

English 102 – Literature and Composition

Professor Janet Hagen
 Office Hours: TR 1:00-2:30 p.m. and by appointment
 Phone: 860-215-9433
 Location: C 216
 E-mail: jhagen@trcc.commnet.edu

Students learn 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 learn the 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 and write frequently..

**Prerequisite: ENG 101*

Course Objectives

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

Read and think critically

- Demonstrate an understanding of the connection between reading literature and critical thinking.
- Use the basic elements of formalist criticism to analyze a work of literature, including theme, tone, setting, point of view, characterization, plot, and figurative language.
- Recognize and use other critical strategies beyond formalism to analyze literature, including some of the following: psychological, feminist, new historical, cultural, Marxist, post-colonial, reader response.
- Distinguish how different critical theories affect interpretation and levels of meaning; recognize the validity of using different critical approaches in literary analysis.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of reading literature presenting diverse perspectives.
- Formulate and articulate their own perspectives about both meaning and structure in a work of literature supported with specifics from the text.

Write critically and analytically

- Write responses that articulate their perspectives about both meaning and structure in a work of literature supported with specifics from the text.
- Write formal academic essays that articulate their arguments about both meaning and structure in a work of literature supported with specifics from the text.

Demonstrate information literacy

Further develop research skills by demonstrating an ability to:

- Recognize when it is appropriate to use outside sources.
- Evaluate sources for accuracy, validity, and academic relevance.
- Cite sources using MLA citation format.
- Employ strategies for avoiding plagiarism.

Apply the foundations of strong academic skills

- Identify the literary genres of poetry, fiction, and drama, and some of the forms and structures within those genres.
- Recognize how reading literature aids in the understanding of the human condition.
- Produce academic documents that adhere to MLA formatting conventions.
- Work with others to analyze literature and develop valid interpretations.

- Formulate questions that encourage critical thinking and a deeper understanding of literature.

Required Texts

- Henderson, Day, and Waller. *Literature and Ourselves*, 6th edition
- Díaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

IMPORTANT: You must have your books to participate in class discussions and assignments. Do not wait until the last minute to purchase *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, as you may have trouble getting it on time and will earn a zero for the days you come to class without it.

Other Required Materials/Information

A two-pocket folder and a stapler

Grade Percentages

Essays

1	10%	Peer review	15%
2	15%	Class participation,	
3	20%	quizzes, & in-class writing	15%
4	25%		

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENT AND GRADES

ESSAYS (70)%: During this session you will be required to write four formal essays. As my expectations increase, so will the grade percentage awarded for each essay. 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 copies of your draft to share with your peers). (Number of copies is designated on syllabus.) You will be assigned into groups, where you will be responsible to give feedback to your peers based on the requirements handed out. After you receive written input from your peers, it is expected you will then revise your essay. ***If you miss a peer review day, come to class late, or come to class without a fully typed draft with the required amount of copies, you will not be able to participate in peer review.*** (You will not be allowed to leave class either to make copies, no exceptions, such as “the computers in the lab weren’t working.”) Having a friend or relative review your paper does not count as peer review either. Finally, when you turn in your final paper, it must be placed in a pocket folder with the original essay (before peer review) and the peer reviews.

Paper Format: All formal essays should follow MLA format guidelines: double-spaced (not triple or two-and-a-half spaces), one-inch margins, and size 12 fonts. 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. ***Pet Peeve: Sloppy papers.*** For an example of what the formatting of your paper should look like see pages 34-39.

CLASS PARTICIPATION (15)%: Your participation (or lack of) in class will affect your final grade. (Expect to work in class by being prepared to participate in large and small group work, do in-class writing assignments, and take quizzes.) *Missed assignments and quizzes may not be made up.

