



Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](#) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextbooks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Literature, the Humanities, and Humanity



Literature,
the Humanities,
and Humanity

Dr. Theodore L. Steinberg
SUNY Fredonia

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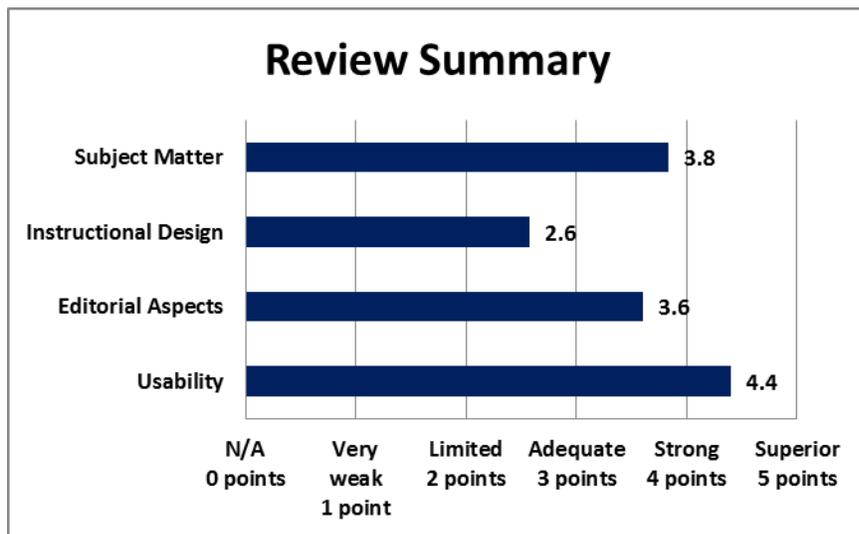
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



Date Reviewed:

August 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [ENGL 120](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?				X		
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?					X	

Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X	
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?						X	
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?						X	
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						X	

Total Points: 23 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The author thoroughly covers the subject matter and does so in a witty, conversational manner but at the same time makes sure content is understood.
- The Introduction to literature/of the text was quite enjoyable to read and puts the reader in the right mindset and open to learning about literature.
- The author does an excellent job of comparing and contrasting the familiar to the unfamiliar so readers can make their own links to the subject matter.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?					X	
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)			X			
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?			X			
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?					X	
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?			X			
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)	X					
Is the textbook searchable?					X	

Total Points: 18 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The textbook was visually appealing and laid out in an organized and coherent manner.
- Section headings were easy to find, therefore making it simple for one to go back to certain passages.
- The author also effectively used graphic highlighting (italics) for emphasis.
- In addition, the author used images where necessary (misconception of Shakespeare's tragedies).
- The author didn't offer any activities at the end of each chapter but did make his argument for not doing so clear.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					X	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)					X	
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)						X
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)		X				

Total Points: 18 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The textbook was well written and literate, but at the same time very easy to follow.

- The author did a good job of writing the material for an audience that was reading/learning about the material for the first time. He was very thorough in providing definitions and meanings to both concrete and abstract terms. Therefore, there is no need for a glossary.
- There are also limited graphics; however, the author uses his words to clarify meaning.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?						X
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)						X
Can the textbook be printed easily?						X
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?				X		
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?					X	

Total Points: 22 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- The textbook is very reader friendly. I was able to read it on my computer and I printed out the PDF to make notes on. I also checked to see if I was able to pull it up on my SmartPhone and it came up right away. Students should be able to access the text anywhere/anytime.

Overall Ratings	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?					X	
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
					X	

Total Points: 8 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- I like how the author is conversational and walks those that have a fear of literature through the subject matter.
- His examples to illustrate his points are easy to follow and his style of writing is on the same page with college students.
- In addition, you can tell by his tone that he has a real passion for literature and wants those that read the pieces to develop a passion as well.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- I do like to quiz my students and have discussion at the end of each chapter. Therefore, I would like to see some Chapter Activities/Discussion Questions at the end of each chapter.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#) (Please [register](#) in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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