

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE COURSES

In order to be registered for this course, you must have taken one or more English courses including English 101.* In this course you will do close reading and analysis of texts to refine your analytical reading and writing skills.

1. You will be encouraged to engage in reading, writing, speaking and listening as an integrated process. You should read closely and be open to a variety of perspectives so that you are prepared to make observations and ask questions in class.

2. Your instructor will encourage you to analyze and respond to the metaphorical, imagistic, and symbolic language of texts; to develop the interpretive strategies and critical vocabulary needed to discuss and write about literature; to appreciate the formal and thematic aspects of literature; to see connections between what is written and how it is written; to see the relationship of literature to society and to human experience; to see texts in comparison with earlier texts and to understand some of the historical forces which created them; and to find joy and pleasure in reading a diversity of texts derived from intellectual and stylistic perspectives, and from a range of social and ethnic origins.

3. All of the essays written in the course will build on the writing skills you learned in English 101. All papers should use vivid and effective language and exhibit organized and developed ideas, which support a clearly established thesis or main point.

4. You will be required to write a minimum of three essays ranging from 500 to 2,000 words in length. At least one of these essays must incorporate secondary sources or related primary texts. Your instructor may also assign other writing assignments. As in English 101, you will be required to follow the appropriate MLA format. You will be reminded of the various pitfalls of plagiarism (presenting someone else's work as your own or failing to cite it clearly and effectively). So important is this issue that any student who plagiarizes may be given a failing grade on the assignment or for the course depending on the specific circumstances.

5. Your instructor will also respond to your writing both in conferences and in written comments on your papers and will evaluate and grade your written work according to content, organization, style, grammar, and the quality of your textual analysis, while offering specific suggestions for revision.

6. Remember that 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 those areas which are giving you specific problems. Your instructor may require that you visit the Writing Center.

7. You **MUST** buy the assigned text(s) and, if required, appropriate sized paper and/or a storage device and dictionary. (Failure to possess a copy of the required texts almost always translates into weak performance).

8. Classroom learning is essential to this course. Therefore, class participation and punctuality are mandatory and are requirements for passing this course. You may have no more than four hours of absences (or 15% of class time). According to the College Catalog “Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program” (166).

9. Your instructor will determine your final grade primarily on the quality of the overall work submitted in the course. Your instructor has the right to refuse to accept a late assignment and may lower the grade for late work that is accepted. Your instructor will inform the class of how final grades will be determined.

10. Your instructor will provide a detailed syllabus.

*Note that you must have passed ENG 101 to remain in and receive credit for this literature course. In the case of ENG 290: British Lit I, ENG 291: British Lit II, ENG293: American Lit I, ENG293: American Lit II, and ENG295: World Literatures Written in English, English 102 is a prerequisite.