

# ENGLISH 102 – LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

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Office hours: Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 and Thursdays 2:30-4:30

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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.

*\*Prerequisite: ENG 101*

## Course Objectives

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

### ***Read, think, and write 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 that presents diverse perspectives.
- Formulate and articulate your own interpretations about literature supported with specifics from the text.

### ***Demonstrate information literacy***

Further develop research skills by demonstrating abilities 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 and Sources

- Henderson, Day, and Waller. *Literature and Ourselves*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition
- Díaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
- <http://www.poets.org>
- Online Writing Center at Purdue University: <http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu>

## Grade Percentages

Essays	
1	10%
2	15%
3	15%
4	15%
Homework	25%
Discussion	20%

## EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND POLICIES

**ESSAYS (55)%:** During this session you will be required to write four formal essays. Look for essay assignment requirements under the link to formal essays.

**Paper Format:** All essays need to be submitted as word doc. files. IMPORTANT: newer versions of word automatically save files as docx files, which won't open in my program, so make sure you change your file to a doc file before submitting it as an attachment. Essays are to be typed and formatted adhering to MLA standards (the format you learned in English 101). For an example of the correct format for an academic essay, go to the online writing center at Owl. English Purdue, which can be found on the homepage. (Five points will be deducted on each essay for papers formatted incorrectly.) \***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 errors, I will return it or your grade will be affected negatively.*

**HOMEWORK (25%) AND DISCUSSION BOARD (20%):** Even though this course is online, it still requires class participation and involvement on your part to make it a success. Therefore, I will ask you to do the weekly readings and submit the required homework and/or discussion postings. Regarding due dates, think of these assignments the same way you would as if you were attending classes in a "real" classroom. For example, if an assignment is due at 5 on a Monday then, just like walking into a classroom, that paper would be due at 5 p.m. on that particular day, not at 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. or even the next morning. Therefore, when a paper or assignment is due on a certain day and hour, I will expect it to be turned in online by that time. After that I will close down the assignment site, meaning you will no longer be able to submit the work. [See syllabus for specific dates and times.] The only exceptions are medical emergencies [and will only be excused with proper documentation] or when Blackboard Vista goes down. **\*\*IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR OWN TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK. Missed assignments and discussion entries cannot be made up.**

\*\*\*\*Do not submit work to me through my regular email address. I will only accept it through our online course attached in the assignment area. You can, however, contact me with questions through my regular email account.

### **How to find your grade and comments:**

After I finish grading your work, you can find the grade and my comments by opening the assignment link up. There you will find a brief comment, your grade, and the attachment with more detailed comments.

**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 a wonderful writing center (free) with experienced tutors (who have taken ENG 101 and 102, etc.). The Writing Center tutors also accept work online. (What a bonus! You can take an online course and receive tutoring online!) To receive assistance, send in your paper via email to [TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu). Include your name, student ID, and a brief summary of the assignment and your specific concerns. Phone: (860) 892-5773 for hours and to make an appointment. *(Do not wait until the last minute to receive help!)*

**Students with disabilities:** Any student with a disability that may require modifications should see one of the learning disabilities counselors on campus. After you've consulted with him or her, please submit the appropriate documentation to me so that together we can work out an appropriate plan to meet your needs.

**Final Notes on how to survive and excel:**

- 1) Play around with this site. Experiment. Find your way around. Do not wait until the last minute to do your assignments or to send them to me. (Expect some difficulties at first.)
- 2) Be patient. You are experimenting with a new way of learning. Give yourself extra time. (Do not assume you can sit down and whip out the work, much like you send out a text message or email.)
- 3) Do not expect to put in less time than you would taking a regular face-to-face class. This course is set up to give you the same hours and instruction as a "regular" class in 15 weeks, so expect to put in the hours and be a self-motivated learner.
- 4) If you have technology questions, contact the IT folks. If you have course content questions, please contact me! Let's get started!

