



SOUTHERN MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENGL 115: Introduction to Literature
SPRING 2022

Professor Robert Vettese
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Classroom: Brightspace

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to the literary genres of poetry, drama, and fiction. 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 prerequisite for intermediate courses on the university level. It is also designated as a writing-intensive (W) course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 100

Texts: These texts will be used during the semester. There are also links in Brightspace for all of the reading assignments

1. 40 Short Stories ed. Beverly Lawn ISBN 9781319215705
2. Proof by David Auburn ISBN 057199976
3. Winter's Bone by Daniel Woodrell ISBN 9780316066419

Course Objectives:

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

Content Objectives

Utilize literary terminology in discussion and analysis.

Infer meaning from a variety of layered texts.

Identify complex patterns in texts and make relevant connection between texts and ideas.

Extract and utilize concrete and abstract literary concepts.

Defend thesis claims through close reading and discussion.

Demonstrate and apply a cultural vocabulary, allusions that span texts and media from literary to popular culture.

Identify and recognize issues of an evolving literary canon.

Writing Objectives

Exhibit learning skills and conduct appropriate to a college-level student.

Write effectively with a specific purpose and to a specific audience, using appropriate strategies for varying contexts.

Organize essays using thesis statements, logical and academic formats and standard English conventions.

Write rough, exploratory drafts of papers and practice revision methods to achieve polished final drafts.

Locate and evaluate legitimate research sources, electronic, print, and other.

Show ability to use proper MLA documentation and an awareness of plagiarism issues.

Use writing as a critical thinking tool for learning.

Coursework Requirements:

Students will be required to read and discuss works of fiction, drama, and poetry throughout the semester, as well as participate in in-class assignments in groups and individually.

Note: One common assignment is required in all sections of this course: a critical analysis assignment in which the students use knowledge of the literary material and the skill to write to the specific purpose of analysis.

Grades and Assignments:

The course work adds up to a total of 420 points. The breakdown of the different assignments is as follows: Essay 1 (short stories) -- 50 points, Winter's Bone Exam -- 50 points, Quizzes -- 110 points, Discussion Board Postings -- 130 points, Research Assignment - 30 points, Final Reflection (Essay 2) -- 50 points. There will be 11 reading quizzes and 12 discussion board assignments.

Weekly Reading Assessments

There will be a 10 point reading quiz on the assigned reading for each week. Each Week's work is due by the end of the day on Sunday. For example, the Week 1 Quiz should be completed by Sunday, January 23. Late quizzes will not be accepted.

Discussion Board Postings

Most weeks you will need to complete some questions concerning the readings and literary ideas that are discussed. You'll add 1 new posting to the bulletin board each week in response to the discussion questions. Also, you'll reply to 1 posting by a classmate or the instructor. These responses should reflect your thoughts and ideas concerning the texts.

The discussion postings are worth a total of 130 points. One final point, presentation (meaning spelling, grammar, etc.) will be graded as well. It is hard to understand a person's ideas when spelling mistakes get in the way.

Discussion board assignments, like the quizzes, need to be finished Sunday each week. For example, Week 1's discussion board assignment needs to be completed by Sunday, September 5. This will allow me a few days to grade the discussion work.

Attendance Policy:

Since this is not a traditional on campus class the attendance policy is based on online participation. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO LOG INTO THE CLASS EACH WEEK.** If you do not log in weekly you will miss assignments and discussions. If you miss two weeks

in a row you may be dropped from the course. You should schedule two hours a week to complete weekly assignments. You will need to spend additional time offline reading and studying.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

NOTE: All of each week's work is due by Sunday. For example, all of Week One's work is due on Sunday, JANUARY 23. No late quizzes or discussion responses will be accepted.

