

# ENGLISH 102 – LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

Janet Hagen

Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30, W 3:30-4:30

*\*See below.*

Location:

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*\*For my evening classes, I will be available Saturday mornings for email consultations. Please email your questions or concerns by Friday evening and I will reply Saturday morning.*

Welcome to “Literature and Composition,” English 102. In this course we will focus on how to read serious literature, develop an interpretation of what we read, and then explain and support our interpretations in writing. The objective of the course is to develop critical thinking and writing skills. In the process of developing these skills, we will focus on the three genres of fiction, poetry, and drama from a thematic approach to understand the interpretive elements in the text and the conditions that affect the reader. During the semester you will also be given instruction in composition and will be required to write frequently.

*\*Prerequisite: ENG 101*

## Course Objectives

- Identify the literary genres of poetry, fiction, and drama, and some of the forms and structures within those genres.
- Understand the use of the basic elements of formalist criticism to analyze a work of literature, for example, theme, tone, point of view, characterization, and figurative language.
- Recognize and define other critical strategies beyond formalist criticism to analyze a work of literature, including some of the following: postcolonial, psychological, gender, feminist, new historical, cultural, Marxist, biographical, and reader response, and then to be able to use these various critical theories to analyze literature.
- Develop an interpretation about both the meaning and structure in a work of literature and support this perspective with specifics from the text in the written form of a formal essay.

## Required Texts

- Henderson, Day, and Waller. *Literature and Ourselves*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition
- Faigley, Lester. *The Brief Penguin Handbook*

## Other Required Materials

A two-pocket folder and a stapler

## Grade Percentages

Essays

|   |     |                                 |     |
|---|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 15% | Peer review                     | 15% |
| 2 | 20% | Class participation,            |     |
| 3 | 30% | assignments, & in-class writing | 20% |

## EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENT AND GRADES

**ESSAYS (65)%:** During this session you will be required to write three formal essays. As my expectations increase, so will the grade percentage awarded for each essay. Each essay is to be thesis driven and support an argument. The thesis statement should be in the introduction, and the body of the essay should contain paragraphs that support and develop the thesis with textual evidence cited correctly. The essay assignments will be handed out in class and will focus on the thematic units we will have been reading and discussing.

**PEER REVIEW (15%):** Before turning in your essay, you will be required to develop a formal typed draft of your essay to bring to class for a peer review workshop (along with four copies of your draft to share with your peers). Bring to class a total of five copies. This draft should be the best essay you can write and should be **completed** with the assigned amount of pages typed. In class you will be assigned into groups, where you will be responsible to give feedback to your peers based on the requirements I will explain and hand out during that class period. After you receive written input from your peers, it is expected you will then revise your essay. You will be graded on how effectively you review your peers' essays. ***If you miss a peer review day or come to class without a fully typed draft for review and four copies of that draft you will not be able to participate in peer review and it will affect your grade negatively.*** (You will not be allowed to leave class to go make copies. You must be prepared at the beginning of class.) Finally, when you turn in your final paper you will need to place it in a pocket folder with the original essay (before peer review), the actual five peer reviews, and your final essay to be graded.

**Paper Format:** There is no such thing as a hand-written formal essay. Periodically, I will assign hand-written writings (or will accept them), but all formal essays are to be typed on a computer or word processor, double-spaced (not triple or two-and-half spaces), with one inch margins and fonts no larger than 12 points. (A good example of what I will be expecting is font the size of Times New Roman 12.) Be forewarned that if you include extra spaces between paragraphs or type in extra large margins or fonts, etc., your paper will be returned without a grade or it will affect your grade negatively. All essays **must** follow MLA citation format (the citation format you learned in English 101). (See page 306 in Lester Faigley's *The Brief Penguin Handbook* for an example of the correct format for an academic essay.) If you need to make last minute corrections, handwriting on your essay is acceptable (as long as there aren't too many mistakes). ***\*Pet Peeve: Sloppy papers. It is your job to proofread your paper. If I can't read your paper due to careless errors such as spelling mistakes, I will return it.***

**CLASS PARTICIPATION and ASSIGNMENTS (20%):** A literature course such as this requires class discussion, with your input vital for the success of the course. Thus, I will expect that you will have read the assigned material before class and will be able to fully participate, individually and, if designated, in a group. Throughout the semester I will be assigning in and out-of-class informal assignments. Unless noted otherwise, you will be able to hand in these assignments handwritten. You will be graded on your work, both verbal and written, and in a group and as an individual. **Missed assignments cannot be made up.**

## OTHER POLICIES

**Deadlines:** There is no such thing as late work. If you have an emergency, please contact me before the due date to make other arrangements. Only in a documented emergency will I accept email submissions, which must be okayed with me ahead of time.

**Attendance:** In order for the class to be successful it is important that you attend regularly. You will be allowed two unexcused absences. After that your grade will be lowered one full letter grade for each class you miss. Six absences is an automatic F. **If you must miss class, please remember that you will still be held accountable for the material covered in class and all assignments that are due that day.** (If you leave during the night, it will be counted as one full absence.) My suggestion is that early on you find a friend you can contact to find out what you missed should you happen to be absent. I also suggest that you contact me via email. Also, keep in mind that the work we do in class, such as in-class writing or group work, cannot be made up, and it is a part of your grade. (Excused absences are the exception. An excused absent includes for example illness and/or injury. Please bring in a doctor's note or contact me ahead of time with written verification.)

