

ENGLISH 102 – LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

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Office Hours: MW 12:30-2:00, by appointment, and on Saturday mornings

Location: C 216

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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. During the semester, you will also be given instruction in composition and will be required to write frequently.

**Prerequisite: ENG 101*

Course Objectives

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.

Required Texts

- Henderson, Day, and Waller. *Literature and Ourselves*, 6th edition
- Díaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

Other Required Materials

A two-pocket folder and a stapler

Grade Percentages

Essays

1	10%	Peer review	10%
2	15%	Class participation,	
3	15%	quizzes, & in-class writing	30%
4	20%		

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENT AND GRADES

ESSAYS (60)%: 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. The essay assignments will be handed out in class and will focus on the thematic units we will have been reading and discussing.

PEER REVIEW (10%): Before turning in your essay, you will be required to develop a formal typed draft of your essay to bring to class for a peer review workshop (along with copies of your draft to share with your peers). (Number of copies is designated on syllabus.) This draft should be the best essay you can write and should be **completed** with the assigned amount of pages typed. In class you will be assigned into groups, where you will be responsible to give feedback to your peers based on the requirements I will explain and hand out during that class period. After you receive written input from your peers, it is expected you will then revise your essay. You will be graded on how effectively you review your peers' essays. ***If you miss a peer review day or come to class without a fully typed draft for review and the required amount of copies, you will not be able to participate in peer review and it will affect your grade negatively.*** (You will not be allowed to leave class to go make copies. You must be prepared at the **beginning** of class.) Finally, when you turn in your final paper, you will need to place it in a pocket folder with the original essay (before peer review), the peer reviews, and your final essay to be graded.

Paper Format: All formal essays should follow MLA format guidelines: double-spaced (not triple or two-and-a-half spaces), one-inch margins, and size 12 fonts. Be forewarned that if you include extra spaces between paragraphs or type in extra large margins or fonts, etc., your paper will be returned without a grade or it will affect your grade negatively. ***Pet Peeve: Sloppy papers.***

CLASS PARTICIPATION (30%): Your participation (or lack of) in class will affect your final grade. (Expect to work in class by being prepared to participate in large and small group work, do in-class writing assignments, and take quizzes.) *Missed assignments cannot be made up.

OTHER POLICIES

Deadlines: There is no such thing as late work. If you have an emergency, please contact me to make other arrangements. Only in a documented emergency will I accept email submissions, which must be approved ahead of time. Late essays will be given either a pass (C) or a fail (F).

Attendance: In order for the class to be successful it is important that you attend regularly. **If you must miss class, please remember that you will still be held accountable for the material covered in class and all assignments that are due that day.** (An excused absent includes, for example, illness and/or injury and requires written verification.)

Late Arrivals: *Please be in class on time.* Within the first five minutes of class I will take attendance. Habitual lateness will affect your class participation grade negatively!

Breaks: Unless it is an emergency, refrain from leaving the class at all times. Doing so is disruptive. I will also be locking our classroom door this semester, so if you leave, you will not be able to get back in.

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.

Tutoring: Three Rivers has an excellent writing center located next to the library, C117. Receiving help through email is also available. Include your name, student ID, and a brief explanation of the assignment and send your work as an attachment to TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu. (Do not wait until the last minute.)

Students with disabilities: Any student with a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom modifications should see me about her/his disability within the first week or two of class. I will ask you to see one of the learning disabilities counselors on campus so we can work together to implement an appropriate plan to meet your needs. For more information see http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/Learn_Dis.htm

Cell phones: School regulations require that all cell phones be turned off in learning environments. If it is imperative for you to be available by cell phone, please speak to me before class. **(No text messaging during class.)** (If your phone goes off or you are caught text messaging, there will be a consequence!)

Class cancellations: If class is cancelled, a notice will be posted outside the door. I will also try to send out an email, so make sure your email address is current and in your personal records. School cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on the TRCC homepage and also recorded on the school's main phone number: 860-886-0177. To receive alerts on your cell phone, sign up for Early Alert Warnings on your Commnet page. (This service is free and allows you to be notified by text if there are any school cancellations or emergencies (highly recommended!!)).

SPRING 2011

Please bring your books to class every day. You will need them to participate in class activities and assignments.

