

Syllabus for ESL Writing Class

Spring Semester 2021

The design for each class will be the same. In order for the teacher to help students learn to write, writing samples from each student must be submitted regularly.

During the Fall Semester, six essays by Mortimer Adler were presented for study. Each essay offered a treatise on How to Think About: God; Love as Friendship; Opinion and Majority Rule; Progress; Punishment; and Law. Students during the Fall Semester did not complete writing their responses to all essays. Each essay was given two weeks' time in which to respond. Other personal priorities did not allow all students to comply with this direction.

So, for the Spring Semester, students have two options for writing assignments. Options may be taken on a week-by-week basis.

Option 1: Choose an Adler essay for your response. The teacher will send these six essays to all students who register for the Spring Semester. This option allows 2 weeks for a response of 300-500 words in an essay from the student. Responses may be statements of agreement, disagreement, or simply commentary on the chosen essay. Students must declare the choice of an Adler essay in advance, in order to have the two-week response time for their writing.

Option 2: Students may choose to write a **weekly** essay of 100-300 words on a topic of their choice. Topics may include those to which the student wishes the teacher's commentary, including biblical passages, or essays on the student's perspective of another essay they wish to cite for the teacher to read before editing the student response to that essay. In these shorter essays, the student should state their position in response to a cited essay, or they should present a position on any topic they currently hold, or have held in the past, in order for the teacher to have a writing sample for review.

Option 2 has great flexibility for the student. Students may switch between Options 1 and 2 during the semester, recognizing the timing and number-of-words requirements. This seems to be the most flexible, and hopefully productive way of ensuring that regular writing samples are submitted. Students who do not present writing samples within any two-week time frame will be given last priority in terms of response time by the teacher. Each writing sample will be reviewed only once, with the teacher simply offering corrections to grammar and syntax. If any corrections are not understood by the student, the student should ask the teacher about them.

New: Short stories by noted authors will also be presented, from time to time. These may also be used by students for their response essays. Primarily, they will be offered as extra reading of good literature, intended to expand the students' vocabulary and to stimulate thinking.

The Bible Study class will read one book of the Bible New Testament together. Class time will be used for discussion and understanding of the passages selected in a particular week. Selected passages should be read before coming to class. For students unfamiliar with the Bible, the Book of John is an ideal book for discussion. If a student wishes to ask for the class to study a different book, it will be important to write a short statement of interest in that particular book and present it before the first class, via email to the teacher, Lana at goodwool@reagan.com. Any portion of the Bible may be used for a written exercise by any student.