**Quiz on syllabus:** If you have gotten this far - congrats! Now complete the quiz that is due by Wednesday, September 2 at 5 p.m. (To find the quiz, open up the link "Quiz" on the homepage.) ☺

## FALL 2009

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Week One: August 31 - September 4**

Please take time to acquaint yourself with Blackboard and the course. Make sure you cruise through all the sites familiarizing yourself with how to navigate the course. For example, there are three components to your grade: homework assignments, discussion board contributions, and essays. All three of these areas are labeled on your homepage as separate files that you will need to open. When you open these links you will find the assignments with specific directions and due dates. Please make sure you note that there are cut-off dates when the assignments will be accepted, meaning if you try to submit them after that date and time they will be rejected. \*\*All assignments are listed on your calendar as well. It's really nifty. Open it up and you'll see all the assignments and due dates, and when you link on them, the assignment specifications will open up! (Follow this syllabus as a guideline.)

Due: Biographical information on the roster and the first poetry assignment. For the biography assignment, download a photo and write a description about yourself that will give your peers (and me) an idea about who you are, why you're in school, and what your favorite pastimes are. See assignment for week one on poetry and don't forget to check out the discussion board: Assignment One Due Friday, September 4, 5 p.m.

#### **Week Two: September 7-11**

"Poetry" 13-17; Formalist Criticism 1128; Freedom and Responsibility 693; "The Unknown Citizen" 756; "Immigrants" 760; "In Response to Executive Order . . ." 761; "Ringing the Bells" 759. Assignment Two Due Friday, September 11, 5 p.m.

#### **Week Three: September 14-18**

"Fiction" 9-13; "Harrison Bergeron" 723. "A & P" 735; "On the Rainy River" 776; "Customs of the Country" 741. Assignment Three Due Friday, September 18, 5 p.m.

#### **Week Four: September 21-25**

"Read "Writing about Literature" 21-39 and visit the Owl website at Purdue and read "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." Essay One Due Friday, September 24, 5 p.m.

#### **Week Five: September 28-October 2**

Gender Criticism 1130; Men and Women 228. "Barbie Doll" 323; "Breaking Tradition" 324; "Anniversary" 328; "Abbot Academy" 326; "A Temporary Matter" 301. Assignment Four Due Friday October 2, 5 p.m.

#### **Week Six: October 5-9**

"Désirée's Baby" 269; "A Yellow Wallpaper" 274; "Hills Like White Elephants" 297. Assignment Five Due Friday, October 9, 5 p.m.

#### **Week Seven: October 12-16**

Essay Two Due Friday, October 16, 5 p.m.

**Week Eight: October 19-23**

*Fences* 143 – read entire play. Assignment Six Due Friday, October 23, 5 p.m..

**Week Nine: October 26-30**

"The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson" 199; "Boundaries, Logistics, and Identity . . ." 207; "Filling the Time: Reading History in the Drama of August Wilson" 212; "August Wilson's Women" 216; "An Interview with August Wilson" 219. Assignment Seven Due Friday, October 30, 5 p.m.

**Week Ten: November 2-6**

Essay Three Due for peer review, Wednesday, November 4, 5 p.m. Finish and return peer reviewed papers by Monday, November 9, 5 p.m.

**Week Eleven: November 9-13**

Revised Essay Three Due Friday, November 13, 5 p.m.

**Week Twelve: November 16-20**

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* - read introduction and pages 1-165. Assignment Eight Due Friday, November 20, 5 p.m.

**\*\*\* Thanksgiving Week - no classes or homework November 23-27 \*\*\***

**Week Thirteen: November 30-December 4**

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* - finish reading entire novel. Assignment Nine Due Friday, December 4, 5 p.m.

**Week Fourteen: December 7-11**

Essay Four Due for peer review Wednesday, December 9, 5 p.m. Finish and return peer reviews by Friday, December 11, 5 p.m.

**Week Fifteen: December 14-15**

Final Formal (Revised) Essay Due Tuesday, December 15, 5 p.m.