

English 201B: Introduction to Literature and Critical Thinking (online only)
Summer 2017
English 201B: CRN 50790

Instructor: Professor Kathryn Zipperian

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Welcome: Hello, and welcome to English 201B online for the summer 2017 semester! My name is Dr. Kathryn Zipperian, and I look forward to working with you. My goal for this class is to introduce you to some great literature (short stories, plays, and poems) that I hope will inspire and entertain you; as well, I will strive to help you hone good writing skills that you can take with you out into the working and educational worlds.

Class Meetings and Workload: We will not have any on-campus meetings; this class is entirely online. However, unlike traditional classes held on campus, **online classes require almost daily logins and about 30-40% more writing than traditional face-to-face classes.** Therefore, for this class, plan to be available to log on almost every day of almost every week, and be prepared to write more than you expect.

Class Pace and Workload: Since this is a summer class that lasts only six weeks, you will have a lot of reading and writing homework each week to satisfy the 6000-8000 words you have to write over the course of the semester. As such, please be aware that typically you will be **reading between 30 and 50 pages** from our primary text **each week, posting written responses of between 200 and 800 words** to that reading each week, and in some cases writing *both* reading responses and writing essays. **Written posts and assignments are due during the week and on the weekend, so plan to be able to read and write during the workweek and post responses on weekends.** Since this class is entirely online, everything is in writing, so be prepared to interact A LOT in writing with your colleagues in the class and with me.

Course Description: This class provides an introduction to the study of literature with an emphasis in both literary composition and critical thinking. This course develops critical thinking and writing skills through the close study of major genres of literature: poetry, fiction, and drama. Students receive instruction in analytical and argumentative writing by studying literature and criticism and by identifying sound and fallacious methods of reasoning in assessments of literature.

Student Learning Outcomes (what you should be able to show by the end of the semester):

1. Demonstrate advanced critical thinking and reasoning skills in a literary context.
2. Write interpretive literary arguments using advanced rhetorical and composition skills.
3. Demonstrate information fluency in a literary context.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 201A (formerly English 1A, freshman composition) or equivalent with a grade of C or better.

Required Text:

John Schilb and John Clifford. *Making Literature Matter: An Anthology for Readers and Writers*. 6th edition (must be this edition). Buy this now! You will need it the first day of class!

The first reading and writing assignments are due the first Monday of the class, so you should **order the book before the class begins**, do the assigned reading as soon as you log in, and get started so that you do not fall behind.

Strongly Recommended Texts:

- Diana Hacker. *A Writer's Reference* (most recent edition with MLA updates) or any other reference text with the most-recent MLA format updates
- *No Fear Shakespeare: Othello* (can be found at Amazon)

Accessing Canvas (Cuesta's Platform for Online Classes) and Getting Technological Help:

- **Overview of Online Classes at Cuesta:**
<http://www.cuesta.edu/student/aboutacad/distance/>
- **Written Tutorial for Canvas (Online Platform):**
http://www.cuesta.edu/student/documents/distance_ed_students/Canvas_Quick_Reference_Students.pdf
- **Video Tutorial:**
http://www.cuesta.edu/student/aboutacad/distance/fac_de_resources/Student_Videos.html
- **Canvas Login:** <https://auth.cuesta.edu/idp/Authn/UserPassword>
- **Email Address for Help with Technology Issues:** support@my.cuesta.edu

Computer/Technology Requirements:

Canvas and its hosting infrastructure are designed for maximum compatibility and minimal requirements.

Screen Size

Canvas is best viewed at a minimum of 800x600, which is the average size of a notebook computer. If you want to view Canvas on a device with a smaller screen, we recommend using the Canvas [mobile app](#).

Operating Systems

- Windows 7 and newer (users on Windows 10 need to download the [Windows 10 Anniversary Update](#) to submit Canvas assignments)
- Mac OSX 10.6 and newer
- Linux - chromeOS

Mobile Operating System Native App Support

- iOS 7 and newer (versions vary by device)
- Android 4.2 and newer

Computer Speed and Processor

- Use a computer 5 years old or newer when possible
- 1GB of RAM
- 2GHz processor

Internet Speed

- Along with compatibility and web standards, Canvas has been carefully crafted to accommodate low bandwidth environments.
- Minimum of 512kbps

Screen Readers

- Macintosh: [VoiceOver](#) (latest version for Safari)
- PC: [JAWS](#) (latest version for Internet Explorer)
- PC: [NVDA](#) (latest version for Firefox)
- There is no screen reader support for Canvas in Chrome

Supported Browsers

Canvas supports the current and first previous major releases of the following browsers:

- **Internet Explorer** 11 and Edge (*Windows only*—please make sure your operating system is also current as noted in the [computer specifications](#) lesson; you may need to download the Windows 10 Anniversary Update to submit Canvas assignments)
- **Safari** 9 and 10 (*Macintosh only*)
- **Chrome** 52 and 53
- **Firefox** 48 and 49 ([Extended Releases](#) are not supported)
- **Flash** 22 and 23 (used for recording or viewing audio/video and uploading files)
- **Respondus Lockdown Browser** (supporting the latest [system requirements](#))

Other information about logging in can be found at this link:

http://www.cuesta.edu/student/aboutacad/distance/faqs_technical.html

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a verified disability—or if you need information about our DSPTS program—please contact the DSPTS program at 546-3148 (SLO campus) or 591-6215 (North County campus). If you have a verifiable learning disability, please contact me after you have talked to someone in DSPTS the first week of class to discuss strategies for mitigating challenges with timed work or accessing resources.

Drop Policies: Please log in on the first day of the semester, as that is when class officially begins, and begin doing the work. **If you do not log on the first day to show me that you are**

participating, you will be ***dropped*** from the roll sheet. I am sorry, but there are no exceptions. Campus policy ***requires*** that I take roll and drop students who are not active, so get engaged, log on, and start doing the work. This is your responsibility! Drops after the first week of class will be implemented when a student misses two or more written assignments (whatever form they take), either in a row or total.