JANUARY

21 Introduction to course

Week One

24 What have we been reading and why do we read? What constitutes "serious" literature? What is the connection between reading literature and becoming better critical thinkers and writers? In *Literature and Ourselves* read "Reading Literature," 1-5
 26 **Poetry** 13-17; Formalist Criticism 1128; **Freedom and Responsibility** 693-94
 28 Read "The Unknown Citizen" 756; "Ringing the Bells" 759

Week Two

31 "Immigrants" 760; "In Response to Executive Order . . ." 761

FEBRUARY

2 **Fiction** 9-13
 4 "On the Rainy River" 777

Week Three

7 "Customs of the Country" 741
 9 "A & P" 735
 11 Read "Writing about Literature" 21-39

Week Four

14 Peer Review - bring 2 copies of your typed, completed essay (required to participate)
 16 Men and Women 228; Gender Criticism 1130; "Barbie Doll" 323
 18 "Abbot Academy" 327"; "Future Connected By" 141

Week Five

21 Presidents' Day – no class
 23 **ESSAY ONE DUE** (in folder with peer reviews); "Hills Like White Elephants" 297
 25 "Désirée's Baby" 269

Week Six

28 "The Yellow Wallpaper" 274

MARCH

2 "Temporary Matter" 301
 4 Discussion

Week Seven

7 Watch the film *Vertigo*
 9 *Vertigo* continued
 11 *Vertigo* continued

***** Spring Break – March 14- 18 (Enjoy and be safe!) *****

Week Eight

21 Due: 2-page typed critical analysis (on *Vertigo*) that explains how the characters are shaped by their gender roles
 23 Workshop - discussion

25 Peer review – bring three typed, completed copies of your essay

Week Nine

28 **ESSAY TWO DUE** (in folder with peer reviews). Vulnerability 436
 30 "The Meaning of Terrorism from Terrorism: The Present Threat in Context" 462

APRIL

1 "Newsworld II" 504; "*Dulce et Decorum Est*" 514

Week Ten

4 "On the Subway" 519; "Try to Praise the Mutilated World" 522
 6 "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" 106
 8 No class. Research/reading day.

Week Eleven

11 Peer review – bring 3 completed, typed copies of your essay
 13 **Drama** 17-21; *Fences*, 143 - Act I; answer questions under "Questions for Engagement, Response, and Analysis, pages 197-98 (for Act 1, scenes 1-4)
 15 *Fences* – Act 2; finish play and answers the rest of the questions. (*The Piano Lesson*)

Week Twelve

18 **ESSAY THREE DUE** in folder with peer reviews. Watch *The Piano Lesson*
 20 *The Piano Lesson*
 22 Spring recess – no class

Week Thirteen

25 No class
 27 Author report due on Junot Díaz that gives background information on his life and work (1 ½ to 2 pages long). Bulleted list that identifies the Dominican Republic's history. (Be particularly detailed on the years of Trujillo's reign.) *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, 1-50
 29 *Oscar Wao* – 51-75 – Due: one page typed summary of Chapter Two and two questions to promote thoughtful discussion

MAY

Week Fourteen

2 *Oscar Wao* – 77-165 - Due: one page typed summary of Chapter Three and two questions to promote thoughtful discussion
 4 *Oscar Wao* – 167-210 - Due: one page typed summary of Chapter Four and two questions to promote thoughtful discussion
 6 *Oscar Wao* – 211-261 - Due: one page typed summary of Chapter Five and two questions to promote thoughtful discussion

Week Fifteen

9 Finish novel - Due: two page typed summary of these chapters combined: Chapters Six, Seven, and Eight, and two questions on each chapter to promote thoughtful discussion
 11 Finish discussion – writing workshop
 13 Peer review – bring 3 completed, typed essays

Week Sixteen

16 **FINAL ESSAY DUE** (in folder with peer reviews). No exceptions.

**Final grades will be posted on the web. If you would like your essay back right away, please enclose a SASE with it. Otherwise, please pick up your work in my office next semester.*

Student Contract

Please read and sign acknowledging that you understand what academic integrity is and what the consequences are for violating it.

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.*

By reading and signing this contract, I am acknowledging that I understand what the general definitions are that constitute Academic Integrity and that if I partake in any of these activities I will fail this class and could be expelled from college.

NAME _____ DATE _____