

2021 Summer Assignments for English 101 Dual Credit IV

You will have two books to read. They are widely available in book shops and can be checked out at public libraries or bought in most bookstores. Half Price Books should also have them but call first. Amazon has them too. Note: Last year I used the same books.

Both are easy and enjoyable reads. All you must do is read the books carefully, take notes or annotate, and think about them a little. When you return you will be quizzed and/or will write about them. The quizzes and writing will add up to approximately the first 200 points for the quarter.

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell

This nonfiction work considers the reasons why people like Bill Gates become so phenomenally successful and concludes that it is actually not simply a case of their exceptional gifts or brains. All in all, *Outliers* refers to statistical outliers, the people and events that fall well outside of the normal range on a bell curve. The book will get you thinking.

We will spend a couple of days looking at the various arguments Gladwell makes and analyzing them. You will be expected to write responses to questions.

The Martian by Andy Weir

I hope you have not seen the movie or have not seen it recently. The book is a tremendous tale of a man's survival after being left on Mars by his crewmates. It uses plenty of real science and yet is also very funny and absorbing.

After you have read the book, you might want to watch the movie with Matt Damon. It is not quite the same as the movie. (Don't watch the movie first if you can help it.)

We will discuss the book in terms of its style, character development, plot, and themes. We will also look at what is actually going on regarding the exploration of Mars. We will look at plans to put humans on the planet and colonize one day and the arguments for and against these plans.

If you have difficulties, please contact me at moconnor@covcath.org

I check my e-mail about once a day during the summer, so don't expect an instant reply. I will be traveling a lot this summer and that might limit my ability to check email at times. Don't freak out!