

LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Spring 2015, English 102-10467

Instructor: Genette Merin

Location: D222

Meeting Times: Fridays 2:00-4:45pm

Office Hours: Fridays 12:30-1:45pm in room D205-E

Contact: GMerin@trcc.commnet.edu

Required Text:

The Bedford Introduction to Literature. Tenth Edition. Ed. Michael Meyer.

Course Description:

Students are taught how to read serious literature, how to develop an interpretation, and how to explain and support their ideas in writing. Through the study of selected works of fiction, poetry, and drama, students are expected to learn the traditional elements of textual analysis and become familiar with the ways in which other critical approaches affect interpretation. In addition to continued instruction in composition, students are required to read continually and write frequently in preparation for every class.

102 Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:

- Identify the literary genres of poetry, fiction, and drama, and some of the forms and structures within those genres.
- Use the basic elements of formalist criticism to analyze a work of literature. These elements include such things as theme, tone, point of view, characterization, and figurative language.
- Identify and employ other critical strategies beyond formalism to analyze literature, including some of the following: psychological, feminist, new historical, cultural, Marxist, post-colonial, reader response.
- Articulate in both classroom discussion and written assignments their perspectives about both meaning and structure in a work of literature, and support their perspectives with specifics from the text.
- Provide evidence of effective writing strategies including planning, revision, proofreading, and reflection on writing choices
- Write analytical, evaluative academic essays about literature which present interpretations and support them with evidence from texts.
- Use MLA citation to document references to texts.
- Locate, evaluate, and incorporate research from valid secondary sources in their academic essays.

Requirements:

All assignments are due at the beginning of each class, no exceptions. I do not except assignments by email. What is assigned for that day is due that day.

Formatting your papers:

ALL PAPERS/ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED

- All papers should be on white paper, printed, spell-checked for typos and other errors.
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font, and left-justified with one-inch margins.
- On the first page of the paper, in the upper left-hand corner, place your name, course title, my name, assignment name, due date (all in double space).
- The body of your essay is double-spaced.
- Your title should then appear two spaces down, centered on the page. Please note that the assignment name is not the title of your essay.
- Number pages beginning on page one in the upper right corner.
- Staple the essay pages together in the upper left corner.
Unstapled essays will not be accepted.
- Save paper. A cover or title page is not necessary.
- Use MLA citation to document sources.

Essays: You will be required to write three formal essays on topics generated from readings and class discussions. Essays 1 and 2 will be a minimum of 5 pages in length; Essay 3 will be a minimum of 6-8 pages. Topic proposals and criteria for these essays will be thoroughly explained during class. All essays will undergo a series of revisions in and out of the classroom. On the specified days when rough drafts are due you must **bring three copies** or you will not be able to participate in class and will receive a zero for that day. You may only receive draft credit if you are in class with copies printed before class on the days that drafts are due. **A third of a grade will be deducted from the final essay grade (i.e. an "A" paper will become an A-, a C- paper will become a D) if you do not come to class prepared with a draft.**

Informal Writings: You will be required to write several responses to assigned readings. While these responses are "informal" compared to "formal" essays, you are still expected to follow the elements required of an essay (i.e. introduction, body, conclusion, thesis statement, and supporting paragraphs), as well as MLA guidelines. Responses should be two pages in length and will be graded using check plus ☑, check ☐, and check minus ☐-.

In-Class Assignments: You will be required to participate in all classroom activities. These activities are opportunities for you to participate in collaborative efforts. You will be sharing your work, and at times, handing it in. Failure to do so will reflect in your final grade.

Grading is based on:

Assignments (In-class writing, homework, participation and attendance)	10%
Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	25%
Essay 3	25%
Midterm	10%
Final Exam	10%

“N” Grade Policy:

The N Grade is assigned to students when there is no basis for a grade. This would apply to students who never came to class as well as to those who didn't attend or participate long enough to be graded. The N grade is used to distinguish between earned failures (F), official withdrawals (W), and students who stop attending or participating before there is a basis for a grade. In most cases there would be no basis for a grade for students who stop attending or participating before the 60% point. Like a withdrawal, the N grade does not get included in a student's GPA but does count as a non-completed course.

