

Literature and Composition

ENG102 ONLINE

Spring 2015

CRN: 1183

Instructor: John F. Ward

Office hours: By arrangement (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday are most likely.)

Email: ***Please do not use Blackboard mail or messaging to contact me.***

Please use only my college email address: jward@mxcc.edu

Required Text and Resources

McMahan, Day, Funk, Coleman. *Literature and the Writing Process*. **Must be the 10th Edition.**

Boston: Pearson, 2014. ISBN 13: 978-0-205-90227-9. ISBN 10: 0-205-90227-8.

Some form of reference guide to grammar and ***up-to-date MLA conventions*** (print or online)

- A Writer's Reference, edited by Marilyn Hacker, will work (Print)
- Purdue Online Writer's Lab will work (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu>)

Reliable access to the Internet

This could be at home, at the library or computer facilities on either campus, or in the community – somewhere you can get to easily (*even during bad weather*)

Solid understanding of how Blackboard and the Internet work

You can access Blackboard directly at <https://learn-cc.ct.edu>

Enter the numerals (numbers) from your Banner ID, and your password

If you want to test your readiness for an Online class, go to mxcc.edu/distance

Access to **Helpdesk** numbers (put them in your contact list)

Blackboard: 866-940-1928 (Toll-free)

Tech Support: 860-723-0221 (Hartford exchange)

Distance Learning: 860-343-5756 (Middletown exchange)

Three Steps to Help You Succeed in this Class:

Step 1: Read the syllabus. The *whole* syllabus. *Twice*. Print it out and tack it to the frame of a doorway, so you see it every time you enter or leave your bedroom. Or kitchen. Tape it to the dashboard of your car (but not over the speedometer or gas gauge). You are responsible for knowing what it contains. You are responsible for doing what it asks.

No exceptions. No excuses.

Step 2: Pay attention to announcements on Blackboard and please make sure you are receiving the announcement emails I send from Blackboard. In order to receive those emails, you will need to activate and check your college-issued email account. (*You can easily forward email from that account to another account, to make the whole process simpler. For guidance in this, please go to mxcc.edu/distance.*)

Step 3: Read the material that is assigned and submit all the written work – *on time*.

Late work will not be accepted, unless Blackboard itself is disabled under circumstances beyond our control (such as storm-related power outages). Be sure to have a back-up plan – and the time to put it into place – in the event you lose access to the Internet at home.

And please, put some effort into each assignment. Don't be satisfied with the first thing that pops into your head. Strive to develop ideas that are original and to submit work that is thorough – and your own!

In this class, every time you submit an assignment, you are assuring me it is your own – or that if you are using work from someone or somewhere else, you have cited it according to MLA rules. Consequences for violations will not be fun for either of us.

Citing Outside Material

Which brings us to the conventions of the Modern Language Association, or MLA. We use MLA conventions for citing *anything – ideas, information, phrases, sentences, or entire passages – that we bring in from outside sources*. In the first week, it is expected that you will review the MLA conventions (rules). This is expected to be a review. English 101 – a prerequisite to this class – is where you are expected to learn the proper use of MLA citations. In all your papers, you are expected to use proper in-text (parenthetical) citation, and to include a Works Cited page (which *never* counts in the page requirement – a 1-page exploration will have a separate Works Cited page; a 3- to 4-page paper will be 3 to 4 pages long, *not including the Works Cited page*). If you are not sure of how MLA works, spend some time with a guide (such as *A Writer's Reference*, which is the standard print handbook used in Humanities at Middlesex, or the Perdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL)). If you are *really* not sure about how it works, go get some help, *before* you submit a paper. You will be expected to know how it works, or to learn how it works, before you proceed.

How citations relate to grades:

Re-read Step 3 above. When you submit written work, you are promising that the work is your own, and that you have identified (using MLA conventions) any ideas, information, phrases, quotes, or passages you have brought in from any source outside your essay. Failing to use proper citation methods can be considered a violation of the College's policy on Academic Integrity. It can also have severe effects on your grade(s) – for that assignment and in the class.

Course Description

Students will learn to develop productive interpretations of literature in several genres – short fiction, poetry, and drama. They will be introduced to literary structure and terminology, as well as the dominant critical approaches (sometimes called theories). Over the course of the term, they will also practice using outside critical and scholarly sources to inform their readings of the primary material. As well, they will be expected to review and properly use MLA citation rules and methods.

Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in English 101.

General Outcomes of the Course (Students who complete English 102 may meet the following outcomes:)

Written Communication

- Students will be prepared to develop written texts of varying lengths and styles that communicate effectively and appropriately across a variety of settings.

Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking

- Students will be able to organize, interpret, and evaluate evidence and ideas within and across disciplines, draw reasoned inferences and defensible conclusions, and solve problems and make decisions based on analytical processes.

Continuing Learning/Information Literacy

- Students will be able to use traditional and digital technology to access, evaluate, and apply information to the needs or questions confronting them throughout their academic, professional, and personal lives.

Historical Knowledge/Understanding

- Students will study the interrelatedness of various realms of human experience from multiple historical perspectives.

Social Phenomena Knowledge/Understanding

- Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's (or group's) attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and actions, and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational, or cultural means.

Appreciation of the Aesthetic dimensions of Humankind

- Students will understand the diverse nature, meanings, and functions of creative endeavors through the study and practice of literature, music, the theatrical and visual arts, and related forms of expression.

Appreciation of the Ethical Dimension of Humankind

- Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social political problems.

