

## ENG 150 Introduction to Literature (Winter Session 2010)

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### Email is the only way to get a hold of me during the Winter Session.

#### **Text Required:**

All readings will be through online links.

**Course Description:** This course will develop students' appreciation and understanding of literature and challenge them to explore a variety of issues (social, historical, geographical, ethnic, and political) through reading, writing, and discussion of literary texts. These texts may vary by genre, historical period, or country of origin, but the goal of the course is to provide students with the skills necessary to understand how literary form produces meaning.

#### **Course Objectives:**

To enable students to:

1. Write interpretive essays that draw connections between literary form and meaning
2. Make meaningful thematic connections between contemporary issues and literature from historical, geographic, or ethnic origins
3. Cultivate an understanding of specific literary elements and techniques in a literary work  
Practice reading and interpretation from a variety of critical standpoints
4. Use writing-to-learn strategies (such as journals, writing logs, and brainstorming) to develop their understanding of course content and to think critically about that content
5. engage literature through the drafting, editing, and revising of their own writing
6. Use research and documentation skills where they may be necessary and integrate them through paraphrase, quotation and citation appropriately

#### **Student Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- a. Master interpretive essays that demonstrate knowledge of the relationship between literary form and meaning. (UCC Expression: Literature SLO 1, UCC Program SLO 9)
- b. Develop meaningful thematic connections, orally and in writing, between contemporary issues and literature from various historical, geographic, or ethnic origins. (UCC Expression: Literature SLO 2, UCC Program SLO 3)
- c. Demonstrate an understanding of specific literary elements and techniques in a literary work. (UCC Expression: Literature SLO 3, UCC Program SLO 1)
- d. Identify a variety of critical approaches to reading and interpretation. (UCC Expression: Literature SLO 4, UCC Program SLO 3)
- e. Use writing-to-Learn strategies such as brainstorming, free-writing, reading logs etc.) to develop their understanding of course content and to think critically about that content. (UCC Writing Intensive SLO 1)
- f. Create essays through drafting, editing, and revising of their responses that demonstrate an engagement in literature (UCC Writing Intensive SLO 2, UCC Program SLO 9)
- g. Create documents which accurately cite secondary sources consulted for research purposes (UCC Writing Intensive 3, UCC Program SLO 5)

#### **Assessment:**

Participation in ONLINE

Discussion Boards, Journals, drafts and Quizzes 30%

Paper # 1 35%

Paper # 2 35%

**Class Expectations: (Information Regarding the Following is also found on Blackboard under Course Information)**

**Quizzes (Part of 30%):** Quizzes are given at designated times which will open up on Blackboard. They are always pop quizzes (so daily diligence is often required). You have approximately 10 minutes to finish your quiz. A timer will start on Blackboard. For every minute over designated time, a five point deduction will occur. Please keep a close eye on the time. You will be held responsible. Quizzes can and will include information on the author of the story. If you miss these quizzes, you cannot make them up. Quizzes are graded on a 100-point scale.

**Daily Class Journals (Part of 30%):** Almost on *daily basis*, I will ask you all to contemplate an issue, question or concept relevant to daily readings. These assignments will engage with your knowledge of the material. Each assignment must be 1-2 pages in length and submitted via the Assignment link attached to the entry under the Assignment Page in Blackboard. These assignments will be graded on a 100-0 point scale. These journals will be checked on turnitin.com for plagiarism. Any plagiarism of this work (including handing in the same writing from another course) will result in failure of the course. No exceptions.

**The journals will be graded as such:**

100-90 is reserved for a well-thought out answer which thoroughly engages with the subject matter and offers a sophisticated analysis of the material. This journal refers to the text, cites quotes and offers a unique and interesting perspective.

89-80 is reserved for a good analysis which offers some insight of the material. This journal also makes an effort to cite quotes from the text.

79-70 is reserved for completion of the assignment as requested, but tends to offer minimal analysis and minimal citation of quotes from the text.

69-60 is reserved for those who summarize, turn in short responses or do not engage with the material.

