

ENG K102 Literature and Composition

(spring 2013)

ONLINE

Instructor: Talvi Ansel

Instructor contact: through Messages in Blackboard (emergency: email

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Syllabus

Important Notes: you will need to log in to the Blackboard website for this course frequently. Announcements will be posted on the main entry page, but you will also need to check the schedule and assignments notifications under Course Content. Print a copy of this syllabus so that you will have an extra copy on hand.

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.

Online Delivery

For this course, you must have frequent access to a networked computer to successfully navigate the class. We meet here, on Blackboard: you will need to use Blackboard to submit assignments, participate in discussion, upload and download files, use attachments, complete timed tests, access links to websites, and send messages. If you will not be able to access our Blackboard site a few times a week for a substantial amount of time, you should not be taking this online class. A mobile device (such as a SmartPhone) is not sufficient; you need to have access to a reliable, networked computer.

Required Texts

The Bedford Introduction to Literature. 9th. edition. Ed. Michael Meyer.

The book for this class has been ordered through the bookstore at Three Rivers Community College; feel free to order it at the bookstore of your choice—as long as you order it in time, and have purchased the 9th edition.

We will also occasionally be reading online materials & scanned materials available through Blackboard (location, websites will be announced by instructor.)

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.
- 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

Final Grades

Essay #1	15%
Essay #2	20%
Essay #3	20%
Short Assignments / Discussions / Forums	15%
Exams	30%

Essays

3 formal essays based on the readings. The essays are to be typed and to follow MLA format and be saved as posted as a Doc. You must submit links / copies of your sources with the essays. Topics to be announced (t.b.a.)

Essay #1: 4-6 pages. Assignment includes a polished first draft submitted for peer and instructor review, and a final revised essay submitted for a grade.

Essay #2: 6-8 pages. Assignment includes a polished first draft for peer review, and a final essay submitted for a grade.

Essay #3: 6-8 pages. Submit revised, polished essay for grade.

Essays will be graded on purpose and thesis, organization and structure, development of ideas, diction and grammar, and documentation. However, if you do not submit all parts of the assignment (peer reviews and earlier draft) your grade will be affected. If you miss a peer review deadline, you cannot make up this process, and the missing work will negatively affect your grade.

You may revise essays 1 & 2 if you receive a grade lower than a C; you must discuss with me before doing a revision. All revisions must be completed a week after the graded essays are initially returned to you. Essay #3 may not be revised.

Please feel free to use the resources of the Writing Center. However, all work that you submit for this class must be your own original work.

Short Assignments / Discussions / Forums

These assignments are designed to enrich the reading experience. For short written responses, you may be asked to answer questions in the text book. These assignments will be announced in the appropriate Modules as the semester progresses. Late work will not be given credit. Discussion postings and short assignments will be assigned a point value. Percentage of points will determine grade. Online Discussions and Assignments require standard written English.

Exams

3 exams during the semester. The exams will cover the readings and literary terms. In order to do well on the exams, it is necessary that you do all of the readings and participate in discussions! These are timed exams.

Time Commitment

Completing the Discussions and Short Assignments will take considerable preparation and reading before you are ready to post your answers online. Be sure to look ahead on the schedule and give yourself several days in advance of the posting deadline to complete assignments.

Assignment Deadlines

The flow for assignments will usually be: due dates on Mondays and Thursdays by noon. There may be exceptions, so always be sure to check the Schedule and read Assignments in the

Modules thoroughly. Directions for assignments will normally be submitted a week before the due date.

In an online course it is extremely important that you plan ahead to account for possible internet problems. (Not being able to get online is not an acceptable excuse for turning in work late; also, the discussions, and your fellow class members, suffer if everyone is trying to post their work at the last minute).

Work can be submitted as soon as the Module for that particular assignment is open and all prerequisite work is ready.

Late Work

In an online class, you are responsible for submitting your work on time; remember, the deadlines are by a certain time – submit early to accommodate your own schedule.

All work must be submitted on time to avoid penalization. Final Drafts of Essays 1 & 2 may be submitted *up to one week* after the due date, however they will be downgraded one full letter grade, and you will not have the benefit of peer review! Late essays may not be revised. Turning in an essay late may mean that you do not receive feedback in a timely manner in order to apply it to your next assignment. *Essay 3 may not be submitted late.*

Late Short Assignments / Discussions / Forum responses will not receive credit.

Tests are timed tests, due by a certain date and time.

Withdrawal Dates

You may officially withdraw at the Registrar's Office up until May 13th. Any student who stops participating and submitting work, 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.

Religious Holy Days

from the TRCC Handbook:

Students have an obligation to notify their instructor in a timely manner regarding anticipated absences for religious observances (...) students may be required to request accommodations during the first week of an academic semester or within a prescribed period of time before the anticipated absence. Requests should be made in writing stating the reason of the request (...) the religious observance that poses the conflict and the date or dates of such holiday.

