INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH 102

1. Welcome to your second college-level writing course offered by the English Department. This course, Writing Through Literature, extends and intensifies the skills that you have learned in Composition I (ENA/C/G101), including process-based writing and research methods. You will learn close-reading techniques to further develop your critical thinking and writing skills through the study of culturally diverse works in at least three genres (poetry, drama, and fiction) while applying techniques of literary criticism including the close reading of literary texts. You must have passed ENA/C/G101 to remain in and receive credit for Composition II (ENG102).

2. Your instructor will assign books and materials that you must purchase. S/he will give you a detailed syllabus that may include an overview of the course, an outline of course themes and learning objectives, a schedule of assignments and class activities, attendance and punctuality policy, and grading standards.

3. All of the essays written in English 102 will build on the writing and editing skills you have learned in English 101. All papers should use vivid and effective language and demonstrate a sound analysis of the literary text(s) in focus, as well as exhibit organized and developed ideas that support a thesis or main point.

4. You will be introduced to methodologies of literary analysis, such as biographical context, historical context, and/or critical theory.

5. You will do a lot of writing for this course. Much of the writing will be “low-stakes writing,” such as informal assignments done in class or for homework. A single low-stakes assignment doesn't have much effect on your final grade. Taken together, though, low-stakes writing assignments may be calculated into your overall semester grade! And students who work hard on low-stakes assignments tend to get better grades on "high stakes" work such as major essays and exams, because these assignments are designed to help you analyze, synthesize and organize your thoughts in your own language.

6. You will write four essays of varying lengths (between 600 and 2000 words): two formal essays, plus a longer, critical research essay and an in-class final examination. You will be provided with significant opportunities for revising your essays, except the final examination. Your instructor has the right to refuse, or lower the grade for, late work. To determine what areas of your writing need reinforcing, your instructor may also give, at the beginning of the semester, a diagnostic essay that does not count toward your final course grade.

7. To write a research paper or papers, you will be required to conduct library research, locate reliable and appropriate sources, and use them to develop and support your ideas. As in ENA/C/G101, your instructor will guide you through the research, drafting, and writing process. You will learn how to document your sources in the Modern Language Association (MLA) style.

8. You will be taught how to use quotations and paraphrases with the appropriate MLA Works Cited documentation to avoid plagiarism (presenting someone else’s work as one’s own). Any student who plagiarizes will be given a failing grade.
9. Your instructor may conduct the class through lecture, group work, or combinations of the two. S/he may use various technologies to enhance instruction. At times, you may work with your instructors and classmates to develop your essay ideas, and they may, in the revision process, make suggestions on improving drafts of your essays.

10. Your instructor will respond to your papers in written comments and/or in conferences. The instructor will evaluate and grade your written work according to content, organization, style, grammar, and/or other criteria. The instructor will also make suggestions for revisions.

11. Tutors in the Writing Center (B 200) are available to offer you help in improving your writing skills. The Writing Center is a free service. You are encouraged to use it to help revise your work and to work on areas that are giving you problems. Your instructor may require that you attend the Writing Center if your writing skills need significant improvement.

12. A lot of your learning will take place in class. Therefore, punctual class attendance is mandatory and is a requirement for passing ENG102. You may have no more than four hours of unexcused absences. Your instructor will decide what constitutes excused and unexcused absences.

13. At the end of this course, you will:
   - Demonstrate understanding of writing as a process that involves pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing and proofreading.
   - Write clearly and coherently in varied academic formats (such as response papers, blogposts, formal essays, and research papers) with an emphasis on writing as a critical thinking process. Essays will vary in length between 600 and 2000 words, using U.S. Standard English and employing technology where appropriate.
   - Interpret and write critically about poetry, drama, and fiction while applying techniques of close reading and other methods of literary criticism.
   - Employ methodologies of literary analysis, such as biographical context, historical context, and/or critical theory.
   - Read and listen critically and analytically, including identifying an argument’s major assumptions and assertions and evaluating its supporting evidence.
   - Support theses with well-reasoned arguments and communicate persuasively over a variety of contexts, purposes, audiences, and media.
   - Demonstrate understanding of research methods including the use of appropriate technology and the ability to gather, evaluate, synthesize, and cite primary and secondary sources while writing critically and analytically about literature.
   - Write timed, in-class essays.

14. The English Department wishes you a productive semester strengthening your writing skills through literature! Completion of this course will prepare you for the CPE examination. It will also prepare you for a range of exciting literature, writing, and journalism courses offered by the English Department, including courses that lead to an Associate of Arts degree in Writing and Literature. For further information, feel free to ask your instructor or the English Department at E103 (718-482-5656).

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