



English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7 (ELAR) 7B Syllabus

Course Name

ELAR 7B

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7 – Semester B

Course Information

ELAR 7B is the second semester of this two-semester course.

Welcome to English Language Arts and Reading 7B. If you took ELAR 7A through TTU K-12, you have already been exploring the theme of how decisions impact our lives and the world around us. In ELAR 7B we will continue with this theme, and you will have the exciting opportunity to tell your own story! We will also cover interesting topics such as rhetorical fallacies, arguments, persuasion, and media to see how people are influenced in their decisions every day. We will end the semester with a research paper about a person of your choice. You will learn about this person and think about how events and choices had an impact on the kind of person they became.

Course Delivery Method

Online

Contacting Your Instructor

You may contact your instructor through the Blackboard messaging system. Technical support is available 24/7 at www.k12.ttu.edu.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, you should be able to:

1. describe conventions in myths and epic tales;
2. understand the difference between autobiography or a diary and a fictional adaptation of it;

3. understand the structure and elements of drama and provide evidence from text to support understanding;
4. use a variety of strategies to understand new vocabulary;
5. understand and use various verb tenses;
6. identify and write different types of sentences;
7. use correct punctuation and capitalization;
8. evaluate various ways that media influences and informs audiences;
9. use elements of the writing process to compose text;
10. write about your own experiences and write a personal narrative with a clearly defined focus;
11. write persuasive text with a clear position and arguments;
12. write an expository text;
13. write responses to literary or expository texts that demonstrate the writing skills for multi-paragraph essays;
14. understand plagiarism and how to avoid it;
15. develop a thesis or controlling idea, formulate a research question and research plan;
16. find and determine the reliability of sources;
17. provide sustained evidence from sources, using quotations when appropriate;
18. use strategies for developing drafts of papers;
19. edit and revise drafts in preparation for publishing;
20. create a multimedia presentation from your research.

ELAR 7 addresses the required Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These can be found at the [Texas Education Agency](http://www.tea.state.tx.us) website.

Textbook and Materials

Textbook(s)

The required textbook for this course is:

- *Literature: Texas Treasures, Course 2*. Columbus, OH: Glencoe, 2011. ISBN 9780078927751

Technical Requirements

- Internet access – preferably high speed (for accessing Blackboard)
- Email
- Microsoft Word for written assignments to be uploaded (You may also upload PDF documents created from other word processing programs.)
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://adobe.com))
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching/listening to course content)
- PDF app (free options available)

This course fulfills Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and some of the skills required include competencies in speaking and listening, research and writing, and media literacy. To complete some of the assignments associated with these TEKS, you will need access to the following technology. Please ask an adult for help operating these devices and software.

- Microsoft PowerPoint or online access to [Prezi](#) for a multimedia slide presentation
- Video camera for oral presentation

Local schools or libraries may be able to provide access to some or all of these technology requirements.

Some assignments will require you to upload a file, and it will be these assignments that will require the software or hardware listed above. It may be helpful to plan ahead by previewing these assignments to determine the type of device or software required.

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following:

- using a word processor
- Internet search engines and browsers
- creating PDFs (see **Requirements for Creating PDFs** on the course home page)

Course Organization

This course consists of five lessons and a final examination. Each lesson contains the following:

- Introduction and Instructions
- Learning Objectives and Curriculum Standards
- Learning Activities
- Assignments

Each lesson includes several activities that present content knowledge. Each lesson also includes multiple graded assignments to ensure that you learn the content that has been presented in the activities. Some of the assignments are automatically-graded quizzes, and some are written assignments or activities that your instructor will grade. Be sure you read all instructions carefully and ask your instructor for help if something is not clear.

Each lesson consists of several sections, each of which are followed by a lesson assignment. Lesson assignments will contain objective, short answer, and essay questions and can only be completed once.

I recommend that you use a spiral notebook for the literary terms and vocabulary words. The information you record in the spiral will provide an excellent study guide for the final exam.

Submission Procedures

All of your lesson assignments and practice exercises will be completed online. There are three types of assignments: objective (e.g., multiple choice), uploaded documents, and discussions.

Objective Assignments

Some exercises and assignments have multiple choice, matching, or fill-in-the-blank questions. You will need to read the instructions and choose your answer for these types of questions.

Some questions will require you to type longer answers into a text box. For these questions, you should type your answers into a word processing document with the lesson number and assignment name at the top. Save the document with your name and the name of the assignment. Then enter your answers online by copying and pasting into the text box provided. This will help prevent the loss of work should your browser or computer have problems.