Classroom Decorum

In an online class, students are expected to follow the guidelines for respect of the College community as outlined in the TRCC Handbook:

students are expected to: Demonstrate respect for the College community by acting in accordance with published Board policies and College rules and regulations, demonstrate respect for the property for the College, demonstrate academic integrity,

demonstrate respect for others, be truthful in all matters, comply with the directions of the College staff members, refrain from the unauthorized possession or use of weapons or dangerous instruments, refrain from knowingly possessing using, transferring, selling or being under the influence of any controlled substance, refrain from any unauthorized use of electronic or other devices to make an audio or video record of any person, and to conduct oneself in a civil and respectful manner, both within and outside the College.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. Plagiarism is the claiming of credit for work that is not your own, original work. Plagiarism is a serious offense and can result in failure of the assignment, and / or failure of the class, and / or a report to the administration and action such as suspension, expulsion, or notation on your permanent record. See the TRCC handbook for the policies on Academic Integrity.

Students with Disabilities

Please contact me during the first week of class so that we can make appropriate modifications to meet your needs.

Contacting the Instructor

The best way to contact me is through Messages on our Blackboard site, but please remember that you may not get an immediate response (for example, if you email me in the middle of the night, I will not be reading my email).

Email

Messages will usually be sent to you via the internal Message program in Blackboard. I may occasionally need to send you an email through MyComm-- please be sure you have updated your email address with the college.

Literature and Composition, Outline of Schedule --refer to Modules under Course Content for full assignments.

(Readings, unless otherwise noted, are in *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, 9th ed. Use the index at the end of the book to find page numbers of stories. Use the Glossary, pgs. 2123-2147, if there are literary terms you are not familiar with).

(schedule subject to change at the discretion of the instructor).

INTRODUCTIONS:

Focus: Introduce yourself to the rest of the class, explore the Blackboard site for the class.

Assignments:

Due by noon Jan. 28th:

- Under Course Content, find the Link to the folder titled *Introductions*
- Follow the directions found in the folder, and complete the Discussion assignment.

UNIT 1, FICTION

Focus: The short story: elements, analysis, critical readings.

*****Module 1, Fiction**

Overview: Vocabulary used to discuss fiction; formal elements and how to apply them to short stories; stories by Walker, Chopin, Kincaid, Poe, Joyce, Diaz, Cheever, and Updike; historical contexts on James Joyce; 2 Discussions.

Assignments:

Due by noon, Jan. 31st:

- Read: pgs. 13-19, 52-55, 72-81, 126, 212-217, 262-265, 329-335, and the short stories Edgar Allen Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado," Alice Walker's "The Flowers," Jamaica Kincaid's "Girl." Read the handouts posted here: notes on plot by Jane Burroway, "Reunion" by John Cheever, and notes on point of view.
- Complete Module 1 Fiction, Discussion 1.

Due by noon, Feb. 4th:

- Read John Updike "A & P," Junot Diaz "Fiesta," and James Joyce "Eveline" and pgs. 529-545
- Complete Module 1 Fiction, Discussion 2

Feb. 7th: all college professional day, classes do not meet.

*****Module 2, Fiction**

Overview: Stories by Tim O'Brien, Margaret Atwood, and Flannery O'Connor. Metafiction and Explicating passages.

Assignments:

Due by noon, Feb. 11th:

- Read Tim O'Brien "How to Tell a True War Story," Margaret Atwood "Happy Endings"
- Complete Module 2, Assignment 1 (short answer)

Due by noon, Feb. 14th:

- Flannery O'Connor "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," "Good Country People," and 491-492 "On Theme and Symbol," 442-448 on O'Connor's biography.
- Complete Module 2, Discussion 1

*****Module 3, Fiction**

Overview: Stories by Hansen, Boyle, Proulx, and Chekhov. Tone in short stories. Commentary by T. C. Boyle.

Assignments:

Due by noon, Feb. 19th: (Tuesday)

- Ron Hansen “My Kid’s Dog,” T. C. Boyle “Carnal Knowledge,” Annie Proulx “55 Miles to the Gas Pump”
- Complete Module 3 Discussion 1 or Assignment (tba)

Due by noon, Feb. 21st:

- Read Anton Chekhov “The Lady with the Pet Dog,” follow the link to the interview by T.C. Boyle.
- Complete Module 3 Discussion 2 or Assignment (tba)

*****Module 4, Fiction**

Overview: the writing process, writing about short stories. Essay topics, peer review of essays.

Assignments:

Due by noon Feb. 25th.

- Read 378-391 on Writing About Fiction
- Polished draft of Essay #1 due on assigned topics. Follow directions for submission outlined in the module.

Due by noon, Feb. 28th.

