

Kevin J. Bessenbacher  
Moorpark College  
Course Syllabus

English Dept. Chair: Sydney Sims  
Dean: Jane Morgan  
LLR-312

## English M01A – English Composition

Office Hours: 7:30-8:00 MW

Website: [profkev.com](http://profkev.com)

email: [kjb@profkev.com](mailto:kjb@profkev.com) (put “English” or “M01A” as the subject)

### Required Texts:

- ***Interpreter of Maladies***, Lahiri, ISBN# 0-395-92720-X
- ***Lessons in Writing***, Goodwell, [link](#)
- ***Ethics for the New Millennium***, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, ISBN# 1-57322-883-4
- **Readings**, downloadable from the [schedule page](#) (linked by Author’s Last Name)

### Course Description:

- Prerequisite: completion of English M02 (C or better) or appropriate skill level demonstrated through the English placement process.
- Emphasizes expository writing and research, demonstrating principles of thesis and support, rhetorical organization, control of diction, clear sentence and paragraph construction, and command of the conventions of English usage. Develops analytical and interpretive reading skills.
- Student Learning Outcomes: identify and discuss the thesis and main supporting points of a published essay; write an essay that (a) is thesis-driven, (b) is clearly organized, (c) is supported by specific evidence, and (d) follows the conventions of Standard Written English; write a research paper that (a) effectively incorporates relevant research and (b) follows MLA format for citations and Works Cited page.

### Course Procedures and Policies:

- Attendance:  
Enrolled students WILL BE DROPPED if they do not show up for the second class meeting (or email me at least one day in advance asking to stay in the class).

Allowed absences (those free of penalty) will be equal to the number of meetings in one week of the semester. Each subsequent absence will result in approximately a 10 percent drop in Participation grade. Students with excessive absences may be removed from the roster. A student who leaves before class is dismissed will be counted as absent thereby losing any points accrued prior to departure.

- Grading:

Three Research Papers (MLA Format)	=	300 (100 ea.)
Participation	=	75
Reading Quizzes	=	75
Presentation	=	50
Total	=	<b>500</b>

**Research Papers (300 / 100 ea)** are essays of varying length, following strict MLA format. Approximately one week before the papers are due, students are required to bring a three page draft for peer review. Students who neglect to bring in a sufficient draft will lose one letter grade from the paper. The assignments for each paper can be found on the [class schedule](#) page of the website. Late papers will lose twenty percent the first week after which they become a zero grade; no emailed papers will be accepted; papers **MUST** be turned in to me or my mailbox before the end of class the day they are due. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Paper grading is based on the following scale:

Thesis	20
Structure	20 (intro, conclusion, transitions, arrangement)
Grammar/Punctuation	20
MLA Format	20
Content	20 (quality of information and backup: evidence, quotes)

ALL Papers will be turned in to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) on or before the dates they are due. Please see the [class schedule](#) page for login information. Papers not submitted online will be subject to the same penalties as stated above.

**Participation (75)** consists of contributions to class discussion. For every class meeting, students shall be prepared to orally demonstrate knowledge of the readings. Occasionally, various assignments will be counted toward this grade.

**Reading Quizzes (75)** take place at the beginning of class every day for which a reading from the text has been assigned. They are based on the assigned readings. These cannot be made up under any circumstances (tardiness, excused absence, etc.). The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

**Presentations (50)** will take place during the last days of class and should meet the time frame of **7 to 12** minutes. Points will be deducted for those who exceed or fall short. Students will be graded on **content** (the quality of information provided), **presence** (how well the content is conveyed), and **time**. Any extra props, though not necessary, are welcome.

- **Plagiarism:**  
All assignments must be the student's own work and can never have been turned in for a grade in any other class. Any plagiarized work will receive a zero grade which may result in removal from the college. There will be no discussion on the matter. Any copying that is not clearly quoted and referenced will be counted as plagiarized. See me, [plagiarism.org](http://plagiarism.org), or [Google it](#) for more information.
- **Conduct:**  
Talking out of turn will **NOT** be tolerated. A student who talks while another is addressing the class will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period thereby losing any points accrued during the portion of time before removal. A student who persists in talking will be dropped from the roster without exception.

**ALL** electronic devices (Cell Phones, iPods, Tablets, Laptops, etc.) will be turned OFF at the beginning of class. Vibrate mode is not considered off. A student whose device disrupts the class will only be allowed back accompanied by **cookies** for all class members on the day of the following meeting. A student who uses an electronic device while class is in session **WILL** be removed from the roster. See me **prior to class** for emergency cases (pregnancy, illness, etc.).

- **Title IX / Sexual Misconduct:** Incidents of sexual misconduct can involve students and employees and include: sexual harassment, gender/sexual orientation based slurs, social media harassment related to sex/gender/sexual orientation/gender identity, sexual assault of any type, stalking (including text/digital stalking), dating/domestic violence, gender/sex-based hate crimes, etc. If you or another student has experienced any of these types of events, regardless of where they occurred or who the perpetrator may have been, please immediately contact your instructor, Dean or the Title IX Coordinator: Jennifer Kalfsbeek-Goetz ([jkgoetz@vcccd.edu](mailto:jkgoetz@vcccd.edu)). It is the responsibility of the College to investigate the matter and provide support and appropriate assistance to the student who may have been affected. Questions? Visit our website on TIX/Sexual Misconduct: [MC Title IX / Sexual Misconduct website](#) .
  
- **STUDENT TECH SUPPORT for online, hybrid and classes that use D2L and Canvas:** Moorpark College has technical support for students studying online or using D2L or CANVAS in their classes! Contact INFO:
  - Phone: 805-553-4188; Email: [MOnlineSTUDENTsupport@vcccd.edu](mailto:MOnlineSTUDENTsupport@vcccd.edu);  
Walk-in location: AA-101.
  - Emails and calls during off hours will be returned within 1 regular business day.

I hereby reserve the right to alter any of the conditions found herein as I see fit to ensure a prosperous learning environment throughout the semester.