

Literature & Composition

CRN: 12200
English K102: Literature & Composition
Term: Spring 12
Schedule: MWF 9-9:50 RM D206
Instructor: Frederick-Douglass Knowles II (Prof. K)
Office Hours: RM C120: M 1-2, W 12-1, R 5:30-6:30 or by Appt.
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Required Text:

- Meyer, Michael. The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature. 9thth ed. Boston: Bedford /St. Martins, 2012.

Course Description:

ENG* K102 (formerly ENG K112) 3 CREDIT HOURS LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Prerequisite: ENG K101 or permission of the instructor.* 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 other critical approaches affect interpretation. In addition to continued instruction in composition, students are required to read and write frequently.

Course Objectives:

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.
- 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.

Course Requirements:

The course is designed to provide a healthy, productive learning atmosphere in which the individual's oral and written thoughts, ideas and voice is not only heard but respected. Students are expected to engage in discussion to express various perspectives regarding subject matter. Students will be required to participate in classroom assignments.

Assignments and Grade Percentage:

Class work and participation	10%
Reading Responses	15%
Questions	15%
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	20%
Essay 3	25%

Attendance:

Classroom attendance is an integral part of the college experience. The faculty of the college believes that regular class attendance is necessary for a student to derive the maximum benefit from the learning experience and the overall value of the classroom instruction. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in the event of absence.

Students with Disabilities:**The College's Providers of Disability Services**

A college disability service provider shall make appropriate determination of reasonable accommodations for students based upon documentation provided by the student. (Course substitution accommodations are to be approved by the Dean of Academics after the student and the student's disability service provider have submitted a written request to the Dean of Academics.) The authority to make such decisions on behalf of the institution has been assigned by the college President. The college's three disability service providers are: Students with learning disabilities or ADD/ADHD should contact Chris Scarborough at 860.892.5751. Students with a physical, medical or psychiatric disability contact Kathleen Gray at 860.885.2328 or Matt Liscum at 860.383.5240.

Academic Honesty / Plagiarism Policy:

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.

Withdrawal Policy:

The last day to withdraw from this course is **May 7th**. If you must withdraw from this course, it is your responsibility to go to the Registrar's office and fill out the correct form. If you are thinking about withdrawing, please talk to the instructor as soon as possible.

Class Cancellation Procedure:

If class is cancelled or delayed because of the weather, certain radio and television stations will carry an announcement. If I am unable to attend class, the Academic Dean's Office will advise students of alternate learning activities.

Assignments:

All assignments are due on the date noted on the syllabus.

Late Work:

Students are required to hand in all work, typed, double spaced and on time. All work that is not turned in at the scheduled day and time stated on the syllabus is considered late. After the assigned date students will have 24 hours to email work for a full grade deduction (e.g. an "A" becomes a "B"), any work after 24 hours will not be accepted. Work will **only** be accepted by email stated at the top of the syllabus.

Questions:

Students are to answer the "**Considerations For Critical Thinking And Writing**" section after each assigned reading. Questions are to be typed, must be a minimum of 5 complete sentences and follow MLA guidelines and are due on the day stated on the syllabus. Late questions will automatically be deducted by 50%. Students are responsible for a total of 7 sets of questions for the semester 3 from poetry, 3 from fiction, 1 from drama). Questions are worth 2 points, for a total of 14 points.

The additional point is awarded upon completion of the 7 sets of questions answered. **When questions are not handed in, students are still responsible for reading the material and prepared to participate in discussion and class activities, in order to acquire class participation points.**

Response Papers:

Students are required to hand in a 2 (full) page response paper on assigned reading. Response papers are to be typed in Times Roman font, 12 pt. and stapled. They are to also follow MLA guidelines. Papers that do not follow the above guidelines will **not** be accepted. Response papers are **not summaries**. They are a critical analysis of the reading utilizing a distinct literary theory (e.g. Marxist, Feminist, etc.). Response papers should reflect how you, the reader reacts or responds to a particular themes or literary tools present in the works.

Essays

Students will be responsible for completing 3 essays. Essays 1 & 2 will consist of a 3-4 (full) pages. Essay 3 will consist of 6-8 pages practicing the use of secondary sources and an annotated bibliography. All essays must follow MLA guidelines. Late essays within the 24hr policy will receive a full grade deduction before grading (e.g. “A” becomes a “B” before grading)

Journal

During the semester students will be required to fulfill in class writing assignments. Students are required to purchase a composition notebook for entries. Journals will be collected periodically throughout the semester and will consist of a percentage of your overall grade. In class workshops cannot be made up so attendance is pertinent.

