

# ENGLISH 102 – LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

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Welcome to “Literature and Composition,” English 102. In this course we will focus on how to read serious literature, develop an interpretation of what we read, and then explain and support our interpretations in writing. The objective of the course is to develop critical thinking and writing skills. In the process of developing these skills, we will focus on the three genres of fiction, poetry, and drama from a thematic approach to understand the interpretive elements in the text and the conditions that affect the reader.

*\*Prerequisite: ENG 101*

## Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

### ***Read, think, and write 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 that presents diverse perspectives.
- Formulate and articulate your own interpretations about literature supported with specifics from the text.

### ***Demonstrate information literacy***

Further develop research skills by demonstrating abilities 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.

## Required Texts and Sources

- Henderson, Day, and Waller. *Literature and Ourselves*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition
- *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
- <http://www.poets.org>
- Online Writing Center at Purdue University: <http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu>

## Grade Percentages

### Essays

1	10%
2	10%
3	15%
4	20%

Homework	25%
Discussion	20%

## EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND POLICIES

**ESSAYS (55)%:** During this session you will be required to write four formal essays. As my expectations increase, so will the grade percentage awarded for each essay. Look for essay assignment due dates on the syllabus and the requirements in the modules.

**Paper Format:** All essays need to be submitted as word **doc. files**. Essays are to be typed and formatted **adhering to MLA standards** (the format you learned in English 101). For an example of the correct format for an academic essay, go to the online writing center at Owl. English Purdue <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> (Points will be awarded on each essay for correct format.) \***Pet Peeve:** *sloppy papers. It is your job to proofread your paper. If I can't read your paper due to careless errors, such as spelling errors, I will return it or your grade will be affected negatively.*

**HOMEWORK (25%) AND DISCUSSION BOARD (20%):** Even though this course is online, it still requires class participation and involvement on your part to make it a success. I will ask you to do the weekly readings and submit the required homework on them. You will also be expected to participate in discussions with your peers in the Discussion Board. (See Discussion Board for specifics.) (Think of these assignments the same way you would as if you were attending classes in a "real" classroom. For example, if you were attending class at 5 on a Monday and an assignment or paper was due, that paper would be due at 5 p.m. on that particular day, not at 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. or even the next morning. Therefore, when a paper or assignment is due on a certain day and hour, I will expect it to be turned in online by that time. After that, the assignment site will be closed, meaning you will no longer be able to submit it to me. The only exceptions are medical emergencies [and will only be excused with proper documentation] or when Blackboard goes down.

**IN OTHER WORDS - This course requires independent planning and organization, so it is imperative that you plan ahead to get your work in if you want credit for it. Also, expect technical difficulties and please take note that they are not an excuse for not getting your work in. (The first week you will be excused for technology "mishaps" while you get used to navigating the course; after that there are no excuses.) Missed assignments and discussion entries cannot be made up, and if you post the assignments in another site, I will not be responsible for locating or grading them (for example, in email).**

**HOW TO FIND YOUR ASSIGNMENTS:** On the homepage, you will see a link to each week, for example, week one, week two, and so on (called learning modules). When you open up each week, you will find the assignments for that week. (Open up each link to find specific directions.)

### **How to find your grade and comments:**

After I finish grading your work, you will be able to find the grade and my comments by opening up the assignment link (the same link that you first opened to find the assignment). (If there is

an attachment, open it up to see the comments.) Also, some assignments, including essays and discussion board entries, will have a rubric. See [Grading Preview](#).

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

*General Definition (Student Discipline Policy, section 2:10, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges)*

**Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to**

- (a) cheating on an examination,
- (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course,
- (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own,
- (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials,
- (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data,
- (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and
- (g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

**Tutoring:** Three Rivers has a wonderful writing center (free) with experienced tutors (who have taken ENG 101 and 102, etc.). The Writing Center also accepts work online. To receive assistance, send in your paper via email to [TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu). Include your name, student ID, and a brief summary of the assignment and your specific concerns. Phone: (860) 892-5773 for hours and to make an appointment. *(Do not wait until the last minute to receive help! If you are submitting your work online, allow up to 24 hours for a response.)*

**Students with disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability that requires modifications, please contact me within the first couple of days so we can work out an appropriate plan to meet your needs. (You will need an accommodation plan from Chris Scarborough.)

**Final Notes on how to survive and excel:**

- 1) Play around with this site. Experiment. Explore. Do not wait until the last minute to do your assignments or to send them to me. (Are you noticing an overriding theme here about taking an online course and working with technology—give yourself time to do the work and to submit it.) (Expect some difficulties.)
- 2) Be patient. For many of you, this is a new way of learning. Give yourself extra time. (Do not assume you can sit down and "whip" out the work.)
- 3) Many students take an online course thinking it will be "easier" and will take less time. This belief is a myth. This course is set up to give you the same hours and instruction as a course in a regular 15-week semester (face-to-face). (If we were meeting in a classroom, we would be meeting 3 hours a week and you'd be doing approximately 6-9 hours of work outside of the classroom.) (You do the math ☺.) So expect to put in the hours and be a self-motivated learner (required for success).