OTHER POLICIES

Deadlines: All work is to be submitted on the day it is due at the **beginning of class**. If you come in late or submit the work after class, it will be considered late (which includes essays). Regular class assignments will lose a grade per day or automatically receive a check minus. Late essays will be given either a pass or a fail (C or an F). Quizzes and in-class work may not be made up. ****If you have an emergency, please contact me to make other arrangements. Only in a documented emergency will I accept late and/or email submissions, which must be approved by me.**

FYI “My computer crashed”. “My printer ran out of ink”. “I left the assignment on my desk.” “Printers aren’t working in the lab.” **are not valid excuses for late papers. PLAN AHEAD.**

Attendance: In order for the class to be successful it is important that you attend regularly. **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.** (An excused absent includes, for example, illness and/or injury and requires written verification.) Extended unexcused absences will affect your grade negatively.

Late Arrivals: *Please be in class on time.* Within the first five minutes of class I will take attendance. If you arrive after the five minutes, I will mark you late, which will affect your final grade. (I lock the doors.)

Breaks: **Unless it is an emergency, refrain from leaving the class at all times.** Doing so is disruptive and will affect your grade negatively.

Academic Integrity: See contract.

Tutoring: Three Rivers has an excellent writing center located next to the library, C117. Receiving help through email is also available. Include your name, student ID, and a brief explanation of the assignment and send your work as an attachment to TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu. (Because of the large amount of students receiving assistance, I recommend that you set up an appointment ahead of time; if you submit your essay via email give yourself 24-48 hours turnaround time.)

Cell phones: **Turn off any electronic devices not associated with the class** and put all phones away in your backpacks, etc. (It’s only 75 minutes of your life!) No laptops are allowed. If I should catch you texting there will be a consequence.

Class cancellations: If class is cancelled, a notice will be posted outside the door. I will also try to send you an email, so please make sure you have signed up for a TRCC email account. School cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on the TRCC homepage and also recorded on the school's main phone number: 860-215-9000. To receive a text message of closings and emergencies, sign into your Commnet account and follow the directions in myCommNet Alert.

Title IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibits sex-based discrimination of any kind in the educational programs or activities of federally-financed institutions, which includes Three Rivers Community College.

Three Rivers Community College will not tolerate any form of sex-based discrimination or sexual misconduct, [which includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence \(domestic violence, dating partner violence\), stalking, and sexual assault.](#)

How to Report an Incident

There is no time limit for reporting sexual misconduct. At any time, you may report an incident of sexual misconduct by contacting the Dean of Students or the College's Title IX Coordinator. For a detailed breakdown of the Title IX Coordinator's services, please visit the [Title IX Coordinator page](#) off of TRCC's homepage.

On campus contacts

Victoria Baker
Title IX Coordinator
 Three Rivers Community College
 574 New London Turnpike
 Norwich, CT 06360
 Room E-110, (860) 215-9208
VBaker@trcc.commnet.edu

Christine Languth
Director of Student Success
 Three Rivers Community College
 574 New London Turnpike,
 Norwich, CT 06360
 Room A-128, (860) 215-9260
Clanguth@trcc.commnet.edu

Local Confidential Counseling Resources

Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut

New London Office, 78 Howard Street, 2nd Floor, New London, CT 06320, Office: 860-442-0604

Hotline: 860-437-7766 or Toll Free (888) 999-5545

<http://www.saccec.org/>

***Disability Information**

*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

Fall 2015

You must bring the required books to class in order to participate.

SEPTEMBER

Week One

- 1 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?
- 3 In *Literature and Ourselves* read "Reading Literature," 1-5; Family 40; **Poetry** 13-17; Formalist Criticism 1128; "My Papa's Waltz" 130; "Nikki-Rosa" 138

Week Two

- 8 "The Gift" 139; "Future Connected By" 140
- 10 **Fiction** 9-13; "A Domestic Dilemma" 64

Week Three

- 15 "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" 106
- 17 Read "Writing about Literature" 21-39