College Withdrawal Policy:

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once class has met must provide notice to the Registrar. Withdrawal forms are available at the Registrar's office in both the campuses and at the office at the Sub-base. Non punitive “W” grades are assigned to withdrawal requests. An instructor's signature is required after the deadline has passed. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Students who do not obtain an official withdrawal, but simply stop attending classes, run the risk of receiving an “F” grade for the course.

Attendance Policy:

- Students are expected to attend all classes. If a student misses classes it will reflect in a lower final grade, regardless of when these absences occur and the reason(s) for which they occur, including illness.
- Class begins promptly, don't be late or leave early, it will affect your grade. **Coming to class late is disruptive.** If you are later than 15 minutes you will be marked absent.
- It is the student's responsibility to find out and do the assignment for any missed class.
- Editing Exercises, Quizzes and In-Class Writing Assignments cannot be made up.

Digication Learning Portfolio Requirements:

As a student you will maintain an online learning portfolio using a college-designed template in Digication. Through this electronic tool you will have the opportunity to monitor your own growth in college-wide learning. It may even help you determine a major that is best suited to you. You will be able to keep and maintain your learning portfolio after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. If your work is selected and

reviewed for assessment purposes, it will remain anonymous and private. Digication provides a “place” where you will connect your learning from the classroom, college, and life in general. Sometimes when you review all of the work you have done and think about it, you end up learning something different and perhaps unexpected. Please review your course outlines to determine what assignments to upload into the TRCC Digication template and please post your own choices, as well. Have fun in learning!

Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

TRCC Disabilities Service Providers Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
Matt Liscum (860) 215-9265	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Disabilities• Sensory Disabilities• Medical Disabilities• Mental Health Disabilities
Chris Scarborough (860) 215-9289	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Disabilities• ADD/ADHD• Autism Spectrum

Please note that an instructor cannot provide disability accommodations until a student provides the necessary paperwork from the college’s Office of Disability Services to the instructor. Also, accommodations take effect when the instructor receives the paperwork from a student- accommodations cannot be provided retroactively.

Be responsible for your learning!

Students are expected to be pro-active. Whether you have questions, comments, or concerns always communicate with your instructors. My office hours are a great time to stop by to discuss whatever may be on your mind. Please don’t be shy! I also encourage you to speak with me after class. Email is another efficient way to reach out. I usually respond within 24 hours. Please be mindful that any written communication with me should be professional and regarded as a formal communication that follows standard written English conventions.

Technical Problems:

My computer crashed. My printer ran out of ink. I can't open the document on my flash drive. While these issues do occur either at home or from an on-campus connection, they are usually **not** valid reasons for failing to fulfill the requirements for attendance on that day. Students are responsible for allocating enough time to complete assignments, and they should include the possibility of technical "glitches." Thus, students need to allow enough time to try again later or to travel to a campus computer lab or alternative place to complete the assignment and therefore avoid an absence for the day. Exceptions may be made by the instructor in the event of widespread computer viruses or some other large-scale event affecting TRCC's computer network, but exceptions will not be made for routine computer problems. PLAN AHEAD.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another person's words or ideas in your writing. If you use any ideas, thoughts, writing, quotes, or even paraphrase some other writer's thinking, you must acknowledge that person. Whether conscious or unconscious, plagiarism is a social/serious academic offence. Consequences for plagiarism can range from failing the assignment to failing the course. Please familiarize yourself with the college's policy.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

Sign up for MyCommNet Alert!

myCommNet Alert is a system that sends text messages and emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency. Additionally, TRCC sends messages when the college is delayed or closed due to weather. All students are encouraged to sign up for myCommNet Alert. A tutorial is available on the Educational Technology and Distance Learning Students page of the web site:

http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/div_it/educationaltechnology/Tutorials/myCommNetAlert/MIR3.html

The Writing Center/TASC:

Room: C117 (next to the Library).

