Title: Introduction to Literature

Catalog Number: ENGL 115-14

Credit Hours: 3

Total Contact Hours: 45

Time/Room: T/TH 9:30-10:45 Preble

Instructor: Mike Bove

Office Location: Preble 105

Email: mbove@smccme.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday: 12:30-1:30, Monday/Wednesday by appointment

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to the literary genres of poetry, fiction, and the novel. It emphasizes literature as a reflection of culture. This includes the discussion of literary terms, close textual reading, and historical backgrounds. This course is required for the SMCC associate degree student and is a pre-requisite for intermediate courses on the university level. It is also designated as a writing-intensive (W) course. Prerequisite: Successful completion of ENGL 100

Course Objectives:

By successfully completing this course, students will be able to accomplish the following:

Content Objectives
1. Utilize literary terminology in discussion and analysis.
2. Infer meaning from a variety of layered texts.
3. Identify complex patterns in texts and make relevant connection between texts and ideas.
4. Extract and utilize concrete and abstract literary concepts.
5. Defend thesis claims through close reading and discussion.
6. Demonstrate and apply a cultural vocabulary, allusions that span texts and media from literary to popular culture.
7. Identify and recognize issues of an evolving literary canon.

Writing Objectives
1. Exhibit learning skills and conduct appropriate to a college-level student.
2. Write effectively with a specific purpose and to a specific audience, using appropriate strategies for varying contexts.
3. Organize essays using thesis statements, logical and academic formats, and standard English conventions.
4. Write rough, exploratory drafts of papers and practice revision methods to achieve polished final drafts.
5. Locate and evaluate legitimate research sources, electronic, print, and other.
6. Show ability to use proper MLA documentation and an awareness of plagiarism issues.
7. Use writing as a critical thinking tool for learning.

Required Materials:
This course uses Open Educational Resources (OER); there is no textbook. Students are required to have reliable access to the Internet in order to use Brightspace. Students will be provided with the novel, Wild Seed by Octavia Butler.

Grading/Assignments:
I use a system of points in this class. You have the ability to earn up to 1000 points, which then corresponds to your final letter grade. This is transferable to SMCC's grading policy. (A = 93-100 [930-1000 points], A- = 90-92 [900-920 points], B+ = 87-89 [870-890 points], B = 83-86 [830-860 points], etc.) There is no extra credit in this course. Please keep track of your points this semester. The break-down of the points is as follows:

Quizzes:	200 points (ten quizzes at 20 points apiece)
Group Presentation:	100 points
Portfolio:	600 points (three essays at 200 points apiece)
Attendance/Participation:	100 points

Quizzes: There are eleven 20 point quizzes given in the semester. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped (ten quizzes at 20 points apiece). Quizzes are unannounced and will take place in class; unless you make arrangements with me in advance, missed quizzes will result in a score of 0/20.

Group Presentation: Groups will be formed early in the semester and each assigned a particular author and work(s) to present to the rest of the class. Your group will have the entire class period if needed to present/introduce your author and work to the class. I will pass out a guideline sheet for presentations early in the semester.

Portfolio: For each of the genres we cover, you'll be assigned an essay (see essay assignments). Each of the three essays you write for this course will be due at the end of the semester in your portfolio. Still, you will have scheduled due dates for each draft prior to then, during which you'll submit your draft using Brightspace and receive comments and as "as-is" grade from me. During the class meetings prior to the due dates, we will participate in a draft workshop. Students must bring full draft to class for peer review and critique; any student who does not will be subject to a 50 point grade reduction on the portfolio. **Late essays will be subject to a 50 point grade reduction on the portfolio for each class meeting they are late.** Sources must be properly documented in MLA or APA format with a list of works cited. The portfolio is submitted at the end of the course for a final grade. Revising is required in this course, and the more you do, the better your writing becomes. I will read and comment on as many revisions as you are willing to make. I'm available to discuss/review drafts prior to workshops and due dates; feel free to ask.

Attendance/Participation: Both attendance and active, thoughtful participation are evaluated, so come to class with ideas and be ready to share. There are no excused or unexcused absences. Do not miss more than three classes. After three absences, your final grade will be lowered by 50 points for every additional class you miss. **Students who miss five classes may face withdrawal.** On the other hand, if your attendance is outstanding—0 to 2 absences—I will also take that into account when considering your class grade. Whatever class time you do miss, you will still be held responsible for the material covered, and you will be expected to be fully prepared for the next class session.

The mood of the class is largely informal; open discussion is encouraged. However, the following is considered a distraction to teaching and learning: repeatedly arriving late, talking when others are talking, in-class phone use, sleeping, etc. I will promote an inclusive learning environment, and I ask that students be mindful about how opinions are evaluated and expressed. In addition, please turn off phone ringers prior to class.

Essay Assignments:
Essays must be 3 to 5 pages, typed (standard 12 point font), double spaced, and written in MLA or APA format including a unique title. Always use passages from the text to support your claims. **Either essay #1 or #2 must be taken to the Writing Center for a session with a writing tutor. The Portfolio will incur a 50 point grade reduction if this is not done.**

Essay #1: Poetry - Draft workshop: 2/15, Due: 2/17

Option #1: Re-read "After a Time" by Catherine Davis and compare/contrast her ideas about death with Dylan Thomas' in "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night". Break the poems down and explain their attitudes on the subject. What's the same about their ideas, what's different? In your opinion, which poet has the right idea and why?

Option #2: Choose one of Asha Lul Mohamud Yusuf's poems and craft an analysis of the poem in an essay which answers the following questions: A) What is the subject and focus of the poem? B) How does the poet achieve her goal in communicating this focus? B) In your view, which aspects (if any) of your chosen poem appear to be "universal", and which aspects (if any) seem to apply or appeal to a specific reading community?

