



South Portland, Maine 04106

## English Department

“Easy reading is damn hard writing.”  
~Nathaniel Hawthorne

Title: Introduction to Literature

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: Sybil Wilen

Email: [swilen@smccme.edu](mailto:swilen@smccme.edu)

Office hours: Please email personal questions to me directly.

Catalog Number: ENGL115 12/D7

Total Contact Hours: 45

### Course Description (from the catalog):

*This course introduces the student to the literary genres: poetry, drama, fiction and non-fiction. It emphasizes literature as a reflection of culture. This includes the discussion of literary terms, close textual reading, and historical backgrounds. This course has been designated as a writing-intensive course.*

Prerequisite: Test placement or successful completion of English 100

### Texts:

Literature, A Portable Anthology, Fifth Edition, Gardner, Diaz, Lawn, Ridl, Schakel ISBN: 978-1-319-21503-3

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley Any edition will do. It can be downloaded free on tablets or read here:

[https://archive.org/stream/Frankenstein1818Edition/frank-a5\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/Frankenstein1818Edition/frank-a5_djvu.txt)

1831 version:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/84/84-h/84-h.htm>

## **Course Objectives (from the catalog):**

*By successfully completing this course, students will be able to:*

- 1. Demonstrate heightened abilities to critically analyze literary works.*
- 2. Demonstrate the ability to write well-organized formal and informal responses to literature.*
- 3. Describe various forms of poetry.*
- 4. Demonstrate understanding of literary terms such as plot, metaphor, and scene.*
- 5. Describe the theme of a poem, prose, or drama, and support it with specific examples from the text.*

### **Peer work**

Peer work is an integral part of this course. We will work as a group throughout the semester in developing ideas, reviewing assigned readings, responding to each other as readers, and in helping to shape critical writing assignments. Your prepared, respectful, and constructive participation benefits every member of the group.

**Grammar:** This is not a grammar course, but if your papers demonstrate weaknesses in written English, you will need to spend some time on this. Being "always bad at English" is not an excuse for turning in poor quality work.

### **Attendance policy:**

In order to succeed in developing critical thinking skills regarding literature via discussion, it is imperative to be present, on time, and ready to converse. If two weeks go by without attending or reaching out, a grade of AF will be assigned.

**Life happens clause:** We all juggle the demands of work, school, and personal lives. Please don't ask or expect to pass the class if you do not do the work. If personal or professional obligations intervene, we may be able to work something out. However, you may need to drop the class and take it again when you have more time to give.

**Late Work:** With the exception of the final project (Project 4), late projects are accepted at a penalty of 10% per class late. There is no makeup work for discussions.

### **Grading & Evaluation:**

- **Project 1 (worth 20% of the final grade).**
- **Project 2 (20% of the final grade).**
- **Project 3 (worth 20% of the final grade).**
- **Project 4 (worth 20% of the final grade).**
- **Discussions (worth 20% of the final grade).**

### **Final Grade Range**

A	=	93-100
A-	=	90-92
B+	=	87-89
B	=	83-86
B-	=	80-82
C+	=	77-79
C	=	73-76
C-	=	70-72
D	=	60-69
F	<	60

### **Discussion guidelines:**

To adequately analyze and respond to literature, it is imperative to immerse oneself in the discussions. Only completing the minimum amount of work in a week will result in receiving only an average grade of 75 C. To achieve more, post thoughtfully and actively engage in pulling theme from the assigned readings in our discussions.

### **Special Notes:**

- This course holds a heavy reading load. To be successful in this class, it is imperative to keep up with the readings and fully engage in the discussions.
- Plagiarized work will not be accepted for credit.
- **Always use your SMCC email.** It is through here that updates regarding class cancellations and other pertinent information is shared.
- **Due Dates:** Discussions are in class assignments that cannot be made up. Consider them due the day we review a piece. When a major assignment is due, it must be uploaded by 11:59 on its due date via its assignment tab as a Microsoft Word Document or PDF. Projects will not be accepted in any other form.

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### **College Policies (from the catalog):**

#### **End-of-Course Evaluation**

Students complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal. Students can access the course evaluations beginning one week before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs Monday at 5 p.m. following the last day of the class. You will receive an e-mail to your student e-mail account when course evaluations are available.

#### **ADA Syllabus Statement**

Southern Maine Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call (207) 741-5798. If you have a disabling

condition and wish to request accommodations in order to have reasonable access to the programs and services offered by SMCC, you must register with the Disability Services Coordinator, Sandra Lynham, who can be reached at 741-5923. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number. Course policies about online testing are modified to suit each individual's accommodations.

### **SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy**

Each semester students receive a \$20 printing credit. The balance resets at the end of the semester and any remaining credits are removed. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all printers (including those in general access labs, library printers, Tutoring Services, Campus Center Lounge and technology labs). Be sure to log OUT of the system when you've finished your printing, to prevent unauthorized access to your account. Students can check the number of pages they have printed by using the Printing Balance tool available on SMCC computers (located in the lower right corner of the screen, near the clock). Departments with work study students who need to print documents for the department should contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 to have a special account set up. To find ways to reduce your printing charges, please go to the IT Help tab on My SMCC. If you have questions about the pay-for-printing policy or your printing charges, please contact the Help Desk at 741-5696 or send an e-mail to [helpdesk@smccme.edu](mailto:helpdesk@smccme.edu).

### **Refunds**

Print jobs are eligible for a refund in the event of mechanical or electronic error on the part of the printer, print server, or software used to submit the job. Jobs are not eligible for a refund in cases where the job was not set up correctly, was submitted multiple times, or the student is not satisfied with the result. To request a refund, please bring the offending print to the IT Department in the basement of the Ross Technology Center. Refunds will be granted in the form of a credit to the student's account.