Phone: 860-215-9082

Email: TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu.

Online tutoring: <http://www.etutoring.org/>

Weather Cancellations:

Call 860-215-9000 or go online to: www.trcc.commnet.edu.

Cell Phones:

Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be turned off before entering the classroom.

On a Final Note... Our Classroom:

Think of this class as a reading/writing workshop: A place where we meet to read/write, to talk about reading/writing, and to read one another's writing. I urge you to help me create a kind and encouraging environment, so that we may share ideas and learn from one another. This class is a place where ideas may flow freely and without judgment. We will be reading and discussing controversial topics, and I propose that we avoid debating issues and, instead, try to enter into points of view in order to understand them. "Debate" too frequently consolidates one in a previously held point-of-view, rather than opening up a receptiveness to new ideas and perspectives. Moreover, complex ideas generally have so many sides that an antagonistic approach to discussing them merely simplifies them out of their richness. This does not mean that we will always agree with one another, but we should try to disagree in ways that do not assume fixed and absolute positions. In addition, we shouldn't forget that thoughtful questions are as valuable as conclusive statements

Course Schedule

*Note: Course schedule is subject to change by instructor. What is assigned for that day is due that day. Some homework assignments may be assigned in class.

1/23

Introduction to the course
Wolff's "Bullet in the Brain" (handout)

1/30

Reading Due: Reading Imaginative Literature (1-7), Reading and the Writing Process (2049-2060), Writing About Fiction (57-60), Plot (77-86), Faulkner's "A Rose For Emily" (98-105), Updike's "A&P" (746-750)

Writing Due: Working with "A Rose for Emily" or "A&P", explain and support who the antihero of the story is.

2/6

Discuss Essay 1

Reading Due: Point of View (215-220), Symbolism (265-268), Theme (296-299), Chekhov's "The Lady With the Pet Dog" (224-235), O'Conner's "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (427-437), Mansfield's "Miss Brill" (308-311)

Writing Due: TBA

2/13

In Class Writing

Reading Due: Style, Tone, Irony (323-327), Carver's "Popular Mechanics" (327-329), Minot's "Lust" (333-339), O'Brien's "How to Tell a True War Story" (340-349)

Writing Due: Proposal for Essay 1

2/20

Writing Workshop

Writing Due: Rough Draft Essay 1: **BRING 3 COPIES**

2/27

Reading Due: Reading Poetry (755-760), Bishop's "The Fish" (767), Collin's "Introduction to Poetry" (776), Oliver's "The Poet with His Face in His Hands" (784)

Writing Due: Answer "Connection To Another Selection" found on page 784.

3/6

In Class Writing

Reading Due: Writing About Poetry (793-795), Word Choice, Word Order and Tone (801-806), Inez's "Back When All Was Continuous Chuckles" (807), Oliver's "Oxygen" (824), Keats' "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (826)

Writing Due: Final Draft Essay 1

3/13

Midterm Exam

Discuss Essay 2

Reading Due: Symbol, Allegory, and Irony (888-889), Plath's "Mirror" (879), Poe's "The Haunted Palace" (891-893), Duhamel's "How It will End" (902-903)

3/20

Spring Break: No Class

3/27

In Class Writing

Writing Due: Proposal for Essay 2

4/3

Spring Recess: No Class

4/10

Writing Workshop

Writing Due: Rough Draft Essay 2: **BRING 3 COPIES**

4/17

Reading Due: Reading Drama (1383-1385), Glaspell's "Trifles" (1385-1396), Hollinger's "Naked Lunch" (1404-1408)

Writing Due: Answer question 1 from "Connections to Other Selections" found on page 1408

4/24

Discuss Essay 3

Reading Due: A Study of Sophocles (1434-1441), *Antigone* (1485-1521)

5/1

Continued discussion of *Antigone*

In Class Writing

5/8

Writing Workshop

Writing Due: Rough Draft Essay 3: **BRING 2 COPIES**

5/15

Final Exam

Writing Due: Final Draft Essay 3