



**English 102: College Reading and Composition II**  
Spring 2014  
Section 8202 (Online)

Dr. Kimberly Manner

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Student Drop-In Hours: M/W 10-11 and 2:30-3:30; T 5:15 – 6:45 in GC 280D

**Course Description**

From the 2012-2014 *West Los Angeles College Catalogue*:

**102 College Reading and Composition II (3) UC:CSU**

*Prerequisite: English 101 with a grade of "C" or better.*

This course expands the reading and writing skills obtained in English 101. Critical reading and interpretation of literary works in the genres of the novel, short story, play and poem are emphasized. Students are required to write critical essays about these literary forms, emphasizing critical thinking.

**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 his or her own writing.

**Textbooks and Materials**

The following books are required:

- Mays, Kelly J., ed. *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. Shorter 11<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2013.
- Morrison, Toni. *Sula*. (Any edition is acceptable.)

The following book is recommended:

- Modern Language Association. *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: MLA, 2009. Print.

**Technical Requirements**

You must have *regular and reliable* access to the Internet on a computer that has a word processing program. Your phone or iPod touch will not be sufficient. Relying on your significant other's laptop only works if you do not break up midway through the semester. If you cannot access the class regularly (two to three times a week, for several hours at a time), you might consider dropping this class and taking an on-campus section instead.

Please see <https://myetudes.org/portal/site/!gateway/page/4243c7b4-9b68-45fc-0016-148ad08653aa> for browser requirements and configurations. In addition, this course uses publisher-provided content that requires pop-up blockers to be disabled, Java to be enabled, and Shockwave to be installed (available for free). See <http://www.wwnorton.com/techsupport/browsercheck/> to check your browser settings for the additional course materials.

**Online Student Resources**

West Los Angeles College uses Etudes as its course management system for online classes. You can access our class at: <http://myetudes.org/portal>. Log in using your complete student i.d. number (the one that begins with 88) or the first two letters of your last name plus the first two letters of your first name plus the last five digits of your student i.d. number. Your initial password will be your month and day of birth (MMDD). If you have trouble logging in, check the student resources at <http://www.wlaac.edu/online/students.asp>. This same link will take you to online student counseling, the West Los Angeles College online library catalog, online textbook ordering, and online tutoring, in addition to other online services.

### **“Attendance” (Participation)**

Your regular and active participation is crucial to your success in this class. We will not meet face-to-face, and there is no set time you must attend class. However, in order to succeed in the class you should expect to log in a minimum of two or three times per week, for an hour or two at a time, in addition to the reading and writing you will do offline. In short, expect to spend—on average—about nine hours a week on this class.

While there is no set meeting time, there are deadlines for work to be completed. You’ll have weekly discussions based on the reading. Each student will be required to write an original discussion posting of one or two paragraphs by 8:00 a.m. Thursday each week. You will be required to respond to one of your classmates’ postings by 8:00 a.m. the following Monday (unless it is a holiday, in which case the response will be due by 8:00 a.m. Tuesday). The essays also have strict deadlines; no credit is given for work submitted after the deadline.

### **Reading and Discussion Requirement**

Expect to read an average of 100-200 pages each week for this course. Each week, I will pose a series of discussion questions. You will be required to choose one question to respond to in a thoughtful, well-supported paragraph or two. After posting your thoughts on the assigned reading, you will read what your classmates have said. You’ll choose one of those postings to respond to, again in a thoughtful, well-supported paragraph that extends the discussion. You will earn up to two points per original discussion posting, and up to two points per response.

#### *Grading Rubric for Original Posts*

2 points = answers the question in full with support drawn from the text and follows the conventions of Standard Written English

1 point = answers only part of the question or does not use Standard Written English

0 points = off-topic or not supported by the text

#### *Grading Rubric for Follow-up Posts*

2 points = responds directly to the comments of a classmate and adds new information or new ideas to the discussion

1 point = provides justification for agreeing or disagreeing with a classmate’s original post

0 points = merely agrees or disagrees, without providing justification, or is off topic

Although you will be posting your responses in a discussion forum, I strongly recommend you compose your original postings and responses offline in a word processing program, save the file, and then copy and paste the contents into the discussion tool. This will save you the hassle of losing all your work when your connection times out or you click the wrong button. If you prefer to do all your work online in real time, that is okay too; however, most people move to word processing programs once they’ve had to reconstruct an hour’s worth of labor. (Word processing programs have the added benefit of spell-check and grammar-check built in.)

### **Writing Requirement**

In addition to the weekly discussions, you will be required to write three essays (two short essays and a longer research paper). Your essays should follow the conventions of academic discourse and use MLA style for format and citations. The specific requirements for each essay will be provided in “Assignments, Tests, and Surveys” in Etudes.