Week Four

- 22 Peer Review - bring **4** completed typed and double-spaced copies of your essay (required to participate). (*The copies must be printed before class starts. If class starts and you are not prepared, you will not be able to participate in or receive credit for peer review, and you may not make up peer review by having a friend or a relative read your essay.*)
- 24 Men and Women 228; Gender Criticism 1130; "Barbie Doll" 323; "Abbot Academy" 327"; "Future Connected By" 141

Week Five

- 29 ***ESSAY ONE DUE** (in folder with peer reviews). Submit in Safe Assignment; "Breaking Tradition" 324; "Hills Like White Elephants" 297

OCTOBER

- 1 Désirée's Baby" 269

Week Six

- 6 ""The Yellow Wallpaper" 274
- 8 "The Birth-Mark" 256

Week Seven

- 13 *Vertigo*
- 15 *Vertigo*

Week Eight

- 20 Open day
- 22 **Peer Review** - bring **4** completed typed and double-spaced copies of your essay (required to participate). (*The copies must be printed before class starts. If class starts and you are not prepared, you will not be able to participate in or receive credit for peer review and you cannot make up peer review by having a friend or a relative read your essay.*)

Week Nine

- 27 ***ESSAY TWO DUE** (in folder with peer reviews). Submit in Safe Assignment;
Family 40: Drama 17
- 29 *Fences* – Read **all** of Act 1 and answer the questions on pages 197-98 on Act 1.
 Answers must be typed.

Week Ten

NOVEMBER

- 3 *Fences* – Read all of Act 2 and answer the questions on Act 2, 198-99. Answers must be typed.
- 5 Watch *The Piano Lesson* (if time allows for it)

Week Eleven

- 10 Finish *The Piano Lesson*. Read “The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson and type up what you think the main point of each section is and what details the author uses to support her claims. (Sections are divided by the small symbol between them. Also, read “Boundaries, Logistics, and Identity [. . .]” 207 and type an outline of the main and supporting points.
- 12 "Filling the Time: Reading History in the Drama of August Wilson" 212; "August Wilson's Women" 216; Type an outline of each of these essay's main points. (Identify overall main argument(s), main points that support it, and supporting evidence.).

Week Twelve

- 17 **Peer Review** - bring **4** typed copies of your essay (required to participate).
- 19 Read *Oscar Wao* pages 1-50

Week Thirteen

- 24 ***Essay Three Due** (in folder with peer reviews). Submit in Safe Assignment

**No class ~ Thanksgiving Holiday **

Week Fourteen

DECEMBER

- 1 Finish *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* before class.
- 3 Discuss

Week Fifteen

- 8 Discuss
- 10 Bring in outside sources

Week Sixteen

- 15 Workshop / peer review
- 17 **Final Essay Due** in Safe Assignment – NO EXCEPTIONS!!

***The syllabus may change at any time and you are responsible to stay current.**

FINAL GRADES WILL BE AVAILABLE DECEMBER 30. IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR FINAL ESSAY BACK RIGHT AWAY, PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH IT IN YOUR FOLDER.

Student Contract

Please read and sign acknowledging that you understand what academic integrity is and what the consequences are for violating it. (*Read this contract carefully, as it is a formal and binding contract.*)

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. In other words, **ALL** submitted written work must be your own; if you consult other sources, such as class readings, articles or books from the library, *material on internet databases or web sites, etc., these sources **MUST** be properly documented, or you will be charged with plagiarism and will receive a zero on the assignment and possibly an F in the course as well.
- (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.*

**Deliberately looking up information on a work of literature on a website and using that information in your critique constitutes plagiarism.*

By reading and signing this contract, I am acknowledging that I understand what the general definitions are that constitute Academic Integrity and that if I partake in any of these activities I will receive a zero. I also understand that repeatedly plagiarizing will result in failing the course (more than one time). Further, I understand that the Academic Dean will be notified of all incidents of plagiarizing and they will become a part of my permanent file.

NAME _____ DATE _____