### **Add-Drop Policy**

Students who drop a course during the one-week "add/drop" period in the fall and spring semesters and the first three days of summer sessions receive a 100% refund of the tuition and associated fees for that course. Please note any course that meets for less than the traditional semester length, i.e., 15 weeks, has a pro-rated add/drop period. There is no refund for non-attendance.

### **Withdrawal Policy**

A student may withdraw from a course only during the semester in which s/he is registered for that course. The withdrawal period is the second through twelfth week of the Fall and Spring semesters and the second through ninth week of twelve-week Summer courses. This period is pro-rated for shorter-length courses, usually 75 percent of course meeting times; please check with the Registration Office. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Registration Office. This process must be completed either in person or by using SMCC e-mail accounts.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

If an instructor suspects that a student has knowingly committed a violation defined in the Maine Community College System Policy on Student Grade Appeals and Academic Misconduct, the instructor has the authority to review the alleged misconduct and determine the grade that the student should receive for the assignment and the course. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or course and may require the student to complete additional work for the course. The instructor may consult with the department chair and/or the College's chief academic officer prior to making such decisions. If a student seeks to challenge an instructor's determination, the student should submit a grade appeal. Grade appeal forms are available in the Advising Office on the South Portland Campus or in the administrative offices in the Learning Commons on the Midcoast Campus. An instructor may also refer the matter to the College's disciplinary officer for review under the procedures of the MCCS Student Code of Conduct.

## Literature Calendar

\*this calendar is subject to change.

### Week One

Introduction to class. Overview of class. Watch videos provided and participate in discussion.

### Week Two:

For Tuesday:

Read:

“Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allan Poe, pg. 166 and in our classroom.

Collection of Edgar Allan Poems, available in our online classroom and as a handout.

For Thursday:

Read:

“Darkness” by Lord Byron

“Christabel” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

\*Both are available in our online classroom and as a handout.

### Week Three

For Tuesday:

Read:

Shakespeare, beginning on page 569-570

John Keats, “When I have fears that I may cease to be” pg. 605

Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s “How do I love Thee” pg. 609

For Thursday:

Read:

“Ozymandias” by Percy Shelley and “Ozymandias” by Horace Smith.

\*Both are available in our online classroom and as a handout.

### Week Four

For Tuesday:

Read:

“Young Goodman Brown” by Nathaniel Hawthorne, pg. 155

“Il Pleut/ It’s Raining” by Guillaume Apollinaire, pg. 648

“The Red Wheelbarrow” and “This is Just to Say” by William Carlos Williams, pg. 650

“In a Station in the Metro” by Ezra Pound, 651

“Helen” by H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), pg. 652

For Thursday:

Read:

“We Real Cool”, “The Mother” by Gwendolyn Brooks, pg. 685-686  
“Talk” by Terrance Hayes, pg. 787  
“Skinhead”, by Patricia Smith pg. 760

### **Week Five**

\*Project One Due Thursday.

For Tuesday:

Read:

“Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston, p.313

Langston Hughes, 664-667

Countee Cullen’s “Incident”, pg. 668

For Thursday:

Read:

Dudley Randall’s “Ballad of Birmingham” pg. 682

“Emmett Till’s name still catches in my throat”, by Marilyn Nelson, p.734

Project One is due by 11:59 PM uploaded via the BrightSpace classroom as either a Word Document or PDF.

### **Week Six**

For Tuesday:

Read:

“Everyday Use” by Alice Walker, pg. 438

“The Lesson” by Toni Cade Bambara, pg. 432

Respond to the discussion prompt.

For Thursday:

Read:

### **Week Seven**

For Tuesday:

Read:

“The Red Convertible” by Louise Erdrich, pg. 463

“Fiesta 1980” by Junot Diaz, pg. 499

For Thursday:

Read:

“The Thing Around Your Neck” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, pg. 553

### **Week Eight**

For Tuesday:

Read:

“A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, pg. 398  
“The Great Science” by Ted Chiang, pg. 495

For Thursday:

“Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been” by Joyce Carol Oates, pg. 415

**Spring Break: No Work Due. Have fun, read a play.**

### **Week Nine**

\*Project Two is due Thursday

For Tuesday:

Read:

Anna in the Tropics by Nilo Cruz, Act I, pgs. 1180 – 1203.

For Thursday:

Project Two is due by 11:59 PM, uploaded to the BrightSpace classroom as either a Word Document or PDF.

### **Week Ten**

For Tuesday:

Read:

Anna and the Tropics by Nilo Cruz, Act II, pgs. 1203 – 1226.

### **Week Eleven**

For Tuesday:

Read:

Sweat by Lynn Nottage, Act I, pgs. 1233 – 1272.

### **Week Twelve**

\*Project Three Due Thursday.

For Tuesday:

Read:

Sweat by Lynn Nottage, Act II, pgs. 1273 – 1302.

For Thursday:

Project Three is due by 11:59 PM uploaded via the BrightSpace classroom as either a Word Document or PDF.

**Week Thirteen**

Begin reading Frankenstein. The letters and Chapters 1-10 of the 1831 version of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (if you are reading the 1818 version, Volume I - Volume II, chapters 1-3 are due) Both texts are located under the Reading Assignments tab in our online classroom.

**Week Fourteen**

Chapters 11-18 (Volume II, chapter 4 - Volume III, chapter 1) of Frankenstein.

**Week Fifteen**

Complete Frankenstein.

**Week Sixteen**

\*Project Four Due on Thursday by 11:59 PM uploaded via the BrightSpace classroom as either a Word Document or PDF.