning and once in the late afternoon or early evening. I can usually respond to an email message within 24 hours. On the weekends, however, I may not always be able to check my email. Once you are registered for the class, you should email me from inside WebCT. If you are having problems with WebCT, though, you can always email me through Ohlone: [akuehner@ohlone.edu](mailto:akuehner@ohlone.edu) . You may also phone me at my campus number: (510) 979-7436. If I am not in, leave a voicemail message. Of course, students are welcome to drop to see me during office hours.

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