Course Schedule:**Poetry****Week 2:**

- M 1/23 Review syllabus/ Introduction/ what constitutes literature? Serious Literature? Do you read literature? Why? Why not? How Often? What role does serious literature play in society? / intro to poetry/ In class activity: close reading
- W 1/25 Read ch. 49-51: Intro to Critical Strategies, Reading Process & Research Paper
- F 1/27 Read entire ch. 19 & 20: in Class Activity: Close Reading on “Introduction to Poetry,” p570, “You’re Missing,” p583, “It’s the Law,” p584. Questions due

Week 3:

- M 1/30 Read entire ch. 23 & 24: in class activity: Simile, Metaphors & Symbols “February,” p670, “Schizophrenia,” p673, “Bully,” p691. Questions due
- W 2/1 Discussion Con’t
- F 2/3 Read entire ch. 25 & 26: Sound & Meter: “Of Night,” p720, “Summer Words of a Sisyphus Addict” p747 Questions due

Week 4:

- M 2/6 Discussion/ con’t / Read entire ch. 27 & 29: Essay Guidelines
- W 2/8 Read Ch. 32 Case Study: Langston Hughes: “Dream Variations,” p909, “Song for a Dark Girl,” p911, Questions due
- F 2/10 Read: “The Romanticization of Africa in the 1920’s,” p920, Response paper due: Choose one topic from “Suggested Topics For Longer Papers,” on p921

Week 5:

- M 2/13 Read entire Ch. 34 Case Study: Julia Alvarez: “Ironing Their Clothes,” p961
- W 2/15 “Mapping an Identity,” p971 1-3 /in class writing workshop/

F 2/17 “Discussion con’t / in class writing workshop

Week 6:

M 2/20 President’s Day – No Class

W 2/22 1st draft Essay #1 due (3 copies) / writing workshop / peer edit

F 2/24 Final Draft Essay 1 Due, Intro to Fiction

Fiction

Week 7:

Reader-Response & New Historical Criticism

M 2/27 Read Ch.1 & 2: Reading and Writing Fiction: Questions on p43 due

W 2/29 Read Ch. 3 & 4: Plot & Character: Read “Fiesta, 1980,” p150. Questions due

F 3/2 Discussion con’t

Week 8:

Cultural & Marxist Criticism

M 3/5 Read Ch. 5: Setting: Read “Soldier’s Home,” p165 Questions 1-10 due

W 3/7 Read Ch. 6: POV: Discussion con’t

F 3/9 Read Ch. 7: Symbolism: “The Battle Royal,” p233, **Response Paper** due

Week 9:

M 3/12 Discussion Con’t /

W 3/14 Read Ch. 8: Theme: Read “Love in LA,” p267 Questions due

F 3/16 Discussion Con’t / Essay 2 Guidelines

Week 10:

M 3/19 Spring Break- No class

W 3/21 Spring Break- No class

F 3/23 Spring Break- No class

Case Study: Short Stories

Feminist Criticism & Post-Colonial Criticism

Week 11:

M 3/26 Read ch. 9: Style, Tone: Read “How to Tell a True War Story,” p287 Questions due

W 3/28 Discussion con’t

F 3/30 1st Draft of Essay 2 due (3 copies)

Week 12:

M 4/2 writing workshop / peer edit

W 4/4 Essay Exam #2 due

F 4/6 Spring Recess – No class

Drama

Week 13:

M 4/9 Read entire Ch. 41 & 42: Read “Trifles,” p1068 Questions due 1-12
 W 4/11 Discussion con’t
 F 4/13 Read entire Ch. 43: “Oedipus The King,” Part I p1125-1145

Week 14:

M 4/16 Read: “Oedipus The King,” Part II p1146-1166
 W 4/18 Discussion con’t
 F 4/20 In Class Activity / Essay guidelines/ Response paper on “Oedipus The King,” due

Week 15:

M 4/23 Read: “Interview With August Wilson,” p1564
 W 4/25 Read: “Fences,” Act I p1517-1544
 F 4/27 Read: Fences,” Act II p 1544-1564 Questions due

Week 16:

M 4/30 Research Paper review
 W 5/2 In class Activity: Literary Review
 F 5/4 1st Draft Essay 3 due

Week 17:

M 5/7 Writing workshop / Peer edit
 W 5/9 Writing Workshop / Peer edit
 F 5/11 Essay Exam #3 due

***Course Syllabus is tentative and may be subject to change**