You will submit your final drafts electronically through “Assignments, Test, and Surveys.” I will run all submissions through turnitin.com to ensure no one has plagiarized. I will comment on essays online and return them to you through Assignments, Tests, and Surveys.

### **Grading**

Since this is a writing class, your entire grade is based on the written assignments. I evaluate your writing for its cogency, support and structure, as well as if it addresses the complexities of the issue. Of lesser importance, but still a factor in your grade, are style and grammar/mechanics.

Your final grade will be determined by your performance in each of the following categories:

Original Discussion Postings (due Thursdays by 8:00 a.m.):	20%
Follow-up Discussion Postings (due Mondays by 8:00 a.m.):	20%
Research Paper:	20%
Poetry Essay:	10%
Drama Essay:	10%
Final Exam (cumulative):	20%

### **Important Deadlines**

Discussion postings are due Thursdays by 8:00 a.m. and Mondays by 8:00 a.m. You will write an essay at the end of each unit of student (short fiction, poetry, and drama), as well as an essay question on the final exam about the novel. The deadlines for the essays are:

Thursday, April 3 by 8:00 a.m.	Research Paper
Thursday, May 1 by 8:00 a.m.	Poetry Essay
Thursday, May 15 by 8:00 a.m.	Drama Essay
Wednesday, June 4 8:00 a.m. to Friday, June 6 8:00 a.m.	Final Exam available; must be completed in a two-hour window of your choosing during this time period. (Please contact me by email at the beginning of the semester if you have a disability that might prevent you from completing the exam in a two-hour window.)

### **Communication**

If you have questions of a general nature, ask them on the Questions discussion board (Discussion Home -> Main -> Questions). If you have questions of a personal nature, the best way to reach me is by email through the mail feature in Etudes. (Etudes is a more reliable means of communication because it does not filter messages within the system.) You can also contact me via my work email at [mannerke@wlaac.edu](mailto:mannerke@wlaac.edu). If you choose this option, please put "English 102" in the subject line. I will respond within two working days. I don't check email on the weekends or on holidays. (If you email me on a Friday afternoon, you might not get a response until Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning.) If you do not hear back from me after two working days, it means I did not receive your email.

### **Late Work Policy**

I do not accept late work. The deadlines are at 8:00 a.m. instead of midnight to allow you eight extra hours to get work in. If you have schedule conflicts or travel arrangements, plan to get your work in early.

I will make an exception to my late work policy one time, with the No Questions Asked coupon found at the end of the syllabus. You can email me notification that you would like to use the coupon for an extension. Just ask for the extension before the deadline has passed. If you choose to use your NQA coupon, you will have four days to turn in your late work with no grade penalty. The NQA coupon cannot be used on work due after May 19.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Plagiarism—passing off another's work as your own, **either intentionally or unintentionally**— is a very

serious offense. If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero for the assignment and be referred to Student Services for disciplinary action. One of the objectives of this course is that you will learn how to incorporate research into your writing; failing to cite those sources correctly demonstrates that you have not mastered the course objective. As a rule of thumb, tell yourself: when in doubt, cite the source. I would rather mentor than police; please ask me for help if you are having problems with an assignment.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities--whether physical, learning, or psychological--who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Authorization, based on verification of disability, is required before any accommodation can be made. The phone number for DSP&S is (310) 287-4450, and they are located in SSB 320.

### **And finally...**

I look forward to working with each of you this term. If you have any questions, please ask. If I don't know the answer, one of your classmates will.

### **Rough Schedule** (see "Modules" in Etudes for specific reading assignments)

Week 1: Introductions and Fiction Overview  
Week 2: Chapter 1 and 2  
Week 3: Chapter 3 and 4  
Week 4: Chapter 5 and 6  
Week 5: Chapter 8 and 9; Begin Research Paper  
Week 6: Poetry Overview and Chapter 10  
Week 7: Chapter 11 and 12  
Week 8: Chapter 13 and 14; Research Paper Due  
Week 9: Chapter 15 and 16  
Week 10: Chapter 17 and 18  
Week 11: Drama Overview; Poetry Essay Due  
Week 12: *Hamlet*  
Week 13: Elements of Drama; Drama Essay Due  
Week 14: *Sula*  
Week 15: *Sula*  
Week 16: Final Exam

**NO QUESTIONS ASKED COUPON**

This coupon entitles the bearer to turn in one homework assignment late one class period, no questions asked. One coupon per student. The coupon must be turned in on the day an assignment is due. The assignment must be turned in the following class period to earn credit. Unused coupons may be redeemed for extra credit at the end of the semester.

Used by: \_\_\_\_\_

Used for: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: May 19, 2014

Valid only in Dr. Manner's class