

Dec. 28, 2017



Dear Students,

You are receiving this e-mail because you are either enrolled in English B2: Advanced Composition and Critical Thinking for spring or because you are on the class waitlist. Eng B2 is a team-taught course by professors Kathy Freeman and Michael Harvath, and we look forward to meeting you. Here is important information you need to know about the books, the waitlist, the class, and its theme, which as you can see will be "The Seduction of the Vampire."

Books

You will have to buy the required books for the class from Amazon or another online retailer since the BC bookstore will not carry these. We also have two students from fall who are willing to sell you their books (see attached "Students Selling B2 Books"). The three required books are:

- 1) *The Essential Dracula: The Definitive Annotated Edition of Bram Stoker's Classic Novel* by Bram Stoker and Leonard Wolf (1993). ISBN: 9780452269439. There are many different versions of *Dracula* out there, and this annotated edition is the one we expect you to read for our class since we expect you to read Wolf's detailed notes, too.
- 2) *The Vampire Defanged* by Susannah Clements (2011). ISBN: 9781587432897.
- 3) *Dead Until Dark (Sookie Stackhouse/True Blood Book 1)* by Charlaine Harris (2001). ISBN: 9780441008537.

Please order *The Essential Dracula: The Definitive Annotated Edition of Bram Stoker's Classic Novel* and *The Vampire Defanged* now to have these when class begins. **These will be the first books we will use.** The easiest way to find these books is to do an Internet search just using the ISBN numbers or by using the complete titles, since you will find numerous versions of *Dracula*.

Waitlist

In case you are on the waitlist and you are not sure if you will get into the class, we will place several copies of all three texts on reserve for you in the BC library. You will be able to check out a copy from the library circulation desk for an hour, photocopy the assigned reading, and return the book to the circulation desk. Copies cost 10 cents a page in the library. That will save you the expense of buying the books until you know if you are in the course.

All students in the class and on the waitlist are expected to attend class and complete assignments the first three sessions or they will be dropped. We expect a few students may drop after reading this e-mail and hearing about the course and its workload. The waitlist for Eng B2 is limited to five students, but unless there are five students in the class who drop, all of those who are on the waitlist will not get into Eng B2 this semester. Those on the waitlist can check Banner occasionally to see if students in the class drop.

Important Class Information

Eng B2, CRN 31293, meets 1-3:05 p.m. TTh in Humanities 3. Eng B2 is a four-unit advanced composition and critical thinking course taught by a team of instructors. Each team picks its own umbrella topic or theme, so the theme for one Eng B2 class may differ greatly from that of another.

Eng B2 counts for the critical thinking requirement for transfer to a CSU or UC. Philosophy B9 also counts for this, so we tell students to take Eng B2 or Phil B9, and not both, since both courses are in demand. Students must have passed Eng B1A with a "C" or better to take either course.

Since many students need Eng B2, if you are in the class or on the waitlist and you miss any of the first three class sessions, you will be dropped so another student can take your seat.

Class Disclaimers

The theme of our class will be "The Seduction of the Vampire," and we will focus on a number of vampire-related topics in literature, film, and television. Before we enter the world of the undead, Professor Harvath, an economics professor, will explain critical thinking concepts and how to use them, and Professor Freeman, an English professor, will explain how college-level reading, research, and writing can demonstrate critical thinking skills. You should come prepared with pen and paper to take notes and to write an in-class essay on the first day of class.

Since this is a critical thinking course, we expect to examine a number of viewpoints on topics that relate to vampires in literature and media. However, we realize that our topic may not be appropriate for everyone. You may feel uncomfortable with the subject matter for religious or personal reasons. If that is the case, we encourage you to drop this class and take another Eng B2 section in the future that covers a different umbrella topic.

The readings, images, music, and videos shared in this class will be controversial at times. You should not take this class if you are uncomfortable with or offended by religious themes, graphic violence, death, sexual themes, nudity, profanity or other offensive language, the sight of blood, or blood-sucking vampires in general.

Besides discussing these readings, films, and videos, we may work with students individually and in groups during class to improve their writing. Examples of student writing from our class (no names will be used) may be projected on the television for discussion. During peer review, your writing will be shared with other students who will offer constructive criticism. We also may quietly discuss your work with you individually as other students work. If sharing your work with peers upsets you, or if discussing your work one-on-one with an instructor during class makes you uncomfortable, please take Eng B2 from someone else.

Eng B2 Workload

We have attached the Class Guidelines and Calendar, and these reflect why Eng B2 is one of the most challenging courses offered in the English Department. To determine the workload for any college class, a good guideline to follow is to multiply the number of class units by three to determine how much time a class actually takes each week. Using this, you can expect Eng B2, a 4-unit class, to take at least 12 hours a week (four hours in class and eight hours a week for homework). In other words, think of this class as a part-time job.

If you are "shopping" for units, overloaded with other classes, work more than a few hours a week, have many family, personal, or school obligations, or are otherwise ill-prepared to complete this rigorous course, please drop Eng B2 now out of consideration for others who need it to transfer.

You will write 8,000 words in this course. You will write three essays and two longer papers, and these will make up most of your class grade. In addition to the writing, you can expect daily reading quizzes, in-class exercises, individual class presentations, and other homework assignments. Due to our grading workload, we do not expect to assign extra credit work.

You will be expected to actively contribute to the learning that occurs by contributing to class discussion and working with your peers. You will be expected to use the BC library to research and select acceptable college-level sources. All research sources must be found through the BC library. Specific guidelines for each assignment will be handed out.

Because you have taken Eng B1A or have placed into Eng B2, you also are expected to know current MLA rules for writing research papers, how to use the BC library's online databases for finding scholarly articles, and how to write logically and coherently with a minimum of writing errors. While we will review some writing, research, and MLA basics, we expect you to know most of these areas already. Students who need help with research will be encouraged to sign up for free library research workshops. Students who need help with writing will be encouraged to receive free tutoring through the campus Writing Center or BC's Tutoring Center.

This course is challenging for students and instructors, and we are excited about teaching it. While Eng B2 involves a great deal of work for all of us, it also offers the chance to read about vampires.

If this course sounds like it will simply drain the life out of you, please drop it now so a student on the waitlist can take it. However, if Eng B2 is the type of class you can't wait to sink your teeth into, order your books now.

One final note: Professor Freeman will revamp her Eng B2 web page, which somehow seems appropriate for a class on vampires. She will e-mail you when the class page is once again alive and kicking.

Sincerely,

Professors Freeman & Harvath