

English 102 - Literature and Composition

Monday- Wednesday 3:30-4:45

Associate Professor Janet Hagen
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Office Hours: MW 2-3:30

Location: C 216
Phone: 860-215-9433

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	15%	quizzes, & in-class writing/work	15%
4	20%	Assignments	10%

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENT AND GRADES

ESSAYS (60)%: 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 *stapled* 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.

ASSIGNMENTS (10%): Homework assignments as designated on syllabus. (Other assignments may be given out in class.)

OTHER POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Digication Portfolio: 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.

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.**

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. (I lock the doors and you won't be able to get back in.)

N Grade: 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 stopped 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.)

Withdrawal Policy: Course withdrawals are accepted up until the week before classes end. This semester that date is May 12. Withdrawal forms are available online or at the Registrar's office. The withdrawal does not have to be signed by the instructor but it is strongly advised that

you speak with your instructor before withdrawing. If necessary, you can withdraw over the phone by calling the Registrar's Office. Emails and faxes are also accepted. If you are receiving financial aid, it is strongly recommended that you contact the Financial Aid Office before withdrawing. Withdrawal may affect your financial aid for current and/or future semester(s). It is the student's responsibility to confirm that the withdrawal has been received. Confirm that your withdrawal from a course has been processed by checking online at <http://my.commnet.edu>.

Academic Integrity: See contract.

Tutoring:

The Writing Center

Room: C117 (next to the Library).

Phone: 860-215-9082.

Email: TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu.

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

**You can submit your work to the Writing Center via email. Include your name, student ID, and assignment. Expect a 24-48 hour turnaround. Keep in mind tutors do not work weekends.*

Cell phones: School regulations require that all cell phones (and electronic messaging equipment) be turned off in learning environments. If it is imperative for you to be available by cell phone, please speak to me before class. **(No text messaging during class.)** (If your phone goes off or you text message during class, 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 your email address is current and listed in the school directory. (Please sign up for a school 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 these directions (located on the bottom left side):

My COMMNET ALERT

Please join our **new notification system that delivers critical information in the event of an emergency, including weather-related class cancelations**. The system delivers emergency messages through **text messaging** over cellular phones. Enrollment in myCommNet Alert is **free, voluntary, quick & easy**.

To **Create** your account on myCommNet Alert, select "**Create Account**" on the log in page. To **update** or **change** your myCommNet Alert profile, [log in](#) myCommNet Alert

***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) 383-5240	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Disabilities• Sensory Disabilities• Medical Disabilities• Mental Health Disabilities
Chris Scarborough (860) 892-5751	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Disabilities• ADD/ADHD• Autism Spectrum

Spring 2014 - you must have your books with you to participate in class

JANUARY

Week One

- 27 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? In *Literature and Ourselves* read "Reading Literature," 1-5. **Freedom and Responsibility** 693
- 29 Read “Letter from Birmingham City Jail” 708. Answer questions 1-6 under “Questions for Engagement, Response, and Analysis,” page 721

FEBRUARY

Week Two

- 3 “The Elements of Poetry” 13. “In Response to Executive Order 9066: All Americans of Japanese Descent Must Report to Relocation Centers” 761; “The Conscientious Objector” 758; “Ringing in the Bells” 759
- 5 “Elements of Fiction” 9; “On the Rainy River” 777

Week Three

- 10 Writing about literature 21-39
- 12 Peer Review: Bring three typed copies of your paper (required to participate)

Week Four

- 17 No class – Presidents’ Day
- 19 **Essay One Due** in folder with peer reviews. Men and Women 228; Gender Criticism 1130; "Barbie Doll" 323; “Abbot Academy” 327”; "Future Connected By" 141

Week Five

- 24 "Hills Like White Elephants" 297
- 26 “The Yellow Wallpaper” 274

MARCH

Week Six

- 3 "Desirée's Baby" 269
- 5 *Vertigo*

Week Seven

- 10 *Vertigo*
- 12 Discussion

Spring Break ~ March 17-23

Week Eight

- 24 Peer review – bring three typed copies of your essay
- 26 Drama 17-21. August Wilson *Fences*, 143 - Act I; answer questions under “Questions for Engagement, Response, and Analysis, pages 197-98 (for Act 1, scenes 1-4) (Typed)

Week Nine

- 31 *Fences* – Act 2; finish play and answers the rest of the questions. (Typed)

APRIL

- 2 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.) *minimum two pages

Week Ten

- 7 Read "Filling the Time: Reading History in the Drama of August Wilson" 212; "August Wilson's Women" 216; "An Interview with August Wilson" 219. Type an outline of each of these essay's main points. (Identify overall main argument(s), main points that support it, and supporting evidence.) (You do not need an outline on Wilson's interview.)
- 9 *The Piano Lesson*

Week Eleven

- 14 *The Piano Lesson*
16 Discussion

Week Twelve

- 21 Peer Review: Bring four typed copies of your essay.
- 23 Read Derek Walcott's poem at the beginning of the novel. Look up words or concepts you don't know; make annotations and come to a type of conclusion as to what its purpose is, that is, why Junot Díaz chose to insert it there. Read *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*: pages 1-50

Week Thirteen

- 28 **Essay Three Due.** Read Chapter *Oscar Wao* Chapter Two, pages 51-75
30 *Oscar Wao* Chapter Three, pages 77-118

MAY**Week Fourteen**

- 5 *Oscar Wao* – 119-261
7 *Oscar Wao* – finish book

Week Fifteen

- 12 Peer Review
14 Open date

Week Sixteen

- 19 **Final Essay due** - no exceptions!!

**The syllabus may change at any time and it is your responsibility to keep up, even if you miss class.*

Student Contract

Please read and sign acknowledging that you understand what academic integrity is and what the consequences are for violating it.

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 (also includes looking up information on literature and using those ideas as your 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.*

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, could possibly fail the course, and my name will be submitted to the Dean of Academics, Ann Branchini.

NAME _____ DATE _____