Uploaded Assignments

Other assignments will require that you upload one or more documents. When you save your document to your own computer, please include your name and the name of the assignment in the file name. (e.g., JohnSmith_ENG7B_Lesson1_Essay, *without any spaces*). After you have saved your document, you can upload it by following the instructions on the assignment page. Please note that the assignments ask you to create specific kinds of files. It is very important that you read and follow all instructions for the submission of these files.

Discussion Assignments

Discussions allow you to interact with me and other students. For some assignments, I will ask you enter a response into a Discussion and then comment on the work of other students. You will receive a grade on the quality of your participation.

Course Outline

Please note that some assignments will be hidden from you when you start the course. As you move through the lessons and complete assignments, more will unlock for you.

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 1	What Makes a Good Story?	Three weeks

Lesson	Topic	Approximate Time for Completion
Lesson 2	Telling Your Own Story	Three weeks
Lesson 3	Persuasion	Three weeks
Lesson 4	Expository Texts and Media	Three weeks
Lesson 5	Research and Writing	Four weeks
Final Exam		

Assignment Schedule

Each of the following must be completed to complete the course. Items with an asterisk (*) indicate that these are summative assessments for the course.

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
1	1-3	Checkpoint 1 (Non-graded) Assignment 1.1a: "The Miraculous Eclipse" Reading Comprehension, Part I Assignment 1.1b: "The Miraculous Eclipse" Reading Comprehension, Part II Assignment 1.2: Perfect Verb Tenses Assignment 1.3: Literary Elements in Fiction — Epic Tales and Myths Assignment 1.4: Writing Assignment — "The Lark and Her Children" Assignment 1.5a: "Perseus" Reading Comprehension, Part I Assignment 1.5b: "Perseus" Reading Comprehension, Part II Assignment 1.6: Consistent Verb Tenses *Assignment 1.7a: Comparing "Echo and Narcissus" and "Orpheus, The Great Musician" *Assignment 1.7b: Critique and Oral Presentation
2	4-6	Assignment 2.1: Brainstorming Assignment 2.2a: "Zlata's Diary" Reading Comprehension, Part I Assignment 2.2b: "Zlata's Diary" Reading Comprehension, Part II Assignment 2.3: Choosing a Topic and Creating an Outline Assignment 2.4: First Draft of Your Narrative Essay Discussion Forum 2.4: Narrative Essay Peer Review Assignment 2.5: Transitions Between Paragraphs Assignment 2.6a: "New Directions" Reading Comprehension, Part I Assignment 2.6b: "New Directions" Reading Comprehension, Part II Assignment 2.7a: "Chanclas" Reading Comprehension, Part I Assignment 2.7b: "Chanclas" Reading Comprehension, Part II

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		Assignment 2.8b: Revisions Upload *Assignment 2.9: Publish Your Final Draft <i>(You won't be able to turn in your final draft until you've completed other assignments related to the Narrative Essay.)</i>
3	7-9	Assignment 3.1: Rhetorical Fallacies Assignment 3.2: Appositive Phrases Assignment 3.3: Analyzing an Argument — “All Together Now” Assignment 3.4: Adverbial Clauses Assignment 3.5: Parallel Structure Assignment 3.6: Properly Placed Modifiers Assignment 3.7a: Progressive Verb Forms *Assignment 3.7b: Write a Persuasive Letter Checkpoint 2 (Non-graded)
4	10-12	Assignment 4.1: Skimming and Scanning Functional Documents Assignment 4.2: Antecedents Assignment 4.3: Analyzing Media Assignment 4.4: Commas Assignment 4.5: Digital Media Assignment 4.6: Semicolons Assignment 4.7a: Visual Elements and Sound in Digital Media — Techniques Assignment 4.7b: Visual Elements and Sound in Digital Media — Online Video Assignment 4.8a: Transitions—Sentence to Sentence, Part I Assignment 4.8b: Transitions—Sentence to Sentence, Part II Assignment 4.9: Colons *Assignment 4.10: Writing an Expository Essay Assignment 4.11: Conjunctive Adverbs
5	13-16	Assignment 5.1: Turn in Your Research Topic Summary Discussion Forum 5.1: Post Your Research Topic Summary Assignment 5.2a: Turn in Your Research Question Discussion Forum 5.2: Post Your Research Question Assignment 5.2b: Turn in Your Research Plan Assignment 5.3: Evaluating Sources Assignment 5.4a: Plagiarism, Part I Assignment 5.4b: Plagiarism, Part II Assignment 5.5: Turn in Your Thesis Statement Assignment 5.6: Taking Notes—Direct Quotes, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing Assignment 5.7a: Fact and Opinion