- Peer review comments on essays by three of your classmates. Follow directions for peer review outlined in the module.

Due by noon on March 4th.

- **Test on Fiction**
Timed test on the elements of fiction and short stories we have read. You have one hour and 15 minutes to complete the test. Once you log on, you must complete the test.

Due by noon on March 7th.

- **Final Draft of Essay**
Follow directions in Module for submitting correctly.

UNIT 2, POETRY

Focus: The Poem: elements, analysis, critical readings.

*****Module 1, Poetry**

Overview: Vocabulary used to discuss poetry; formal elements; traditional forms; a selection of poems. Focus on word choice, images, figurative language (simile & metaphor).

Assignments:

Due by noon on Mar. 11th:

- Reading due: see list under Module 1, Poetry.
- Complete Poetry Module 1, Discussion 1 or Assignment (tba)

Due by noon, Mar. 14th:

- Reading due: poems in particular forms: sonnet, villanelle, sestina, see list under Module 1, Poetry
- Complete Poetry Module 1, Discussion 2 or Assignment (tba)

(Spring Break: March 18-22nd) * * * * *

*****Module 2, Poetry**

Overview: Langston Hughes and Julia Alvarez: poems and critical commentary.

Assignments:

Due by noon on Mar. 25th:

- Reading due: work by & on Langston Hughes, 1129-1151 + 1155-1157 (Rampersad and Oktenberg). Also: attachments on Blues Poetry and Jazz Poetry. Links to Hughes reading his work.
- Complete Poetry Module 2, Discussion or Assignment (tab)

Due by noon Mar. 28th:

- Reading due: all work by & on Julia Alvarez, pgs. 1185-1212
- Complete Module 2 Assignment – short answers on Alvarez

*****Module 3, Poetry**

Overview: Poetry by Emily Dickinson and Robert Frost: critical commentary, historical and biographical contexts.

Assignments:

Due by noon on Apr. 1st:

- Reading due: selected poems by Frost and essays by Frost, see Module 3 for list
- Complete Poetry Module 3, Discussion.

Due by noon, Apr. 4th:

- Reading due: poems, letters, and commentary on Dickinson, see Module for list.
- Complete Poetry Module 3, Assignment – short answers on Dickinson.

*****Module 4, Poetry**

Overview: Essay topics for poetry, writing critical essays, peer review of essays.

Assignments:

Due by noon, Apr. 8:

- Polished draft of essay, based on assigned essay topics. Follow guidelines for submitting.

Due by noon, Apr. 11:

- Peer review comments on essays by three of your classmates. Follow directions for peer review outlined in the module.

Due by noon, Apr. 15:

- **Final draft of Essay.** Follow directions in Module for submitting correctly.

Due by noon on April 18th:

- **Test on Poetry**

Timed test on the elements of poetry and poems and poets we have read. You have one hour and 15 minutes to complete the test. Once you log on, you must complete the test.

UNIT 3, DRAMA

Focus: contemporary and classic plays. Critical commentary. Historical contexts.

*****Module 1, Drama**

Overview: Introduction to drama; plays by Hollinger, Cooper, and Ibsen. Historical contexts of Ibsen and critical strategies.

Assignments:

Due by noon, Apr. 22nd:

- Reading due: Hollinger “Naked Lunch,” Cooper “Mistaken Identity,” Ibsen *A Doll House* Acts 1-2 (pgs. 1704-1743), also pgs. 1363-1365, and 1704-1708.
- Complete Module #1 Discussion 1. / Assignment

Due by noon, Apr. 25th:

- Reading: finish *A Doll House* and pgs. 1767-1769 “A Nineteenth Century Husband’s Letter to His Wife,” 1765-1767 “A Marxist Approach to *A Doll House*.”
- Complete Module 1 Discussion / Assignment 2

*****Module 2, Drama**

Overview: William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*

Assignments:

Due by noon, Apr. 29th:

- Read: *Hamlet* Act I (pgs. 1585-1608), pgs. 1516-1527 (on Shakespeare) and 1419-1422 (on tragedy).
- Complete Module 2 Discussion 1 / Assignment

Due by noon, May 2nd:

- Read *Hamlet* Acts 2-3 (pgs. 1608-1648).
- Complete Module 2, Discussion 2 / Assignment

*****Module 3, Drama**

Overview: *Hamlet*, cont. and critical commentary.

Assignments:

Due by noon, May 5th:

- Read *Hamlet* Acts 4-5 (pgs. 1648-1682)
- Complete Module 3, Discussion / Assignment

Due by noon, May 9th:

- Read: commentary on *Hamlet* see Module for listing.
- Complete Module 3, Assignment

*****Module 4, Drama**

Overview: Essay topics and Test on Drama.

Assignments:

Due by noon, May 13th:

- **Essay on Drama.**

Due by noon, May 16th:

- **Test on Drama**