

**English 101B: Introduction to Literature**  
**Ohlone College | Prof. Alison Kuehner**  
**Sp. 2012 | TTh 11:45-1:50 | Rm. 2201**

**Contact Information**

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**Office:** Room 2321

**Office Hours:** Mon 11-12; Tues/Th 10:30-11:30

**English Learning Center Hours:** Wed. 11-12:30

**Books**

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Buy the following two books in the Ohlone College Bookstore or online as soon as possible. If a text is not on the shelf, ask a bookstore employee for assistance.

- *Literature for Composition*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, Barnet et al
- *The White Tiger*, Aravind Adiga

**Course Description**

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English 101B is a reading, writing, and critical thinking course designed to introduce you to the literary genres of short story, poetry, drama, and the novel. You will read, discuss, analyze, and, I hope, enjoy literature. You will also effectively express and support your ideas in writing. Success will depend on your participation, cooperation, regular attendance, and hard work. Because this is a four-unit course, plan on approximately eight hours of homework a week.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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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 discussion and writing.
4. Participate in literature, art, music, and other cultural activities for personal and social purposes.

**Reading and Reading Responses**

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Come to class having carefully read the assigned literature and prepared for discussion. To sharpen your analytical reading and writing skills, you will be asked to respond in writing to the literature. Most often, you will be expected to write a reading response as homework, but occasionally responses will be assigned in class. I will collect and comment on your writing. Work is due on the day the reading is discussed. Late work

will receive partial credit. Your responses will be invaluable in preparing for discussion, generating ideas for essays, and developing effective writing skills.

### **Presentations**

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For the first three units in the class--short stories, drama, and poetry--you will work in student groups to analyze and present the literature to the rest of the class. This should be a fun and effective way to analyze and discuss the readings. You will be graded on your group's work: on preparation for the presentation and on the presentation itself.

### **Essays**

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All the paper assignments will be given in class handouts, along with materials to help you write each paper and sample student essays to show you what good papers look like. The textbook, too, has excellent advice for writing about literature and model student papers.

- You will be expected to write four essays.
- Work is due in class on the day noted in the schedule, unless changes occur.
- You may turn in one late paper without a penalty but that's it—no excuses, no exceptions.
- If a paper is returned marked "R", it must be rewritten for a grade. Please make an appointment with the instructor to discuss how to revise the paper. If the paper is not rewritten within two weeks, the grade will automatically be a "D".
- Save all papers until the end of the semester. If there is a disagreement about the recording of a grade, you should be able to produce the paper in question. Also, it is a good idea to make a copy of your papers before handing them in.
- Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, will not be tolerated. Any paper which is plagiarized, even in part, from another student's work or from a published source, will result in you failing the assignment and having a letter placed in your academic record.
- Anyone missing more than one essay or failing two papers (C- is the lowest passing grade), will not pass the course.
- All essays must be typed or computer printed on good quality 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Type only on one side of the paper, double space, and leave 1" margins all around. Staple the pages together in the upper left-hand corner, and no plastic folders, please! Proofread carefully for typos and errors. Follow the guidelines in *Literature for Composition* "Basic Manuscript Form" & use MLA style to format essays.
- Emailed or faxed essays will not be accepted.

### **Attendance**

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Class attendance is necessary for you to understand the reading and writing assignments. Missing class is not an excuse for not doing work or for coming unprepared. Check the syllabus to keep up with assignments. If you miss more than **six hours** of class, you probably will not receive credit for the course. It is **your responsibility** to withdraw if you feel you are unable to complete the course. The instructor, however, reserves the right to withdraw a student who misses too many classes or assignments.

## **Extra Help**

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If you feel you are not doing as well as you would like to in this class or you need extra help understanding the reading or writing assignments, help is available to you. You can do the following:

- Request a tutor. Tutors are students who have successfully passed English classes at Ohlone College and are trained to help other students with writing. You can arrange to work with a tutor for one hour per week at your convenience. This service is free. Go to the English Learning Center to request a tutor. The English Learning Center also has drop in tutoring and an English professor on duty to answer specific questions or to get help with writing.
- Buy an English handbook, available in the Ohlone College Bookstore.
- See the instructor during office hours or in the English Learning Center

## **Academic Honesty**

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Any student who violates the Ohlone College District Policy on Academic Honesty (reprinted below) by cheating or plagiarizing will fail the assignment or the class, and will have a letter placed in his or her academic file:

As a student at Ohlone College, you are expected to pursue your course work with integrity and honesty. Academic dishonesty occurs when a student attempts to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill, which he or she does not possess. The two most common kinds of academic dishonesty are "Cheating" and "Plagiarism." Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent means. Plagiarism is representing the work of someone else as your own and submitting it to fulfill academic requirements. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty and for consulting with instructors about questions or concerns.

## **Grades**

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Since this is a composition course, your grade is based primarily on your written work.

Short Story Paper =	15%
Drama Paper =	20%
Poetry Paper =	20%
Novel Paper =	25%
Reading Responses =	15%
Presentations =	5%

## Grading Standards

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**A:** Excellent work, with a clear, interesting, original thesis supported by sufficient, appropriate, relevant, logically interpreted evidence from the text. The organization and use of transitions demonstrate you have considered how you can most effectively present your ideas to the reader. When quotes are used they are smoothly integrated into your own analysis and properly introduced. An A paper is characterized by sophisticated control of language. The sentence structure is sufficiently complex and varied to express the complexity of your thoughts and sufficiently forceful to engage the reader's attention; word choices are lively, precise, and appropriate; and the essay is virtually free of errors. In other words, an A paper is not just good but outstanding in quality of thought and use of language.

**B:** Very good work, with a clear, unified thesis supported by sufficient, appropriate, relevant evidence and examples. The essay convincingly supports and explains your thinking. The organization and transitions are logical, though they may not be as consistently effective as in an A paper. When quotes are used, they are appropriately introduced and do not take the place of your own thinking. The B paper is characterized by competent use of language. The sentence structure is not overly simple or monotonous; word choices are generally precise and appropriate; the essay is free of significant errors. The B paper may have some outstanding qualities but be marked by flaws that keep it from being an A (for example, it may present a challenging thesis, but fail to present enough convincing evidence for its points); or it may be all-around good work, but lacking the complexity of thought and sophisticated language characteristic of excellence.

**C:** Satisfactory work, with a clear, unified thesis supported by adequate evidence and examples. The C paper is coherently organized, though it may lack smooth transitions. When quotes are used, they are appropriate, but they may sometimes overwhelm your own analysis or be clumsily introduced. The prose is generally clear and fluent; it may contain significant, but not overwhelming, errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure. The C paper may be good in some respects but weak in others (for example, it may be written in lively, competent prose but leave gaps in its analysis), or it may simply be an adequate response to the assignment.

**D:** Not passing work; not yet satisfactory. The D paper has a focus but may lack a clear thesis, coherent development or clear organization. It may also contain repeated and distracting errors in mechanics, usage, and sentence structure. Quotes are used, but may not be logically interpreted or relevant to the argument. A paper that primarily summarizes a work, rather than analyzes, is also not acceptable.

**F:** Failing work. The F paper may be unfocused, incoherent, and/or plagued by many serious errors; or it may simply fail to meet the assignment. Plagiarism (using material from another source and not giving that source credit), whether copying from a classmate or a published source, will receive an F.