50-0 is reserved for those who do not turn in a response.

**Participation in Online Discussion Forums (Part of 30%):** As mentioned above, active participation in class is critical. This will take place mainly through our discussion board. Your online discussion grade is composed of the following:

I will post the online discussion assignment for the week on alternating days, you will then have until Midnight the next day to post your response. The questions will come from the readings due that week. This means you should complete the reading well before you respond. Each Response must include the following: A Thesis, A Supporting Argument (Quotes and Examples from the text), and Analysis (Explanations). These responses will be graded on a 100-point scale. Failure to do the above will result in failing grades.

Responses must be well thought out. Don't submit work that is rushed, sloppy, or that is in an "instant message" or "chat room" format. Moreover, you are NOT allowed to post such responses as "I like what the author said," "she makes a lot of sense" or anything similarly trite, brief or summarizing. The responses should be well thought out and complex, adding to, informing us of or generally critically examining ideas and issues that others have thoughtfully brought up. You should use proper citations, correct spelling, and proper grammar. Each response must be at

least 1-2 FULL paragraphs in length, it must ask questions, debate with, add examples to or engage with the material in a thoughtful and considerate manner.

You should prepare your response in an MS Word document (or other word processing document) and then cut-and-paste it to the form in the online discussion forum. As with anything you submit electronically, keep a copy of the document as a backup. If you type directly into the discussion forum, you run a much higher risk of losing your work because of computer errors or online connection interruptions.

When you prepare your response, make sure it is in 12pt, Times New Roman font.

Please email me if you have any questions.

**Papers: (35% each)** Papers will be on a topic of your choice; however, look at the Course Documents section for possible paper topics. The paper should focus directly with the topics that we have discussed throughout the semester. Such ideas may consider, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, displacement, ideology, identity, migration, etc. The paper will be 3-4 pages in length. Each paper must be submitted online in TWO places: First, post the paper in the Assignment link in Blackboard. Second, post the paper on turnitin.com

**Plagiarism:**

*Issues of plagiarism will be taken seriously. Do not take, borrow or steal information from other sources without citing them in your paper. Make sure your sources are listed in your Works Cited. If you do engage in this or any other dishonest academic practice (spelled out clearly in the student handbook). I will report plagiarism to the Dean's office and you will fail the course or receiving disciplinary action from the university. Turn in only your own work and cite all of your sources (no matter how small). If you have any questions regarding the standards in place, please contact me. Moreover, signing in the name of another student on the daily attendance roll will be considered a form of cheating and will cause you and the other student to be marked absent for the day, as well as the possibility of being reported to the committee for academic dishonesty. **Students will be required to set up accounts with turnitin.com. The password for the account is miller (no caps). This must be done by the second day of class and will be counted as an assignment for the semester.***

**Grading:** 94-100 A, A- 93-90, B+ 89-87, B 86-84, B- 83-80, C+ 79-77  
C 76-74, C- 73-70, D+ 69-66, D 66-64, F 63-0

**Things to Consider:**

- Assignments must be submitted at designated times on Blackboard on the day assigned and in the assigned format. There will be no chances if you miss the window for submission. **I will not accept late work.** Each assignment will be double spaced with 1" margins on all sides (no tricks!! I know them all). Double Spaced. The only acceptable font is Times New Roman in 12 point size.
- Email is for important discussions only. You should not ask questions referring to the specifics of how to use Blackboard. Those questions are all answered online for you, as well as available in help sections and a specific section on the discussion board. Please refer there for help. I will **not accept emailed papers** to me directly; all papers should be uploaded to specific areas in blackboard. Though this is an online course, I will not be online every hour of every day. Please be prepared for the fact that if you send me an email, it may take me up to 24-48 hours to answer. Leaving me phone messages is not acceptable.

- **Students are expected to show respect for diverse opinions during class discussion and in papers. Each student is also expected to participate in class discussion in a responsible manner, presenting opinions but also permitting others to present their opinions. A failure to respect other students and the opinions they offer is unacceptable behavior.**