

ENG 102: Literature and Composition
Three Rivers Community College
Syllabus
Online Spring 2013

Instructor: Todd Barry
E-mail: TBarry@trcc.comnet.edu

Office phone: 860-823-2832

Office Location: D-203B

Mailbox Location: D-207

Office Hours: Monday 10-11am, Wednesday 10-12, and by appointment. Even though this is an online course, feel free to meet with me in person or call my office.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students are taught 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 are expected to learn the traditional 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 continually and write frequently in preparation for every class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The Bedford Introduction to Literature. 9th ed. Michael Meyer.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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, etc.
- 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.

ASSIGNMENTS

Essays

You will be asked to write three formal essays on topics generated from your reading and class discussions. Essay #1 will be 4-6 pages in length; Essay #2 will be 5-7 pages; Essay #3 will

be 6-8 pages.

Although further, more specific criteria will be given out for each assignment, general guidelines are as follows: while it is important that you demonstrate your ability to respond to the readings, explore the draft process, and complete all assignments, all essays will be graded on the quality of the finished product which will take into account grammar, rhetorical strategies, and intellectual complexity, together with evidence of research skills, documentation, use of quotations and paraphrases, and ability to sustain an argument in clear prose.

Only those students who submit the completed essay on time and receive a grade below C will have the option to revise the paper; however, all such re-writes must first be discussed with me. I will only count the re-write grade. You may not rewrite Essay 3.

Please note that while I actively encourage you to seek help from the Writing Center or myself, I do not accept work that has received help from any other source including parents, siblings, significant others, etc. I expect you to accept responsibility for the authorship of your written work.

ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME, TYPED AND FOLLOW MLA FORMAT. LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED UP TO ONE WEEK PAST THE DUE DATE BUT WILL BE DOWNGRADED ONE FULL LETTER GRADE. LATE ESSAYS MAY NOT BE REVISED.

Weekly Writing Assignments

In addition to formal essays, we will be doing various kinds of writing assignments. If you have not done the reading, you will not be able to successfully complete these assignments which will include quizzes, online discussion, reading reflections, short essays, etc.

Class Participation

You are expected to constructively participate in the various kinds of online discussions we'll be having this semester. Some of them are graded, some are not, but I will take all of them into account when calculating your participation grade. If you are not prepared, you will find it difficult to participate in class conversations and your work will reflect your lack of engagement.

Failure to participate in Peer Review/Writing Workshop assignments will result in a full letter-grade reduction on that paper (10 points).

FINAL GRADES

Essay #1	20%
Essay #2	20%
Essay #3	20%
Midterm	10%
Final	10%
Participation (weekly writing assignments, quizzes, presentation)	20%

COURSE POLICY**Withdrawal Dates**

Students may officially withdraw at the Registrar's Office up until May 13. Withdrawal grades may have a negative impact on financial aid and academic progress. Please see an advisor before you withdraw.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the intentional use of someone else's words or ideas. It is a serious violation of academic standards that is subject to one or more of the following penalties: a failing grade for the paper; a failing grade for the course; a report to the administrative authorities for appropriate action (i.e. a notation on the student's permanent record, suspension, or expulsion). Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity policy in our on-line catalogue.

Disabilities

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.

<p>TRCC Disabilities Service Providers</p> <p>Counseling & Advising Office</p> <p>Room A-119</p>	
<p>Matt Liscum(860) 383-5240</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Physical Disabilities · Sensory Disabilities · Medical Disabilities · Mental Health Disabilities
<p>Chris Scarborough</p> <p>(860) 892-5751</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Learning Disabilities · ADD/ADHD · Autism Spectrum

Communication

I encourage you to communicate with me via email or by sending me a message through Blackboard Learn; however, please be mindful that any written communication with me should be regarded as a formal communication and follow standard written English conventions.

I will primarily communicate with you through the Announcements on BB Learn and through the internal Message system within our course site. However, you are also responsible for checking your trcc.comnet.edu email addresses. Your Blackboard Learn courses are automatically connected to your college-provided email account. For more information about this email account, visit the college home page and click the "New student email button."

This email account is the only official electronic means that the college will communicate course and non-emergency information to you. Make sure that you check it weekly at a minimum.

Another option is to set up to forward your email from the college address to your preferred address.

Sign up for MyCommNet Alert!

myCommNet Alert is a system that sends text messages and emails to anyone signed up in the event of a campus emergency. Additionally, TRCC sends messages when the college is delayed or closed due to weather.

All students are encouraged to sign up for myCommNet Alert. A tutorial is available on the Educational Technology and Distance Learning Students page of the web site:

http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/div_it/educationaltechnology/Tutorials/myCommNetAlert/MIR3.html

Reading Schedule

Readings are to be completed for the week listed. Writing Assignments and Instructions will be posted in the Content Area on Blackboard Learn for that particular week.

Week 1 1/24-1/31	Readings: Kafka, "An Imperial Message." (online link) Ch. 53, "Critical Strategies for Reading" (2041-2064) Arguing About Literature (2073-2076)
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FICTION

Week 2 2/1-2/7	Readings: Writing About Fiction (52-55); Plot (72-73); Setting (184-186); Symbolism (262-265); Theme (294-297); Style, Tone, and Irony (329-333) Godwin, "A Sorrowful Woman" (39-44) Meinke, "The Cranes" (621-623) Mansfield, "Miss Brill" (306-310) Hemingway, "Soldier's Home" (186-192) O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story" (346-356) Online reading about MLA format, paper structure
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Week 3 2/8-2/14	Readings: Oates, "Hi Howya Doin" (600-603) Moody, "Boys" (371-374) Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (90-99) Bloom, "By-and-by" (632-637) Boyle, "Carnal Knowledge" (569-583)
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Week 4
2/15-2/21

Writing Workshop. Instructions will be posted on Blackboard Learn.

POETRY

Week 5
2/22-2/28

Readings: “At Lake Scugog” (online link); Pages 743-764, “Marginalia” (787-8), “Vowels” (789); Ch. 22, “Writing about Poetry” (790-798); Pages 799-809; “Snowy Egret” (909-10)

Essay #1 Due by Thursday, Feb. 28 (4-6 pages)

Week 6
3/1-3/7

Readings: Pages 864-874; Ch. 29, “Poetic Forms” (970-999); Ch. 30, “Open Form” (1000-1027); Ch. 31, “Combining the Elements of Poetry: A Writing Process” (1028-1038); “I Heard a Fly Buzz – when I died--” (1065).

Take about an hour to browse through the following chapters: Ch. 32, “A Study of Emily Dickinson” (1041-1088); Ch. 33, A Study of Robert Frost” (1089-1128); Ch. 34, “A Study of Langston Hughes” (pp 1129-1157).

Week 7
3/8-3/14

Midterm Exam

SPRING BREAK 3/15-3/24

Week 8
3/25-3/28

Writing Workshop. Instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Week 9
3/29-4/4

Essay #2 Due by April 4 (5-7 pages).
Explication Presentations.

DRAMA

Week 10
4/5-4/11

Miller, *Death of a Salesman* (1868-1937)

- Week 11
4/12-4/18 Wilson, *Fences* (1987-2038).
- Week 12
4/19-4/25 Shanley, *Doubt: A Parable* (1937-1968)
- Week 13
4/26-5/2 Annotated Bibliography and Essay 3 Proposal Due by May 2.
- Week 14
5/3-5/10 Writing Workshop. Online/Telephone/In-person Conferences with Instructor.
- Week 15
Final Exam due by May 16
Essay #3 Due by May 16 (6-8 pages)