

William Paterson University  
ENG-1500 Expression in Literature Course Information

**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, 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:

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

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

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.
- b) Develop meaningful thematic connections, orally and in writing, between contemporary issues and literature from various historical, geographic, or ethnic origins.
- c) Demonstrate an understanding of specific literary elements and techniques in a literary work.
- d) Identify a variety of critical approaches to reading and interpretation.
- 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.
- f) Create essays through drafting, editing, and revising of their responses that demonstrate an engagement in literature.
- g) Create documents which accurately cite secondary sources consulted for research purposes.