

English 2: Introduction to Literature
Spring 2006: 12:30 to 1:50 in room 714
Office Hours & Place: By arrangement
Online Reference: QCounty.com/SCC/Spring06

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Prerequisites: C or better in English 1 (college composition) or an equivalent course.

Texts: *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, 7th edition, by Michael Meyers; *The Elements of Style*, 4th edition, by William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White; a journal; a dictionary and thesaurus of your choice.

Course Objectives: Pragmatically, this course will help you recognize the prominent features of poetry, short fiction, and drama and will help you critically read and write about these literary genres. More idealistically, this course will strive to engage you in literature and develop your analytical skills through a toolkit approach to literary forms, which I prefer to call fields and symmetries, that will increase your ability to analyze abstract ideas and, as a result, literature.

Requirements:

- 1) **60% of grade:** You will write essays ranging from short reader responses to longer synthesis essays supported by multiple sources. Essays are due on the assigned date. If you hand in your paper on that date, you are allowed one significant rewrite, due no later than one week after your paper is returned. Since writing is about rewriting, a superficial, quick, maybe-I'll-get-lucky rewrite may lower rather than raise your grade. Essays must be typed, double-spaced and follow MLA format rules, available online at <http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/humanities/english.html>.
- 2) **20% of grade:** You will keep a writer's journal in which you will record your reactions to your readings through writing, pictures, drawings, photographs—any form that engages you in reading and that helps your writing creativity. I will ask you to turn in your journal from time to time.
- 3) **15% of grade:** Occasional quizzes, a mid-term, and a final exam, always open-book, always open-note.
- 4) **5% of grade:** A short, 10-minute group presentation on some aspect of literature or literary analysis. I'll begin scheduling these a few weeks into the semester.

Major impact on grade: Come to class on time with required texts, your notes, your journal, a dictionary and thesaurus, a pencil and lined paper, since all work handed in must be double-spaced, and always come to class ready to read, write, analyze and discuss. If you'd like more help, make an appointment to meet with me during the day or come to the Writing Lab where I work Monday through Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 9:00.

Readings: You will be assigned readings each week from Meyers, Strunk & White, and occasionally from handouts. The assignments will be drawn from prose, poetry and drama in a somewhat cyclical fashion to give you a greater sense of the intermingling of the genres and to allow me flexibility in matching the readings to the progress we're making. While your readings will range from the simple to the difficult, from the humorous to the tragic to the sublime, and while these readings will be chosen for their creativity, craft, and interesting use of literary forms, the literature you will study will be selected primarily for its intellectual and emotional enjoyment, an enjoyment that will increase the harder you work and the more you become engaged.

Prose: Included in the authors of short fiction are Kate Chopin, Joyce Carol Oates, William Faulkner, Charles Dickens, Herman Melville, Ernest Hemingway, Anton Chekhov, Ralph Ellison, Stephen Crane, Katherine Mansfield, Digoberto Gilb, Raymond Carver, Z. Z. Packer, Flannery O'Connor, Margaret Atwood, Laurie Moore, Sherman Alexie and John Updike.

Poetry: Included in the poets you will read are John Updike, Elizabeth Bishop, Billy Collins, E. E. Cummings, Robert Frost, Rudyard Kipling, Grace Paley, Tennyson, Richard Wilbur, Diane Ackerman, Margaret Atwood, Sharon Olds, John Keats, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sappho, William Carlos Williams, Walt Whitman, Theodore Roethke, Matthew Arnold, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Hilda Doolittle, William Blake, Patricia Smith, Rainer Maria Rilke, John Keats, Emily Dickenson, Dylan Thomas and others.

Drama: Time permitting, we will study three plays: *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry, *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller, and either *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare. Recorded performances of these plays will be placed on reserve in the library and are also available through various rental sources.