- 4) Do not get behind. If you wait until the last minute to do your work, it is likely you will run out of time (or have technology difficulties) and will start missing the homework or discussion postings. Once that happens, it will be hard for you to stay current and complete the course.
- 5) If you have questions related to technology, contact Information Technology. (On your Commnet page there are links to help you navigate online courses and to resolve any compatibility issues you may have with your computer and this program.) If you have course content questions, please contact me! (Send all correspondence to me in Blackboard's email program—not my regular Three Rivers email address) Let's get started!

*Congratulations for making it this far. Now please complete the quiz found on the homepage in Week One. Pay close attention to the requirements and due dates. This quiz cannot be made up.*

*\*\*FINAL NOTE: I will do my best to respond to your emails quickly. Please keep in mind though that I am not on my computer constantly (and do not have access to email on my cell phone). ( I can guarantee though that I will respond within 24-48 hours. Recommendation: do not wait until the last minute with questions on an assignment.)*

## SPRING 2011

**First official day of class: Thursday, January 20 – By Monday, January 24, read syllabus, take the quiz, complete profile on the Roster, and meet your classmates on the Discussion Board.**

Take this time to get acquainted with Blackboard and how this learning environment operates. On the homepage, you will notice that there are links for each week (called Learning Modules). Each module contains the links to all assignments that are due, including essays, homework, and discussion board postings. (Keep in mind—as I stress this point again—that if you try to submit anything after a due date and time, it will be rejected. Do not submit the work to me in email. It will not be accepted.) (\*\*Assignments are listed on the calendar as well. Open it up to see them and the due dates, and when you link on them, the assignment specifications will open up!) (Follow this syllabus as a guideline.)

Roster. If you look on the left side of the screen on your homepage, you will find a link to our "Roster." Open this link, download a photo of yourself, and write a description that will give your peers (and me) an idea of who you are, why you're in school, and what your favorite pastimes are.

Discussion Board: Follow directions on the site.

### **Week One: January 24-28**

Due Monday: syllabus, profile, quiz, and discussion board postings. (See directions above.)

Due Friday: read "Poetry" 13-17; Formalist Criticism 1128; follow and complete Assignment One (DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY.)

**Week Two: January 31 – February 4**

Freedom and Responsibility 693; "The Unknown Citizen" 756; "Immigrants" 760; "In Response to Executive Order . . ." 761; "Ringing the Bells" 759. Assignment Two (DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY)

**Week Three: February 7-11**

"Fiction" 9-13; "On the Rainy River" 776; Assignment Three (DUE BY MIDNIGHT ON FRIDAY)

**Week Four: February 14-18**

Read "Writing about Literature" 21-39 and visit the Owl Website at Purdue to acquaint yourself with strategies for writing effectively: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>. For specific directions on how to write a literary essay, open the PowerPoint presentation and read through it: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/697/1/>. Make sure you also read the "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." (I will expect that your essays will look exactly like the examples in this guide): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> Essay One (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Five: February 21-25**

Gender Criticism 1130; Men and Women 228. "Barbie Doll" 323; "Future Connected By" 140; "Abbot Academy" 326; "Newsworld II" 504. Assignment Four (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Six: February 28-March 4**

"Désirée's Baby" 269; "A Domestic Dilemma" 64. Assignment Five (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Seven: 7 – 11**

Essay Two (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Eight: 14-18 \*\*\* Spring Break – Enjoy!!**

**Week Nine: 21-25**

*Fences* 143 – read entire play (Acts 1 and 2). Assignment Six (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Ten: 28-March 1**

"The Dramatic Vision of August Wilson" 199; "Boundaries, Logistics, and Identity . . ." 207; "Filling the Time: Reading History in the Drama of August Wilson" 212; "August Wilson's Women" 216; "An Interview with August Wilson" 219. Assignment Seven (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Eleven: 4-8**

Essay Three (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Twelve: 11-15**

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* - read introduction and pages 1-114. Assignment Eight (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Thirteen: 18-22**

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* – 115-210. Assignment Nine (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Fourteen: 25-29**

*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* – finish novel. Assignment Ten (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Fifteen: May 2-6**

Assignment Eleven (secondary sources) (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

**Week Sixteen: May 9-13**

Last week of classes. Essay Four (DUE FRIDAY BY MIDNIGHT) *You made it!! Enjoy some time off! You deserve it!*