

## Syllabus

ENG 102: Literature and Composition MW 2:00-3:15pm Room D206

Instructor: Howard Luxenberg

e-mail: [hluxenberg@sprynet.com](mailto:hluxenberg@sprynet.com) Phone: 860-997-0576

Office Hours: By appointment. I'm usually available before class.

### 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 TEXT

*Literature and It's Writers*. Compact. Fifth edition.

### 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, 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.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Essays**

You will be asked to write three formal essays on topics generated from your reading and class discussions. Essay #1 will be 5-7 pages in length (1250-1750 words); Essays #2 and 3 will be 6-8 pages (1500-2000 words) each.

**Quizzes**

I will give a quiz at the beginning of each class to determine if you've done the reading. If you are late or absent it cannot be made up.

**ALL WORK MUST BE COMPLETED ON TIME, TYPED AND FOLLOW MLA FORMAT. LATE ESSAYS WILL BE DOWNGRADED ONE PARTIAL LETTER GRADE FOR EACH CLASS THEY ARE LATE.**

**Other Assignments**

In addition to formal essays, we will be doing both in and out of class writing assignments. If you have not done the reading, you will not be able to successfully complete these assignments which may include quizzes, summaries, short essays etc. Because your responses will be used in class to generate ideas about the issues we are exploring, it is essential that they are completed on time. In addition, you are responsible for keeping copies of ALL of your work in a folder which may be handed in for grade during the semester.

**Class Participation**

Constructive participation in both discussion and writers' workshop is expected; therefore, it is important that you come to class ready to discuss the reading and writing assignments. If you are not prepared, you will find it difficult to participate in class conversations and your work will reflect your lack of engagement.

**FINAL GRADES**

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Essay #1  | 20% |
| Essay #2  | 20% |
| Essay #3  | 20% |
| In-class work and Reading Responses (including participation) | 30% |
| Final exam  | 10% |

**COURSE POLICY**

**Attendance**

Attendance is a requirement. Absences will have a negative affect on your grade. If you miss class, it is up to you to find out what you have missed and make up the work in

whatever way you can.

### **Classroom Decorum**

If you are late, leave class early, or allow your cell phone to ring, you are being disruptive. I expect you to come to class on time with all the necessary texts and remain in the classroom for the entire period. Disruptive or inappropriate classroom behavior will have a negative affect on your grade.

### **Withdrawal Dates**

Students may officially withdraw at the Registrar's Office up until ????. Any student who stops attending class, but does not officially withdraw, will receive a grade of F for the course. However, 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.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any student with a hidden or visible documented disability which may require classroom modification should see me during the first week of class so that an appropriate plan to meet your needs may be arranged.

### **MESSAGES AND CONFERENCES**

If you need to reach me, please call my office phone or email me at [hluxenberg@sprynet.com](mailto:hluxenberg@sprynet.com)

### **EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS**

I encourage you to communicate with me via email.

### **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS**

I will not accept email submissions.

### **ENG 102 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS**

Reading assignments are from *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* unless otherwise noted.

#### **WEEK 1.**

M 1/23 Introduction. "Girl"

W 1/25 "A&P" and "Cathedral"

#### **WEEK 2**

M 1/30 "The Lottery" and "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"

W 2/1 "A Rose for Emily" and "Happy Endings"

#### **WEEK 3.**

M 2/6 "Hills Like White Elephants" and "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been"

W 2/8 "Good Country People" and "Everyday Use"

#### **WEEK 4**

M 2/13 "The Things They Carried" and "A Worn Path"

W 2/15 Writing Due: Essay #1 Due

Peer Review: Please bring 3 copies of your essay to class.

WEEK 5

M 2/20 Writing Workshop

W 2/22 Individual Conferences

WEEK 6

M 2/27 Reading Due: read for 30 minutes in the poetry section and come to class with the author, title, page # of two poems.

W 2/29 Writing Due: Final Draft Essay #1

WEEK 7

M 3/5 Poetry cont.

W 3/7 Poetry cont.

WEEK 8

M 3/12 Poetry cont.

W 3/14 Poetry cont.

Writing Due: draft Essay #2

Peer Review: Please bring 3 copies of your essay to class.

WEEK 9

M 3/19 NOCLASS

W 3/21 NO CLASS

WEEK 10

M 3/26 Writing Due: Final Draft Essay #2 R 11/3 Reading Due: *Hamlet* Acts 1 & 2

W 3/28 *Hamlet* Acts 3 & 4

WEEK 11

M 4/2 *Hamlet* Act 5

W 4/4 Discussion

WEEK 12

M 4/9 Discussion cont.

W 4/11 Discussion cont.

WEEK 13

M 4/16 *Death of a Salesman*

W 4/18 12/1 Discussion cont.

WEEK 14

M 4/23 Discussion cont.

W 4/25 Discussion cont.

Essay #3 Due

WEEK 15

M 4/30 Discussion cont.

W 5/2

WEEK 16

M 5/7 Discussion cont.

W 5/9 Discussion cont.

M 5/14 LAST DAY OF CLASSES

FINAL EXAM