

English 102: Literature and Composition  
Three Rivers Community College  
Fall, 2009  
Instructor: Hamilton Salsich (saul'-sik)  
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for  
Team

### Course Description (from the College Catalog)

"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 critical approaches affect interpretation. In addition to continued instruction in composition, students are required to read and write frequently."

### Texts

Meyer, Michael. *Thinking and Writing about Literature*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2001. (We will call this book MEYER.)  
Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*.

### Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is an important part of this course. To miss even one class is to significantly decrease your chances of benefiting from the course. Nightly attendance will be recorded, at the start and end of each class, and your attendance record may affect your final grade. Plus, each night grades will be given for in-class notes, journal entries, and for active participation in the seminars -- and these may not be made up by absentees. So...if at all possible, be here for each class.

### Course Requirements

The requirements for the course include the following:

1. Essay #1, due Wednesday, November 18

Topic: Compare and/or contrast the following stories: "Soldier's Home" (579), "Battle Royal" (931), and "A White Heron" (1141). **Be sure to show how the stories relate to each other, even if the connection seems a stretch. (Stretching, reaching, going beyond boundaries, and doing what you never thought possible is what serious reading is all about.)**

*\*You will need three body paragraphs. Each body paragraph should have a clear topic sentence, three pieces of supporting evidence (quotes or paraphrases from the story), and a total of at least 11 sentences.*

Value: 30% of final grade

2. Essay #2, due Monday, December 7

Topic: Compare and/or contrast the following three poems: "Rite of Passage", by Sharon Olds (627 "Daddy", by Sylvia Plath (628), and "The Youngest Daughter", by Cathy Song (992). **As with the first essay, be sure to show how the poems relate to each other, even if the connection seems a stretch.**

\* Again you will need three body paragraphs. Each body paragraph should have a clear topic sentence, three pieces of supporting evidence (quotes or paraphrases from the poem), and a total of at least 11 sentences.

Value: 30% of final grade

**NOTE:** Partly in order to save paper, I will not be collecting printed copies of your essays. Instead, please open a free account on Buzzword.com (including a password), type your paper directly into your private Buzzword page, click “Share” at lower left, and type in my email address. I will then be able to open your essay and place comments and a grade on it, after which you will be able to see the comments and grade on your Buzzword page. (Buzzword is completely secure. Only people you share it with can see your Buzzword page.)

### 3. Active Participation in Nightly Seminar Discussions

**Value: 19%** (Notice that this is a very important part of the course.)

4. Reader’s Journal for *Fahrenheit 451* (completed journal due Monday, November 16).

Value: 6%

5. Memorization Test (Wednesday, December 9). We will memorize a passage from Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*. (See p. 4 of syllabus.)

Value: 6%

6. Nightly in-class notes

Value: 6%

7. Rehearsed oral reading, 1-3 minutes. (Monday, December 14) *Choose something to read that moves you.* No restrictions, except it must be something written for adults. No Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein, etc.

Value: 3%

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### Class Schedule and Assignments

