

ENG 102, section T6, Literature and Composition crn: 10466 (spring 2012)
Meets T Th 4-5:15, in Room D122
Instructor: Talvi Ansel
Instructor contact: email TAnsel@trcc.commnet.edu

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. edition. Ed. Michael Meyer.

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	20%
Essay #2	20%
Essay #3	25%
In-class work, reading responses, participation	5%
In-class exams	30%

Essays

3 formal essays based on the readings. The essays are to be typed and to follow MLA format.

You must turn in 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, a final revised essay submitted for a grade *with* first draft and all peer and instructor comments.

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

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 day, 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 speak to 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.

Exams

3 in-class exams during the semester. The exams will cover the readings, literary terms, and any material we have discussed in class. In order to do well on the exams, it is necessary that you do all of the readings, attend class, and participate in class discussions!

In-class Work, Short Written Responses, Quizzes

These assignments are designed to enrich the reading experience. For short written responses, you may be asked to answer questions in the text book. Some of these will be assigned for you to do at home, some will be completed in class. Take-home assignments must be typed. These assignments will be announced during class meetings and can not be made up or submitted late. They will not be returned.

Late Work

All work must be submitted on time to avoid penalization. *Essays 1 & 2* may be submitted *up to one week* after the due date, however they will be downgraded one full letter grade. 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. *If you wish to revise Essay 1 or 2, you must discuss this with me before submitting the revision. Essay 3 may only be turned in by our last class meeting (by 4:00 on Thurs. May 10th.)*

If you miss an exam, you must make arrangements with me (and the testing center) to do a make-up at the testing center. *Late exams must be made up within a week of the exam original date-- except for the last exam, which must be made up within 24 hours (by 4:00 on Dec. 11th).*

Short answers, in-class work, and quizzes may not be turned in late.

Attendance

Attendance is a requirement. Absences will affect your grade. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what material you have missed.

Withdrawal Dates

You may officially withdraw at the Registrar's Office up until May 7th. 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.

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.

Participation

Participation means active involvement in the class. To participate you must be in class. In addition to being in class, participation involves a willingness to complete in-class assignments and engage in discussions. If you are texting during class, you will not be counted as a participant.

Please turn off and put away all cell phones before coming to class.

Classroom Decorum

from 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, Conferences

The best way to contact me is by email at TAnsel@trcc.commnet.edu, 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). I am available immediately before class if you wish to discuss your work. *It's best to arrange with me in advance if you wish to meet me before class, and we can set up a time and meeting place.*

Blackboard and Email

Please be sure to have access to email in case I need to make an announcement. A Blackboard site has been established for the class; I will use it for posting announcements and possible readings.

Class Cancellations Please check the college website, and Blackboard, if there is bad weather. Instructions on what to do in case of a school or instructor cancellation will be posted on Blackboard.

Schedule

(schedule & readings subject to change at the discretion of the instructor)

Readings are from *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, unless otherwise noted. (Find page numbers for authors and specific works in the index or table of contents).

t.b.a. = to be announced

Readings are to be completed before coming to class. Please bring the reading materials (the book and any pieces that may be attached on Blackboard) to class so that we can discuss them in detail.

1/19 Th. The Short Story

Introduction to the course. Cheever "Reunion" (handouts: plot and point of view)

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1/24 Tues. Reading due: pgs. 13-19, 52-55, 72-81, 126, 212-217. Also: Walker "The Flowers," Chopin "The Story of an Hour," Updike "A & P," Kincaid "Girl," handout on point of view, Poe "The Cask of Amontillado," Hemingway "Hills Like White Elephants" (handout), and pgs. 262-265 (symbol), 329-335 (style, irony, tone, Carver's "Popular Mechanics").

1/26 Th. Flannery O'Connor: "Good Country People" and "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" and commentary "On Theme and Symbol" 491-492.

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1/31 Tues. Tim O'Brien "How to Tell a True War Story," Atwood "Happy Endings"

2/2 Th. Classes Do Not Meet.

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2/7 Tues. Hansen "My Kid's Dog," Boyle "Carnal Knowledge," Proulx "55 Miles to the Gas Pump"

2/9 Th. Joyce "Eveline", pgs. 529-545, Anton Chekhov "The Lady with the Pet Dog" pg. 223-234.

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2/14 Tues. Diaz "Fiesta," Updike "Summer," 378-391 on Writing About Fiction

2/16 Th. Melville "Bartleby the Scrivener" pgs. 142-166

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2/21 Tues. Essay #1, first draft due. Peer Review. Bring 3 copies of your polished draft to class.

2/23 Th. Test #1 on the short story.

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2/28 Tues. Drama

Intro. to drama, Hollinger "Naked Lunch," Cooper "Mistaken Identity," pgs. 1363-1365, 1704-1708.

3/1 Th. Ibsen "A Doll House" read Acts 1-2 (pgs. 1704-1743)

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3/6 Tues. Ibsen “A Doll House” finish play and pgs. 1767-1769, “A Nineteenth Century Husband’s Letter to His Wife” 1765-1767 and “A Marxist Approach to “*A Doll House*” and additional commentary T.B.A.

3/8 Th. Shakespeare *Hamlet* Act I (pgs. 1585-1608)
Pgs. 1516-1527 (on Shakespeare) and 1419-1421 (on tragedy).

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3/13 Tues. *Hamlet* Acts 2-3 (pgs. 1608-1648)

3/15 Th. *Hamlet* Acts 4-5 (pgs. 1648-1682)

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March 20 & 22 Spring Break

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3/27 Tues. *Hamlet* critical commentary: readings T.B.A.

3/29 Th. *Hamlet*, continued

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4/3 Tues. Essay #2 draft due for in-class peer review, please bring 3 copies.

4/5 Th. Test #2 on Drama.

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4/10 Tues. Poetry readings t.b.a.

4/12 Th. Poetry, forms, readings t.b.a.

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4/17 Tues. Poetry forms, readings t.b.a.

4/19 Th. Julia Alvarez, pgs. 1185-1212

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4/24 Tues. Robert Frost: “Mending Wall” pg. 1100, “After Apple Picking” pg. 1106, “Birches” pgs. 1107-1108, pgs. 1112-1116. And “On the Figure a Poem Makes” pgs. 1118-1120 and Poland “On ‘Neither Out Far nor in Deep’” pgs. 1123-1124.

4/26 Th. Langston Hughes, pgs. 1185-1212, 1129-1151 + Billy Collins pgs. 1166-1176.

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5/1 Tues. Emily Dickinson, readings and commentary t.b.a.

5/3 Dickinson, readings and commentary t.b.a.

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(May 7th. last day to withdraw from class)

5/8 Tues. essay #3 due.

5/10 Th. Test #3 on Poetry

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