



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

Office hours: Please email personal questions to me directly.

Catalog Number: ENGL115 LS

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

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:

SMCC's attendance policy for online classes requires students to complete a minimum of one task a week. This can be posting in a discussion forum and/or submitting an assignment. Simply logging into the classroom does not count as attending the course. If two weeks go by without a post, 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 discussion, late work is accepted at a penalty of 10% per day late up through 05/12/2022. No work will be accepted beyond this date.

Grading & Evaluation:

- **Project 1 (worth 20% of the final grade).**
- **Project 2 (25% of the final grade).**
- **Project 3 (worth 25% of the final grade).**
- **Discussions (worth 30% 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+	=	67-69
D	=	63-66
F	<	63

Discussion guidelines:

For most of the semester, your response to the initial discussion prompt is due by 11:59 PM Tuesdays and a minimum of two follow-up posts are due on Thursdays. Please make sure to schedule yourself enough time to stay on top of the readings and discussions as it will be difficult to catch up if you fall behind.

To adequately analyze and respond to literature, it is imperative to immerse oneself in the discussions. Only completing the minimum number of posts in a week will result in receiving only an average grade of 75 C. To achieve a higher grade, it is imperative to go above and beyond by really engaging in the conversations. Keep in mind if we were meeting in person, our classes would be full of lively discussion of the assigned readings. The goal is to bring that kind of sensation to the discussion board. To facilitate this goal and achieve a higher-than-average grade, log in more often and post more often than the minimum. As well, make sure posts are substantive. That is, use evidence from the assigned readings to support your observations and ask questions when responding to your classmates. Then, check on the responses to your own posts to see if anyone has responded and reply.

I also post during the week. To earn even more points, look for my posts and respond.

Special Notes:

- This course holds a heavy reading load and requires check-ins multiple times throughout the week. 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 have two due dates, Tuesday for the initial response to the prompt and Thursday for a minimum of two follow-up posts. When a major assignment is due, it must be uploaded via its assignment tab as a Microsoft Word Document or PDF. No projects will 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.

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 respond to discussion.

Week Two:

“Darkness” by Lord Byron

“Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

“Wreck of the Hesperus” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Collection of Edgar Allan Poems, all available in our classroom.

Week Three

“Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley, available in our classroom.

“Ozymandias” by Horace Smith, available in our classroom.

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

Week Four

“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

“Eating Alone” by Li-Young Lee, pg. 769

“Talk” by Terrance Hayes, pg. 787

“En Route to Bangladesh, Another Crisis of Faith” by Tarfia Faizullah, pg. 811.

Week Five

*Project One Due Thursday.

Langston Hughes, 664-667

Countee Cullen’s “Incident”, pg. 668

W.H. Auden’s “Funeral Blues” pg. 669

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

“We Real Cool”, “The Mother” by Gwendolyn Brooks, pg. 685-686

Patricia Smith, “Skinhead”, pg. 760

Week Six

“Sweat” by Zora Neale Hurston, p.313

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

“Everyday Use” by Alice Walker, pg. 438
“Girl” by Jamaica Kincaid, pg. 461

Week Seven

“My Name” by Sandra Cisneros, pg. 471
“This is What it Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona” by Sherman Alexie, pg. 473
“The Red Convertible” by Louise Erdrich, pg. 463
“Fiesta 1980” by Junot Diaz, pg. 499
“The Thing Around Your Neck” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, pg. 553

Week Eight

“A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, pg. 398
“The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson, p. 350
“Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been” by Joyce Carol Oates, pg. 415
“The Great Science” by Ted Chiang, pg. 495
“The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas” by Ursula Le Guin, available in our classroom.

***Project Two Due on Thursday of Week Eight.**

Week Nine and Ten

Read:

Anna and the Tropics by Nilo Cruz, pg. 1180

Week Eleven and Twelve

***Project Three Due on Thursday of Week Eleven**

Read:

Sweat by Lynn Nottage, pg. 1233