Wednesday, October 21

Instructor’s introduction

Class roster, attendance

Syllabus, introduction to the course

Reader’s Journal for *Fahrenheit 451*

MEYER and Seminar

Reading from *As You Like It* and April Poetry Madness Tournament

CHECK AND GRADE NOTES

**Homework:** Read to p. 20 in *Fahrenheit 451* and do reader’s journal, plus ...

Monday, October 26

Attendance

MEYER and Seminar

Review, 11-sentence and 4-sentence paragraph

Reading from *As You Like It* and April Poetry Madness Tournament

GRADE NOTES AND F451 JOURNALS

**Homework:** Read *Fahrenheit 451* to p. 40, and do reader's journal, plus ...

Wednesday, October 28

Attendance

MEYER and Seminar

Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament

GRADE NOTES AND F451 JOURNALS

**Homework :** Continue reading *Fahrenheit 451* to p. 70, and do reader's journal, plus ...

Monday, November 2

Attendance

Discuss assignment for Essay #1

MEYER and Seminar

Break

MEYER and Seminar

Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament

GRADE NOTES AND F451 JOURNALS

**Homework:** Continue reading *Fahrenheit 451*, to p.100, and do reader's journal. Also work on Essay #1, plus ...

Wednesday, November 4

Attendance

MEYER and Seminar

Break

Seminar

Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament

GRADE NOTES AND F451 JOURNALS

**Homework:** F451, to p. 130, and work on Essay #1, plus ...

Monday, November 9

Attendance

MEYER and Seminar

Break

Seminar

Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament

GRADE NOTES AND F451 JOURNALS

**Homework:** Finish *Fahrenheit 451* and reader's journal, plus ....

Wednesday, November 11

NO CLASS. VETERANS DAY

Monday, November 16

F451 READER'S JOURNAL DUE

Attendance

Seminar on F451

Break  
Poems for Essay #2, and Seminar  
Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament  
**Homework:** Finish Essay #1 – DUE NEXT CLASS, plus ...

Wednesday, November 18

Attendance  
ESSAY #1 DUE. SHARE IT WITH ME ON BUZZWORD  
MEYER and Seminar  
Break  
Seminar  
Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament  
GRADE NOTES  
**Homework:** Begin working on Essay #2, plus ...

Monday, November 23

Attendance  
MEYER and Seminar  
Break  
Seminar  
Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament  
GRADE NOTES  
**Homework:** Work on Essay #2, plus ...

Wednesday, November 25

NO CLASS

Monday, November 30

Attendance  
MEYER and Seminar  
Break  
Seminar  
Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament  
GRADE NOTES  
**Homework:** Work on Essay #2

Wednesday, December 2

Attendance  
MEYER and Seminar  
Break  
Seminar  
Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament  
GRADE NOTES

**Homework:** FINISH ESSAY #2, plus work on poem memorization and dramatic reading.

Monday, December 7

Attendance  
ESSAY #2 DUE TONIGHT. SHARE IT WITH ME ON BUZZWORD.  
MEYER and Seminar  
Break

Seminar

Reading from *As You Like It* ... April Poetry Madness Tournament

GRADE NOTES

**Homework:** Work on poem memorization and dramatic reading

Wednesday, December 9

Attendance

**Poem Memorization Test**

MEYER and Seminar

Break

Seminar

April Poetry Madness Tournament

GRADE NOTES

**Homework:** Prepare dramatic reading.

Monday, December 14

LAST CLASS

Dramatic readings

Professor evals

## Memorization Passage

from Shakespeare's *As You Like It*:

(This passage is spoken by a prince who has been overthrown by his brother and who has been exiled to a forest, where he camps with some of his loyal followers. He's trying to encourage his men to toughen up and deal with "adversity". Think of it as a coach's halftime speech when the team is trailing 40-0.)

Now, my co-mates and brothers in exile,  
Hath not old custom made this life more sweet  
Than that of painted pomp? Are not these woods  
More free from peril than the envious court?  
Here feel we but the penalty of Adam,  
The seasons' difference, as the icy fang  
And churlish chiding of the winter's wind,  
Which, when it bites and blows upon my body,  
Even till I shrink with cold, I smile and say  
'This is no flattery: these are counsellors  
That feelingly persuade me what I am.'  
Sweet are the uses of adversity,  
Which, like the toad, ugly and venomous,  
Wears yet a precious jewel in his head;  
And this our life exempt from public haunt  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones and good in every thing.

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pomp: ceremonial splendor; self-importance

court: palace

churlish chiding: rude insults

counsellors: friends

exempt: free of

public haunt: crowds of people

### **College Withdrawal Policy**

A student who finds it necessary to discontinue a course once a class has met should complete the withdrawal form in the registrar's office, or send a written request to withdraw from the course. Students may withdraw from class anytime during the first ten weeks (or until completion of two-thirds of a summer session or module course) without being in good standing or obtaining prior approval of the instructor. After that period, a student must request written permission from the instructor (using the official withdrawal form) to withdraw from the class, and must have maintained a C- average. Withdrawals are recorded with a 'W' grade on the student's permanent record, and *carry no penalty*. Students who merely stop attending but fail to formally withdraw are assigned 'NC' grades, signifying "No Credit."

### **Disabilities and Learning Differences**

If you have a hidden or visible disability or learning difference which may require classroom modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please register with the Disabled Student Services office, at 886-1931, Ext. 2931.