Essay #2: Short Fiction - Draft workshop: 4/5, Due: 4/7

Option #1: Part of our class discussions of fiction have revolved around epiphanies, or "moments of awakening", which take place in stories and have varied effects on the main characters. Choose two characters from stories we've read and answer/explain the following: A) Describe in detail the characters' epiphanies. B) Explain how this moment affects and/or changes the character. C) What might be the author's message about these moments and how people should or shouldn't react?

Option #2: Choose two stories we've read and examine the authors' use of symbols and/or archetypes. Start by reviewing the definition for each in our text's glossary. Craft an argument containing the specific point you wish to make about the authors' use of these devices (how they shape the story, how they influence the reader, how they contribute to theme), provide clear reasons, and present specific evidence from the stories to support them.

Essay #3: The Novel - Draft workshop: 4/28, Due: 5/3

Option #1: Craft an essay in which you examine the relationship between Anyanwu and Doro with a focus on these questions: How does their relationship change over the course of the novel? What unites them and what divides them? What keeps them coming back to one another over the millennia? Be sure to offer evidence from the novel in the form of direct quotations.

Option #2: How does Octavia Butler recenter a dominant narrative in the traditional literary canon with Wild Seed? Discuss characters, point of view, settings, and conflicts as you answer this question. Be sure to offer evidence from the novel in the form of direct quotations.

Administrative Failures (AF)

An Administrative Failure (a final grade of AF) identifies students who have stopped attending class and who have had no contact with the faculty member for a period in excess of one week. A student may be administratively failed after missing one more consecutive class meeting than the number of class meeting per week (4 for a class that meets three times a week, three for a class that meets twice a week, two for a class that meets once a week).

A student in an online course may be administratively failed after not submitting an assignment, responding to a discussion question, completing a graded assignment, or otherwise performing some type of activity that shows active involvement in the course for a period of two weeks. At their discretion, faculty may reinstate students who resume attending after the grade has been assigned.

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.

The Learning Commons:

The library, tutoring and writing centers, and reference/research assistance (typically located on the second floor of South Portland's Campus Center and in the Midcoast's LL Bean Learning Commons and Health Science Center) will be fully available online during the **fall 2021** semester. Here you can find free academic support through individually scheduled and drop in, online tutoring. You can also find information literacy/research librarians, and professional academic strategy/planning mentoring online. While the physical space of the Learning Commons will be available at this time, we can also work with you to set up zoom classrooms for small group study. Services are offered by appointment or as drop-in assistance. To access services: Visit My Learning in My Maine Guide or select the "tutoring needed or need help?" button if it appears inside your Brightspace course. Whether On Site or Online, students have consistently reported that the Learning Commons is a friendly, risk-free, and helpful place to seek academic support. It has also been shown that those who make use of the Learning Commons do better

in a course than those who do not. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this valuable and enjoyable resource.

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). 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. 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

Class Schedule (subject to change)
Reading Assignments are available on Brightspace and must be completed
by the class period immediately following the date they're assigned.

Week One: Course Introduction
1/18 - Course Introduction
1/20 - *Reading Assignment:* Tan: "In the Canon for all the Wrong Reasons"

Week Two: Poetry
1/25 - *Reading Assignment:* "20 Strategies", "Reading Poetry"
1/27 - *Reading Assignment:* "Assorted Poems", "Why Analyze Poetry"

Week Three: Poetry
2/1 - *Reading Assignment:* Continue with "Assorted Poems"
2/3 - *Reading Assignment:* Asha Lul Mohamud Yusuf poems

Week Four: Poetry
2/8 - Continue with Asha Lul Mohamud Yusuf poems
2/10 - **Library Orientation**

Week Five: Poetry
2/15 - **Draft Workshop**
2/17 - **Essay #1 Due;** *Reading Assignment:* Edmundson: "Against Readings" , "What is Literary
        Analysis?"

Week Six: Short Fiction
2/22 - **Class Cancelled**
2/24 - *Reading Assignment:* Poe: "The Tell-Tale Heart", "The Cask of Amontillado"

Week Seven: Short Fiction
3/1 - **Poe Presentation**
3/3 - *Reading Assignment:* "Cult of True Womanhood", Chopin: "The Story of an Hour",
      "The Storm"

Week Eight: Short Fiction
3/8 - **Chopin Presentation**
3/10 - *Reading Assignment:* Adichie: "A Private Experience", "The Danger of a Single Story"

Week Nine: Spring Break

Week Ten: Short Fiction
3/22 - **Adichie Presentation**
3/24 - *Reading Assignment:* Russell: "The Barn at the End of Our Term"

Week Eleven: Short Fiction
3/29 - **Russell Presentation**
3/31 - *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapters 1 & 2

Week Twelve: The Novel
4/5 - **Draft Workshop** *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapter 3
4/7 - **Essay #2 Due**; *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapters 4 & 5

Week Thirteen: The Novel
4/12 - **Butler Presentation;** *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapter 6
4/15 - *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapters 7 & 8

Week Fourteen: The Novel
4/19 - *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapters 9 & 10
4/21 - **Class Cancelled**; *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapters 11 & 12 & 13

Week Fifteen: The Novel
4/26 - *Reading Assignment:* <u>Wild Seed;</u> Chapters 14 & Epilogue
4/28 - **Draft Workshop**

Week Sixteen: Course Wrap-up
5/3 - **Essay #3 Due**
5/5 - Open Workshop

5/10 - Open Workshop
5/12 - **Portfolio Due**