



ENGLISH 102 Spring 2014 WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE

Writing about Literature

Instructor: Holly Bailey-Hofmann
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Office Hour: W 11-1, TTH 11-12, T 6:15-6:45
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Section 1012 TTH 9:35-11:10
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Class Website: <http://myetudes.org>

Required Texts

Boutry, Katherine, Clare Norris-Bell and Holly Bailey-Hofmann. *The West Guide to Writing: Success through the Sequence from Community College to University*. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt, 2012. **Required.**

Morrison, Toni. *Sula*. Any edition is fine. **Required.**

Wilson, August. *Fences*. Penguin, 1986. Any edition is fine. **Required.**

Course Description and Policies

English 102 is an introduction to writing about literature. This class will take a critical approach, and discussion and critical inquiry of the texts will be the core of this class. A lot of reading is involved, so schedule your time accordingly.

Student Learning Outcome

At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to critically evaluate works of literature using literary terms and incorporate this knowledge into their own writing.

In other words, students will:

- Analyze Literature.
- Use literary terms in discussing/writing about literature.
- Compose college-level essays which reveal critical responses to short fiction, poetry, drama, and the novel.
- Scrutinize theme, character, motivation, conflict, irony, plot, vocabulary, etc.
- Write essays that are organized, logical, free of errors, possess clarity of purpose, solid and specific support.

ETUDES

As a supplement to this class, an online ETUDES-NG site will be available to enrolled students. (Students adding the class will have a delay in access.) This site will feature lecture content, handouts, etc. and is a helpful resource for the class. You can access our class Etudes site at: <http://myetudes.org/portal> For help logging in, contact the Distance Learning Office at 310-287-4306.

Attendance

You have three absences that do not count against you. Thereafter, I begin subtracting points from your participation grade.

Cell Phones

Cell phones must be muted, as a courtesy to your classmates and your professor. We all forget sometimes, but it is not acceptable to take phone calls in class.

Disabilities

If you have any learning or physical disabilities, please contact the Disabled Student Programs and Services Office in HLRC 121 at (310) 287-4450. The DSPS will then contact your instructors to notify them of needed accommodations, such as additional testing time, note taker, etc. Do not be embarrassed to seek help. Disabilities are not a reflection of who you are, but of how your brain works. Understanding how you learn is the first step to success.

Standards

- No late papers are accepted. **1 Exception Per Student, per Semester.** 10 point penalty applies per class, not to exceed 4 classes.
- Missed quizzes cannot be made up, even if you just arrive to class after it has been given.
- You must buy the books and do all the work for the class or you cannot pass. Missing even one essay is enough to fail you.
- If I see no course activity for two weeks in a row or more, I will drop you. If you plagiarize (submit work that is not your own, either entirely or in part) you will fail the essay and you therefore risk failing the class.
- It is not appropriate to email your professor about personal matters, or to ask what assignment you missed. Read your syllabus or contact a classmate to find out what you missed.

Dropping the course

According to college policy, you may be excluded for excessive absences or for not following the Standards of Student Conduct (printed in the Schedule of Classes). If you drop the course, be sure to do so at the Admissions and Business Offices. Otherwise, the grade drops to a "D" or "F" and cannot be removed. Pay attention to drop dates in the Schedule of Classes.

Extenuating circumstances...

Nearly every WLAC student works 40 hours a week. We all have personal responsibilities: bodies that get sick, cars and computers/printers that break down, loved ones that get sick and (heaven forbid) die. Some have families and children to attend to. This is a given. That's what makes it necessary to manage time and plan ahead in order to succeed! We all go through tough times, myself included, which is why I can sympathize with your troubles, but I cannot make exceptions. There's nothing that feels as good as a grade that you earned, despite difficulties. If your 'extenuating circumstances' become too overwhelming, withdraw and take the course at a more convenient time (if you can find one!)

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, even unintentional, is unacceptable, and will result in failure of the assignment and possibly failure of the class. Remember to credit words or ideas that are not your own. Submitting someone else's paper or importing other sources whole scale is the kind of thing that will get you in serious trouble. I advise you to keep your work to yourself, and do not show it to classmates. It takes more energy to cheat than to write something yourself, and you only cheat yourself. I take plagiarism as a personal insult and a waste of my time and therefore am not inclined to be lenient.

