

Kevin J. Bessenbacher
Moorpark College
Course Syllabus

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

English M01B – Lit-Critical Thinking / Composition

Office Hours: 7:30-8:00 MW

Website: profkev.com

email: kjb@profkev.com (put “English” or “M01B” as the subject)

Required Texts:

- ***Norton Introduction to Literature Portable***, Mays, 12th ed. ISBN# 978-0393938937
- ***Lessons in Writing***, Goodwell [link](#)

Course Description:

- Prerequisite: completion of English M01A (C or better).
- Develops critical thinking and writing skills in close textual analysis of issues and themes in fiction, poetry, and drama as well as in non-fictional literature and literary criticism. Reviews deductive and inductive reasoning, recognition and avoidance of logical fallacies, and relationships between language and meaning while emphasizing detailed critical analysis.
- Student Learning Outcomes: identify the elements of literature in a specific work-- character, setting, theme, plot, etc.--and discuss their significance to the work; identify and discuss the thesis and main supporting points of a literary-critical essay; write a literary-critical essay that (a) is thesis-driven, (b) is clearly organized, (c) is supported by specific evidence from the text, and (d) follows the conventions of Standard Written English; interpret, analyze, and respond to the writing of others and incorporate the ideas of others in their own writing.

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 a 10 percent drop in Participation grade. Students with excessive absences may be removed from the roster. Students who leave before class is dismissed will be counted as absent, thereby losing all points accrued before their departure.

- Grading:

Three Papers (MLA Format)	=	300 (100 ea.)
Participation	=	75
Reading Quizzes	=	75
Presentation	=	50
Total	=	500

Papers (300/100 ea) are typed essays varying in page 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. Students have one week to turn in late papers 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 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. Informed questions are relevant and qualify as contributions.

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 or unexcused absence, etc.)

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. A digital media center will be available for PowerPoint® and similar presentations. Students should ensure that they are speaking for at least **7** minutes.

- 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 stolen. See me, plagiarism.org, or [Google it](#) if you have any questions at all.
- 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, PDAs, 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). 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;
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.