**Tardiness:** *Please be in class on time.* It is very disruptive for everyone already engaged in an activity to have to stop because of late arrivals. Therefore, within the first five minutes of class I will take attendance. If you arrive after the five minutes, I will mark you late. Being late twice will equal one unexcused absence. Being late four times will equal two unexcused absences, etc.

**Breaks:** Because this class is lengthy, I will be giving a break halfway through the evening. Unless it is an emergency, please refrain from leaving the class at all other times. Doing so is disruptive and it will affect your class participation grade negatively.

**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.

*General Definition (Student Discipline Policy, section 2:10, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges)*

Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to

- (a) cheating on an examination,
- (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course,
- (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own,
- (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials,
- (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data,
- (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and
- (g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

**Tutoring:** Three Rivers has tutors trained to assist students in developing better writing skills. You can also access help via email at [TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu). Include your name, student ID, and brief explanation of the assignment

**Students with disabilities:** Any student with a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom modifications should see me about her/his disability within the first week or two of class. I will ask you to see one of the learning disabilities counselors on campus so that together we can work out an appropriate plan to meet your needs.

**Cell phones and beepers:** School regulations require that all cell phones and beepers be turned off in learning environments. If it is imperative for you to be available by cell phone or a beeper, please speak to me before class to arrive at a suitable agreement. (No text messaging either during class.)

**Final Note:** I have listed my e-mail address. Please contact me at anytime, and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Remember that it is to your advantage to come to me at any time with questions, concerns, or just to discuss your progress in the class.

# FALL SESSION 2007

*Please bring your books to class every day. If you do not have the text we are working out of in class, then you will not be allowed to participate in class activities and assignments.*

## AUGUST

### Week One

- 29 Introduction to course. What have we been reading and why do we read? What constitutes “serious” literature? What is the connection between reading literature and becoming better critical thinkers and writers?

## SEPTEMBER

### Week Two

- 5 In *Literature and Ourselves* read **Poetry** 12-21 (Formalist Criticism); Freedom and Responsibility 870; “The Unknown Citizen” 966; “The Conscientious Objector” 968; “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers” 973; “Immigrants” 975; “The Woman Hanging from the Thirteenth Floor Window” 976; “In Response to Executive Order . . .” 978. After reading the poems, choose one that most affected how you think about freedom and/or responsibility. In writing, first describe what the poem encouraged you to think about and then identify why, citing from the poem to support your ideas. The responses need to be typed and will be collected.

### Week Three

- 12 **Essays and Fiction** 3-12; “A Modest Proposal” 872 – answer Questions for Discussion, page 878, and respond to number 1 and 4 under “Suggestions for Exploration and Writing”; “Letter from Birmingham City Jail” 892 – answer Questions for Discussion” 905-906 and then **type** a response to 1. and 2. under “Suggestions for Exploration” 906. “Harrison Bergeron” 912

### Week Four

- 19 “A & P” 955; “On the Rainy River” 993; “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” 949; “Customs of the Country” 639

### Week Five

- 26 From *The Brief Penguin Handbook* read “Writing about Literature,” 300-310. Bring to class notes from the work you will be writing your literary analysis on.

## OCTOBER

### Week Six

- 3 **Peer Review** – bring to class FIVE copies of your essay and *The Brief Penguin Handbook*.

### Week Seven

- 10 **ESSAY ONE DUE.** Men and Women 263 (Gender Criticism). “Professions for Women” 266 – answer “Questions for Discussion” 270; “Love Is a Fallacy” 271; “Desiree’s Baby” 328; “The Yellow Wallpaper” 333; “Barbie Doll” 424

### Week Eight

- 17 “Breaking Tradition” 425; “Anniversary” 427; “A Temporary Matter” 377; *Trifles* 980

**Week Nine**

24 Research August Wilson. Bring in bulleted information about his life and work. Read *Fences* (179) in its entirety. Answer "Questions for Discussion," pages 232-234.

**Week Ten**

31 **Peer Review:** bring to class FIVE copies of your essay and *The Brief Penguin Handbook*.

**NOVEMBER****Week Eleven**

7 **ESSAY TWO DUE;** watch *The Piano Lesson*

**Week Twelve**

14 "Young Girl's Wish" 805; "Dead Man's Path" 623; "Naked Woman Playing Chopin: A Fargo Romance" 1093; "And of Clay Are We Created" 1273; "Latin Women Pray" 1302

**November 21 – No Class. Thanksgiving Holiday.**

**Week Thirteen**

28 **Peer Review:** Bring five copies of your essay and *The Brief Penguin Handbook*.

**December****Week Fourteen**

5 **ESSAY THREE DUE.** No exceptions.

*\*Final grades will be posted on the web December 31. If you would like your essay back right away, please enclose a SASE with it when you turn it in. Otherwise, you can pick up your folder in my office next semester.*