General Course Objectives

Students will learn the fundamental elements of short fiction, poetry, and drama, as well as the basics of literary criticism as a means of approaching literary texts. They will also have the opportunity to weigh one text against another, in terms of structure and other fundamental elements. They will learn how to incorporate source materials and their own ideas in properly documented explorations and essays. In general terms, they will have the opportunity to increase their appreciation of literature, their skill in reading it, and their ability to convey ideas about it.

Students in English 102 will:

- Read works of recognized merit in short fiction, poetry, drama.
- Read works of literary criticism – both primary and secondary sources.
- Learn about historical, social, cultural, and creative contexts that influence the writing of literature.
- Learn about the relationship between literature and the lives of the writers.
- Learn to interpret literature on the basis of textual evidence.
- Learn to recognize conventional themes within and among literary works to distinguish between generally held and private interpretations, and to accept that there may be more than one valid (or productive) interpretation of a given work.
- Learn about evaluating literature by means of various strategies (approaches, or theories) of literary criticism.
- Write formal, documented essays combining personal analysis with professional analysis gathered from critical texts.

Structure of the Class

- This class is divided into **three major components** – The Short Story, Poetry, and Drama – along with a Midterm exam and a Final Project.
- On Blackboard, each major component will be entirely available for the full stretch of the number of weeks it covers – but while the individual weeks will be visible throughout the section, ***there will be no way to submit late assignments***. Each Blackboard assignment slot ***will close*** when the assignment deadline is reached. Please be sure to arrange your time so that you can submit your assignments as they are due.
- The people who maintain Blackboard schedule **regular downtime**. There is a window at the top left of the first Blackboard page (before you enter your classes) that will tell you when this is. If I hear of additional downtime, I will post an announcement on our Blackboard page. (That would be another reason to log in regularly, and to make sure you are receiving the emails from your college account.)
- The **Midterm Exam** will take up an entire week. It will involve new reading (in the textbook) and then some writing based on that. You will be tested on how you apply what you have learned. You will have the entire week to complete the exam.
- The **Final Project** will be a capstone project for this course. You will have the opportunity to bring to bear all the skills and much of the information you have encountered during the term. It will also involve research outside the realm of the textbook; you will be producing a larger and more complex paper than you have previously in this class. This period will begin after the end of the section on Drama, and will close at the end of the day on the day the final exam is scheduled. (This date has yet to be announced, as I write this.) You will have about two-and-a-half weeks for this project, depending on when our exam date falls.
- This syllabus contains a schedule of the sections.
- The detailed schedules of assignments are contained within the Modules themselves.
- Most weeks' material is made available by the Saturday that precedes the week. Exceptions include the Midterm Exam.

Grading

Each assignment is given a certain number of points. You can earn up to that number, depending on your performance on the assignment. The points accumulate as the term goes on and you submit assignments. Your final grade will be calculated based on the points you earn as a percentage of the total number of points that were available. The cumulative points will be available on Blackboard (in “My Grades”) at any time. Blackboard should be able to display your grade at any time as a running total. If you have questions, please contact me.

Academic Support

If you feel you would benefit from assistance on any of the work in this class, you can get that assistance in several places.

- The Learning Center, Chapman 711 (the library building), Middletown Campus
- The Learning Lab, Ground Floor, Meriden Campus
- Via email contact with me
- Via a face-to-face meeting with me. This requires scheduling. I will be on the Middletown campus Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning around 9:15 (after one

of my other classes gets out). I may have other time during the day (and possibly evening) on Mondays. Please give me enough notice so that I can adjust my schedule.

Dates to Keep in Mind

Wednesday 14 Jan	Blackboard opens.
Wednesday 21 Jan	Classes begin
Tuesday 3 Feb	Last Add/Drop day. Last day to withdraw with 50 percent tuition refund.
Monday 16 Feb	Washington's Birthday. College is closed.
Monday 16 March to Sat. 21 March	Spring Recess. College is closed.
Friday 3 April	Day of reflection. No classes held.
Tuesday 7 April	Last day to make up incompletes from Fall term. Priority registration begins for continuing students.
Wed. 15 April	Last day to withdraw from a class with a "W." <i>Withdrawing from an Online class requires either a signed form (which means a visit to the Middletown campus when I am there) or an exchange of email between the student and me. If you believe you may pursue this, please leave enough time to accomplish it.</i>
Wed. 22 April	Planning & Assessment Day. No classes held.
Friday 24 April	Academic Awards Night, held on Middletown campus.
Thursday 7 May	Reading Day. No classes held.
Friday 8 May	Scholarships Awards Night. Held on Middletown campus.
Monday 11 May	Last day of classes
Tuesday 11 May to Monday 18 May	Exams held.
Wednesday 20 May	Grades due.

Collegewide Policies

These policies govern such subjects as how to be granted accommodations for physical or other difficulties that interfere with your being a student (such as learning disabilities); the official policy on Academic Integrity/Honesty (cheating and plagiarism); accommodations for religious events or holidays that are not on the College calendar; and how the College deals with bad weather. They are available on this Web site: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/

Summary of Term Schedule (Detailed Assignments are on Blackboard, within Modules)

Weeks 1-5 Wednesday 21 Jan through Sunday 22 Feb (Available Wednesday 14 Jan, when Blackboard opens.) The Short Story (5 weeks)
Weeks 6-8 Saturday 21 Feb through Sunday 15 March Poetry (3 weeks)
Monday 16 March through Sunday 22 March Spring Recess (1 week) College is Closed.

Week 9 Monday 23 March through Sunday 29 March Midterm Exam
Weeks 10-13 Saturday 28 March through Sunday 26 April Drama
Weeks 14-End Saturday 25 April through Exam Day (TBA), during the week of 12-18 May Final Project