Week 1 (1/18 - 1/23) Introductions and Literature

1. "Why Literature" by Mario Vargas Llosa - Why Literature by Mario Vargas Llosa
2. Short Story Powerpoint
3. "The Interlopers" by Saki - <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/Inte.shtml>
4. Review the Glossary of Literary Terms in 40 Short Stories pages 457 -466
5. Week 1 Discussion
6. Week 1 Reading Quiz

Week 2 (1/24 - 1/30) Setting and Point of View

1. "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" by Ambrose Bierce 21 - 30 or here: https://loa-shared.s3.amazonaws.com/static/pdf/Bierce_Owl_Creek_Bridge.pdf
2. "This Is What It Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona" by Sherman Alexie - <http://teacherpress.ocps.net/wellsmf/files/2017/08/phoenix-arizona.pdf>
3. "At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners" by Laruen Groff pg. 333 - 350
4. Week 2 Reading Quiz
5. Week 2 Discussion responses

Week 3 (1/31 - 2/6) Character

1. "Paul's Case" by Willa Cather: <https://cather.unl.edu/writings/shortfiction/ss006>
2. "Cathedral" by Raymond Carver pg 199 - 213 or here: <http://www.giuliotortello.it/ebook/cathedral.pdf>
3. "Everyday Use" by Alice Walker pg 241 - 250 or here: https://www.acpsd.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=6626&dataid=60620&FileName=everyday_use_full-text.pdf
4. Week 3 Reading Quiz
5. Week 3 Discussion responses

Week 4 (2/7 - 2/13) Theme

1. "Bounty" by Diane Cook - Bounty
2. "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien pg 25 - 268 or here: https://www.cengage.com/custom/static_content/OLC/s76656_76218lf/obrien.pdf
3. "The Man to Send Rain Clouds" by Leslie Marmon Silko 268 - 273 or here: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4695&context=nmq>
4. Week 4 Reading Quiz
5. Week 4 Discussion responses
6. Optional Podcast - Listen to "The Things They Carried" read by Bryan Cranston - <https://soundcloud.com/audibleuk/the-things-they-carried-by-tim>

Week 5 (2/14 - 2/20) Symbol

1. "Two Kinds" by Amy Tan
<https://www.rtsd.org/cms/lib/PA01000218/Centricity/Domain/319/TwoKindsfulltext.pdf>

2. "Battle Royal" by Ralph Ellison pg 124 - 138 or here: Battle Royal
3. "A Run of Bad Luck" by E. Annie Proulx - A Run of Bad Luck
4. "Sticks" by George Saunders 287 - 289 or here:
<https://www.unm.edu/~gmartin/535/Sticks.htm>
5. Week 5 Reading Quiz
6. Week 5 Discussion responses
7. - Optional Viewing - The Letter that Survived 9/11 -
<http://www.nytimes.com/video/nyregion/100000002878487/the-letter-.html>

Week 6 (2/21 - 2/27) Short Story Essay

1. Short Story Essay assigned and discussed
2. Week 6 Thesis statement Discussion assignment due Wednesday, February 23
3. Essay due Sunday, February 27

Week 7 Theater (2/28 - 3/6)

1. "Proof" by David Auburn Act 1- Proof by David Auburn
2. Theater Conventions
3. Week 7 Reading Quiz
4. Week 7 Discussion responses
5. Podcast – Recording the L.A. Theater Works production of "Proof"

Week 8 (3/7 - 3/13) Theater

1. "Proof" by David Auburn Act 2 - Proof by David Auburn
2. Week 8 Reading Quiz
3. Week 8 Discussion responses
4. Podcast – Recording the L.A. Theater Works production of "Proof"

Week 9 (3/21 - 3/27) The Novel

1. "Winter's Bone" by Daniel Woodrell Pages 3 - 99 - Winter's Bone by Daniel Woodrell
2. Week 9 Reading Quiz
3. Week 9 Discussion responses
4. Interview with Daniel Woodrell audio (found in the Podcast folder) OR
"Hillbilly Noir" - Interview with Daniel Woodrell - Hillbilly Noir

Week 10 (3/28 - 4/3) The Novel

1. "Winter's Bone" by Daniel Woodrell Pages 100 - 193
2. Week 10 Reading Quiz
3. Week 10 Discussion responses