How to Succeed in this Class

Attend all class sessions, do the required reading, thinking, rereading and writing. DO look up vocabulary words you're not sure of. Observe due dates. Listen carefully and follow all instructions. Seek help as needed. Challenge yourself to do the very best work that you can.

Be sure to do the assigned readings on the syllabus *before* coming to class, preferably more than once. There may be unannounced quizzes to check on your comprehension of the readings. *Quizzes cannot be made up.* Look up words you are unfamiliar with or unsure about to ensure accuracy in your understanding/comprehension.

You are also welcome to visit the instructor during office hours to share your concerns and/or get extra help. **Office hours are the hours that the instructor is available to you.** Often you might catch me in early afternoons during "unposted" times as well. Ring my phone and see if I'm there.

Summary of Responsibilities

Reading

3 Plays (1 classical, 2 contemporary)
8 Short Stories
Many poems
1 Novel

Writing

2-3 Exams
(?) Quizzes
1 class presentation
3 Short Essays (3-4 pg)

Grading

Essays and Final Exam 60%
Homeworks/Quizzes/Exams 30%
Attendance & Participation 10%

Assignments

Students are responsible to read the syllabus and prepare assignments in advance of the deadline whether or not the teacher remembers to mention approaching due dates. All assigned readings, essays, and other tasks are due as per the Course Schedule dates unless otherwise announced.

Poetry Presentations

For this assignment, each student should choose 1 poem from the textbook or elsewhere and present it to the class in a 5 minute presentation. (This should be a poem NOT assigned by the teacher.) Students may stand or remain seated for the presentation. If the poem is not in the textbook, students should email it (or give it) to me one class in advance so I can bring copies for the class. Online video versions (say, a song or slam on YouTube) are also acceptable. Students should indicate why they chose the poem, highlight its remarkable qualities using poetry terms, and field class feedback as applicable. **YOU MAY NOT USE A POEM YOU WROTE.** To get full credit, students must mention title and author, use at least 4 poetry terms in the presentation, provide a poem copy [as applicable] and be fully prepared on presentation day. Please submit (on presentation day, before leaving class) a written copy of your presentation either in short outline form or your written script, if you plan to read it verbatim.

Extra Credit: Student Poster Showcase May 16, 2013

For additional credit, students may create a poster centered around their presentation poem and/or author OR any other work/author we studied and showcase this poster on WLAC Student Showcase Day, May 16, 2013. In addition to qualifying for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd prize in the English & Humanities Poster Category, students will also receive extra credit, not least the experience of presenting a professional poster. Submission guidelines are available on Etudes. In case of class conflict, students need not be present on Showcase Day to qualify for the prize and/or to earn the extra credit; only the poster has to be there. If this interests you, please sign up with me ASAP so I can save you a spot.

Paper Format

All essays must be typed. Format is standard MLA: 12 point Times New Roman double-spaced, 1 inch margins. Other fonts will not be accepted. Please teach yourself how to use headers and footers and **number your pages with your last name and page number**. Title pages/binders are not necessary: just head the first page in the upper left or right-hand corner as follows:

Student Name
Date
Course
Instructor's Last Name

As a rule, late papers and revisions are not accepted in English 102. **One exception per student, per term.** Your one late paper should not exceed four classes, and loses 10 points per class periods it is late.

Journals

I recommend that you record an entry in "a journal" for every assigned reading. It need not be elaborate; it may be either in paragraph or note-taking form. You should see the journal as an opportunity perhaps to work ahead, if you

wish. That way after you read the assigned text, even a week in advance, you will have your thoughts recorded so you are prepared for class discussion. You will also have your thoughts on literature immortalized forever in your notebook. 😊 **Journals (or any notes taken while reading assigned readings) can be used on reading quizzes.**

Honors Requirements

Students who wish to take the class for Honors credit must do the following:

- Earn an A or B on every assignment
- Submit NO late papers
- Attend a Black History Month or Women's History Month campus event and show me proof you were there (cell pic, or sign in, or both)
- Read the Ian Johnston translation of *Oedipus Rex* (available in Etudes) in addition to the anthology's version, and write a 2 page paper on the differences.
- Open one class discussion by preparing a number of questions and/or an activity. You may pick any class you like and indicate that to me within the first 2 weeks of school.
- Either create a project poster for the Annual Student Poster Showcase on May 15, 2014 on a literary topic, thus qualifying for a prize, and/OR attend the event and write a 1-2 page paper summarizing the event and highlights of student work observed and/OR work the event for your Honors service hours. You must apply online by March 30 to present a poster in the event: wlacpostershowcase.weebly.com

Why You Should Take This Class

This course will give you not only a survey of important literature in the British/American canon, but all the literary and cultural references that come with it. It will give you the tools to successfully woo the opposite sex, to entertain future business colleagues, to write convincing apologies, to choose a dramatic epitaph for your tombstone, and to make sophisticated conversation at parties.