Lesson	Weeks	Assignments
		Assignment 5.7b: Parenthetical Citation Assignment 5.8a: Turn in Your Research Chart Assignment 5.8b: Turn In Your Outline Discussion Forum 5.9: Research Paper Peer Review Assignment 5.9: Works Cited Page Assignment 5.10a: Turn in Your Peer Review Rubric *Assignment 5.10b: Turn In Your Final Paper <i>(You won't be able to turn in your final draft until you've completed other assignments related to the Research Paper.)</i> *Assignment 5.11: Turn In Your Multimedia Presentation <i>(You won't be able to turn in your multimedia presentation until you've completed other assignments related to the Research Paper)</i> Checkpoint 3 (Non-graded)
		Final Exam

Course Credit

The course grade will be calculated as follows:

- 50% coursework average;
- 50% summative assessment average, including the final exam;
- A passing course grade is 70 or higher.

Students must attempt all assignments in the course. The final exam will not be available until all assignments have been accepted and graded by the teacher.

Students who score below 70% on the final exam will be eligible for one re-exam opportunity.

Coursework

The graded assignments within each lesson are formative in nature. This means that they are designed to assist you in applying and demonstrating the lesson concepts, as well as identifying areas in which you need additional review. You may use all the lesson's learning activities to assist you as you complete the graded assignments.

Summative Assessments

Summative assessments are those that allow you to demonstrate mastery of the course objectives. For summative assessments, you will NOT be allowed to use the learning materials. These are opportunities for you to show what you have learned by that point in the course. Summative assessments may be proctored using the online proctoring system Proctorio. Information about Proctorio is provided in **Remote Proctoring** in the

Syllabus section of your course. The summative assessments for this course are as follows:

- **Summative Assessments (20% of Course Grade)**
 - Assignment 1.7a: Comparing “Echo and Narcissus” and “Orpheus, The Great Musician” (20 points)
 - Assignment 1.7b: Critique and Oral Presentation (20 points)
 - Assignment 2.9: Publish Your Final Draft (40 points)
 - Assignment 3.7b: Write a Persuasive Letter (35 points)
 - Assignment 4.10: Writing an Expository Essay (40 points)
 - Assignment 5.10: Turn In Your Final Paper (40 points)
 - Assignment 5.11: Turn In Your Multimedia Presentation (40 points)
- **Summative Final Exam (30% of Course Grade)**

Course Completion and Extensions

- Students may not complete the course in less than 30 days.
- All courses expire six months after the enrollment date. Student may purchase a single three-month extension for a fee.
- Extensions are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Academic Integrity

It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a most serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension.

“Scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.

Student Expectations

You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course regularly to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.

Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). Please review the basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). Ensure that your email messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful and respectful. Diverse opinions are welcome in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.

The following are prohibited:

- making offensive remarks in email or the discussion board;
- using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online;
- spamming;
- hacking;
- using TTU or Blackboard email or discussion boards for commercial purposes;
- using all caps (considered shouting in online communications); and
- cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.

Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the TTU K-12 Student Handbook.

Communication

- You can expect a reply from your instructor within 2 business days.
- Use the Blackboard Course Messages tool for sending messages to your instructor.

Submitting Assignments

You will submit all assignments through the Blackboard Assignment Tool, rather than by email. For assignments that require you to upload a PDF or other document, please title your assignment files “lastName_firstName_assignmentName.xxx (.pdf, .doc, .xl, .jpg, etc.)”.

Technical Difficulties

Getting Help

For student assistance with Blackboard, visit [TTU K-12 Support](#).

Computer Problems

A working computer is necessary for online coursework. Computer problems will not be accepted as a valid reason for failure to complete course activities within the allotted time frame. Identify a second computer, before the course begins, that you can use if you experience computer problems.

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs to be taken down for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing you of the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems, your course instructor will notify you.

Lost or Corrupted Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of technology failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students' own computer problems, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any disputes, the instructor may request or require you to resubmit the files. In some instances, the instructor may need to open another attempt within Blackboard, so communication with your instructor is critical in these circumstances.