Week 11 (4/4 - 4/10) The Novel

1. "Winter's Bone" Exam due Sunday April 10

Week 12 (4/11 - 4/17) Research Project

1. Research Project on famous Literary Movements developed and assigned.

Week 13 (4/18 - 4/24) Research Project

1. Research Project Due Wednesday April 20
2. Week 13 Reading Quiz

Week 14 (4/25 - 5/1) Poetry – Billy Collins

1. Billy Collins Poetry

"Special Glasses"
"The Lanyard"
"Reaper"
"The Trouble With Poetry"
"The Drive"
"House"

2. Poetry Information found at one of the following website:
<https://literarydevices.net/figurative-language/>
3. Week 14 Reading Quiz
4. Week 14 Discussion responses

Week 15 (5/2 - 5/8) - Poetry, Final Reflection Assigned

Various Poems and Poets assigned (handout)

"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
"My Papa's Waltz" by Theodore Roethke
"Those Winter Sundays" by Robert Hayden
"Harlem" by Langston Hughes
"Happiness" by Raymond Carver
"Last Night I Drove My Son Home" by Jim Daniels
"Short Order Cook" by Jim Daniels

2. Week 15 Discussion Response and Assessment combination assignment
3. Podcast – Poetry Reading from Ted Talks found at:
http://www.ted.com/talks/billy_collins_everyday_moments_caught_in_time.html

Week 16 (5/9 - 5/13) Final Reflection

1. Final Reflection assigned and due FRIDAY MAY 13
2. Extra Credit Assignment Due FRIDAY MAY 13
3. Course Evaluations

College Policies

End-of-Course Evaluation:

In order to gain access to final course grades, students must complete evaluations for each course attended at SMCC. Evaluations are submitted online and can be accessed through the student portal site. Students can access the course evaluation report beginning two weeks before the end of classes. The deadline for submission of evaluations occurs 24 hours after the last day of classes each semester. Instructors will announce when the online course evaluation is 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 741-5629. There will be some documentation for your teachers that must be supplied before accommodations can be given. Further information about services for students with disabilities and the accommodation process is available upon request at this number.

SMCC Pay-for-Print Policy:

Students can print 150 pages per semester for free. If you print over 150 pages, you will be charged 10 cents per page to your Beacon Bucks account. Left-over pages will roll over to the following semester but will zero out at the end of the academic year. A pilot project tracking public printing has shown that this amount of free printing meets the needs of the vast majority of students. The College's pay-for-print system monitors printing on all public printers (i.e., those in general access labs, library printers, the AAC, and technology labs). Each time you log in to the system, the print station displays the remaining print quota. Once the printing quota has been exceeded, users will be charged \$0.10 per page on their Beacon Bucks accounts. Color printouts will be charged at 11-page units. This means each color printout will count as 11 pages toward the quota and cost \$1.10. Students can add money to their cards using a credit card online.

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. To withdraw from a course, a student must complete and submit the appropriate course withdrawal form, available at the Enrollment Service Center (no phone calls, please). The designation "W" will appear on the transcript after a student has officially withdrawn. A course withdrawal is an uncompleted course and may adversely affect financial aid eligibility. Failure to attend or ceasing to attend class does not constitute withdrawal from the course. There is no refund associated with a withdrawal.

Plagiarism Statement:

Adherence to ethical academic standards is obligatory. Cheating is a serious offense, whether it consists of taking credit for work done by another person or doing work for which another person will receive credit. Taking and using the ideas or writings of another person without clearly and fully crediting the source is plagiarism and violates the academic code as well as the Student Code of Conduct. If it is suspected that a student in any course in which s/he is enrolled has knowingly committed such a violation, the faculty member should refer the matter to the College's Disciplinary Officer and appropriate action will be taken under the Student Code of Conduct. Sanctions may include suspension from the course and a failing grade in the course. Students have the right to appeal these actions to the Disciplinary Committee under the terms outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.