Literature is a Love Affair!

ENG 102.1012 Spring 2014 Hofmann Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1

T 2/11

In Class: Syllabus. What is Literature? Archetype Activity.

Homework: Read *The West Guide* Chapters 23 and 24 (through page 419 only.)
Complete Intro to Drama worksheet in Etudes.

TH 2/13

In Class: Literary Timeline, Themes, and Writing about Literature

Homework: Read the assigned pages from *The New Testament World* and complete online activity in Etudes. If you added the class Tuesday, you will need to email me for this assignment as you may not have Etudes access yet.

Week 2

T 2/18

In Class: Introduction to Drama / Oedipus Themes

Homework: Read *Oedipus Rex* Part I. It is available free online Resources. Complete *Oedipus Rex* Part I activity in Etudes.

Th 2/20

In Class: Discuss *Oedipus Rex* Part I.

Homework: Read *Oedipus Rex* Part II. It is available free online Resources. Complete *Oedipus Rex* Part I activity in Etudes.

Week 3

T 2/25

In Class: Discuss *Oedipus Rex* Part II; Essay 1 workshop.

Homework: Read *Oedipus Rex* Part III. Begin drafting essay 1.

Th 2/27

In Class: Discuss *Oedipus Rex* Part III

Homework: **Essay 1 Due online in Etudes (in Assignments) by Saturday, 11:59pm.**

Week 4 (More detailed schedule will be distributed before Week 4. Here is an overview.)

T 3/4

Oedipus Rex overflow.

Th 3/6

Intro to Contemporary Drama.

Week 5

T 3/11

Fences Part I (Pg. 724 through the end of Scene 4 on p.737)

Th 3/13

Fences Part II (P.737 through end)

Week 6

T 3/18

Fences overflow; Essay 2 workshop.

Th 3/20

Essay 2 Due.

Week 7

T 3/25

Introduction to Poetry. Read poems as assigned.

Th 3/27

Discuss Langston Hughes poems and handouts.

Apply online for this year's campus-wide Student Poster Showcase by March 30:
wla postershowcase.weebly.com

Week 8 **April is National Poetry Month!**

T 4/1 Discuss Harryette Mullen, McPeck-Villatorno and Clifton Poems
Th 4/3 Haiku Day.

SPRING BREAK 3/28 – 4/5

Week 9

T 4/15 Drama/Poetry Exam. Introduction to Fiction Terms.
Th 4/17 Discuss Marquez, "Very Old Man" & Hemingway, "Hills"

Sat. 4/19 **10am *Optional Haiku Day in Japanese Garden at Kenneth Hahn park***
Spouses and children welcome! Parking is \$6. Bring something to sit on & crayons for kids.

Week 10

T 4/22 Discuss Poe's "Tell-Tale Heart" and Alexie's "Phoenix, Arizona..."
Th 4/24 Discuss Jackson's "The Lottery" and Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown"

Week 11

T 4/29 Discuss LeGuin's "Omelas" and "Acacia Seeds"
Th 5/1 **Essay 3 Due.** Lecture on the birth of the novel. Intro to *Sula*.

Week 12

T 5/6 **Presentation of Projects. Bring poster to class. You will leave it with instructor.**
Th 5/8 Discuss *Sula* Part I

Week 13

T 5/13 Discuss *Sula* Part II
Th 5/15 **Attend/Sign in at Showcase Event in quad 12-3 in lieu of class.**

Week 14

T 5/20 Discuss *Sula* Part III
Th 5/22 Discuss *Sula* Part IV

Week 15

T 5/27 **No Class; Non-instruction day. Campus closed.**
Th 5/29 Last class. Review for Comprehensive Final Exam.

FINALS WEEK: Beginning May 28

Our final will be _____ in our classroom. Bring a Scantron 882 E, blue book, and pencils/pens.
Essay 4 will be a portion of your final.

All revisions, late work as applicable, and Honors assignments are due on the day of the final exam.

