

English 102: Literature and Composition

Prof. Barbara Saez

Office: Library, Mohegan Campus

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:00

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SYLLABUS

Course Description

Students learn how to read serious literature, how to develop an interpretation of a text, 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 critical approaches affect interpretation. Students receive continued instruction in composition and are required to read and write frequently. Prerequisite: Eng.101

Required Text and Materials

1. Making Literature Matter: An Anthology for Readers and Writers, Schilb and Clifford
2. An active email address where I can communicate with you
3. A 3-ring binder in which to keep your in-class writing, your reading responses, your essay drafts, and duplicate copies of final essays you submit.

Recommended Text

You might want to have as a reference tool a writing handbook that explains MLA documentation style and basic rules of grammar (information you would have covered in English 101). I recommend: The Penguin Handbook by Lester Faigley, currently used for Eng. 101; A Writer's Reference by Diana Hacker, previously used for Eng.101; or MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Information on MLA can also be found in the Writing Center and in the Library; basic information on MLA documentation format is also located in Making Literature Matter.

Learning Outcomes

English 102 is designed to build specific skills and abilities. If you successfully complete English 102, you 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.
- Recognize and define other critical strategies beyond the formalist, 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 differing interpretations.
- Formulate your own perspectives about both meaning and structure in a work of literature, and support your perspectives with specifics from the text.
- Articulate your perspectives to classmates, contrasting the different views and evaluating the evidence for each.
- Write an analytical, evaluative essay with a clearly stated thesis that sets forth and supports an interpretation of a literary work.
- Use MLA parenthetical style to document references to texts.

Grading

Your grade for the semester will be based on the following:

Class Participation

10%

This includes the following:

- coming to class regularly, arriving on time, remaining for the full class, and having all your work prepared;
- participating appropriately and consistently in full-class and small-group discussions;
- participating fully in the peer review process;
- meeting in conference with instructor to discuss your writing
- being prepared for, and fully engaged with, regular **in-class writing***

***More on In-class Writing:** During the semester, you will regularly be asked to write brief in-class responses to some of the works of literature we have read. This exercise will help to start our class discussion. Though I will not ask you to turn in the in-class writing, I will make note of who is present and writing, and I will often call upon you to share your writing in class.

Reading Responses

20%

work,
themes,
of

You will also be required to submit 5 one-to-two page reading responses to some of the readings. These responses, prepared outside of class, should zero in on the issues that you want to explore further or raise questions about. Though these writings will be relatively informal, and may often start with your reactions to, or feelings about, a they need to go beyond stating your “feelings” and also address concerns such as characters, use of language, cultural and historical contexts, and other issues (all which will be explained in class). This informal writing is where you should begin to explore ideas and raise questions that might later be developed into full papers.

Due dates for reading responses are noted in the Schedule of Assignments. **It is important to note that Reading Responses will not be accepted after due date. If you must be absent on the due date, you may email it to me on or before that day.**

The responses will be marked either “well done” (4 points) “satisfactory” (3 points), minimally satisfactory” (1 point), or “unsatisfactory” (0 points) and will be returned to you. The first time you receive 0 or 1 on a response, you may re-write that response. If you continue to receive 0s and 1s on other responses, those grades will remain.

Mid-term Exam

20%

You will be required to take an in-class exam which will cover everything read to date this semester. It will be essay, short answer, and identification format. This exam cannot be made up without a documented medical reason.

Essays

50%

During the semester, you will be asked to write **two** essays, each analyzing one or more of the works we have read. I will provide specific instructions for each essay assignment, but there will always be a broad range of choices that should accommodate your interests.

Each essay is expected to be from 4 to 6 pages in length (250) words per page). It is important to frame your topic appropriately so that you can develop it adequately in 5 or 6 pages. Essays must be prepared using MLA parenthetical citation format. **Each essay** will receive a letter grade and **will be worth 25%** of the semester grade.

For the first of these essays, you will be asked to participate in a **peer review process**. After receiving feedback from your peers, you will need to assess the feedback and revise the draft. Then, you will hand in your revision, the comments you received from your peers, and a brief (one paragraph) explaining what you revised and why. I will review the drafts and then meet with each student to discuss your writing. After our meeting, you will have another chance to revise before submitting the final draft for a grade.

For the second essay, it is recommended that you get peer reviews and Writing Center feedback, but it is not required. I will **not** collect, read, and comment on drafts, but you may come to see me to talk about your draft if you wish. You will submit only the final version of this essay for grading.

All essays must be submitted by due date as noted in the Schedule of Assignments. Essay one will be accepted up to one week late but will be reduced one grade level for lateness. Essay 2 will not be accepted after due date. If a required essay is not submitted, a 0 will be recorded for that assignment.

Other Expectations and Requirements

Attendance, Promptness, and Courtesy

Class discussion will be a significant part of this course; you have a responsibility to contribute to the "conversation" and to listen respectfully to the views of others. You cannot contribute fully and effectively if you are not regularly present and if you are not fully prepared. Also, topics for reading responses and essays are generated from class discussions; missing the discussions puts you at a disadvantage when you must write. I will expect you to be in class, to be on time, and to remain for the full class.

If you must, on a rare occasion, be late, please enter class quietly and sit in a place that is least disruptive to me and to your classmates. If you are absent, you are responsible for any work covered in your absence or any changes made in the assignments. If you find that life circumstances require you to be late or absent - frequently (more than a couple of times), it would be wise to drop the course.

Submission of Work

- **Format--** All written work must be word-processed (except, of course, for work written in class). **Handwritten essays (including drafts) or handwritten reading responses will not be accepted.** Please use standard type size (about 12 point) and margins no larger than 1 inch. Double-space lines and indent paragraphs. Use a plain style font--no italic or script. Any document emailed to me must be in Microsoft word format. I do not accept assignments submitted on a CD, only paper copy or emailed Microsoft word document if you are absent.

- **Promptness**-- All work must be submitted on time. Due dates are listed in the Schedule of Assignments.
- **Keeping Copies**--**It is your responsibility to keep a copy of any work you submit.** You should keep all work for the full semester in a binder, including drafts, in-class writing, reading responses, and duplicates of essays you submit, with everything clearly labeled and dated. I reserve the right to ask to see this work at any time.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is a violation of academic integrity. It occurs when you take credit for someone else's work and submit it as your own, either intentionally or merely through sloppy documentation of sources. Any plagiarized work will receive an F, and an F for the semester is possible. Please see the full statement on academic integrity either in your Student Handbook or on the College's website.

Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability which may require classroom modifications should see me about this 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.

Withdrawal from Class

April 29 is the last day you may process an official withdrawal from class. Any student who merely stops attending this class, but does not officially withdraw through the Registrar's Office, will receive a grade of F for the semester. There are NO withdrawals after April 29. Review the course registration booklet or the Three Rivers web site for more information.

Messages and Conferences

To reach me, you may email me at bsaez@trcc.commnet.edu. I check my email Monday through Friday. I encourage you to visit me during office hours to talk about your progress in this course or to discuss any difficulties you might be having with the assignments. Although I frequently chat with students before and after class, this is not a good time to discuss concerns you might have about grades. Please come to see me during office hours so that I can focus on your concerns without distractions and give you the attention you deserve.

Syllabus Updates

A final note—the assignment schedule may be modified during the semester depending upon the pace of the class. I will discuss any changes with the class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out if any changes were made, and to keep up with the work.

Class Cancellations

In case of bad weather, check the College's website for cancellation information, or call the College's general information number.

In the rare event that I need to cancel a class, I will notify you by group email as early in the day as I can.

