

Course Syllabus
English 102: Literature & Composition (CRN 4010)
Online Winter 2016-2017

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Middlesex Community College
Phone: 203-608-3015 (Don't bother calling; I won't be in the office at all.

Course Description: Students will learn how to develop interpretations of literature through reading short fiction, poetry, drama, and essays. They will be introduced to literary terminology and to standard critical approaches. They will also learn how to use source materials in order to clearly express their views about literature in several argumentative essays, which includes at least one research essay. *Prerequisite: a grade of "C" or better in ENG*101, ENG*101E, or ENG*101ALP. This is an "L" course.*

Required Text:

- ❖ Rather than having you spend \$150 on a textbook, I will post all readings on BlackBoard.
- ❖ You do need to purchase one play: *Equus* by Peter Shaffer. I recommend the Penguin Plays edition, which can be found on Amazon for a penny.

Recommended "Text":

- ❖ I recommend purchasing the movie *Dead Poets Society*—or making sure you can get it on some streaming device. You will not be required to view it; however, your final research paper will include an option of using the movie as one of your two outside sources.

Really Important Note: First, welcome to a whirlwind section of English 102! For the next 19 days—that's right, only nineteen days!—we will be reading, discussing, and analyzing some of the best short stories and poems ever written and read an entire play. Exciting, right? Well you know what else that means? We've got a heck of a lot to cram into 19 days. My advice: if you plan to pass this course, take time off from your job and tell your friends and family that you won't see them for the next nineteen days. **Honestly, you should expect to spend 3-6 hours per day doing work for this class.** When I taught this as a ground course over the winter, the class was 3.5 hours/day 5 days/week. Then students would have to go home and do all the reading and writing on top of that.

This course is NOT easier because it is a winter course. It is NOT easier because it is online. Both of those aspects actually make it quite a bit MORE challenging. ENG 102 is ENG 102; that means that you will be completing the same amount of work that you would in a traditional semester...all *crammed* into 19 days. If you are a struggling reader or writer, then this class is probably not for you. THIS WILL BE CHALLENGING!

BlackBoard Mail Policy: Never hesitate to e-mail me should you have any questions or concerns. I will get back to you as soon as possible and will always do my best to get back to you within 12 hours. PLEASE use the "**BlackBoard Mail**" link (NOT external e-mail) to send me any questions that are of a personal nature. Otherwise, **PLEASE** post any other, general questions (anything about the readings or the assignments or simply the course that is unclear) on the "Course Questions" discussion board. That way, other students can see both the question and the answer I post. (**Note:** Be sure to check both your BlackBoard mail and the "Course Questions" board as I expect you to know/follow any answers I post there whether or not you are the one who asked the question.) Also, please watch this: <http://twentytwowords.com/hilariously-annoyed-professor-tears-a-students-email-apart-word-by-word/>

Assignments:

*Short Story Test 15%

* Short Fiction Essay (3-5 pages) 20%

* Drama Essay (5-8 pages) 25%

* Poetry Essay (3-5 pages) 20%

*Discussion Posts 20%

Paper Grading: On formal essays, I will give you detailed feedback along with the grade so that you can see exactly what you did well and exactly where you need to improve. Note: An “F” can be anywhere from a zero to a 59, and I do give single digit grades to papers that earn single digit grades. Please follow directions and **proofread**: the three papers make up 65% of your grade!

I do not consider myself an easy grader when it comes to big, formal essays. In fact, here is feedback I received from a student’s course evaluation last year for an online literature class: “[Professor Florida] should also realize this is only a community college literature course, not a course on composition writing. He grades the papers harshly as if this was a composition writing course and should realize the objective of the course is to understand the concept of the writing.” I share this so that you are not entering the course under any false pretenses: this is a course where you will be learning about literature *and writing intelligent, thoughtful, insightful compositions* about literature. This is a literature course, and this is a community college; however, a paper for a college English class needs to read like a paper for a college English class. Earning a “C” in English 101 is a prerequisite for a reason.

Late Work: I have no tolerance for late work. All assignments must be submitted BEFORE the posted deadline. It does not matter if work is turned in one week, one day, one hour, or one *second* late: I will not read or grade any late work. Please see the “Late Work Addendum” in the “Syllabus” section of BlackBoard for further explanation. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT ME ASKING FOR EXCEPTIONS. THERE ARE NONE. PERIOD.

Rewrites/Revision: Unlike other English classes you may have taken, there are **no re-writes or extra credit assignments** of any kind. Every assignment counts for *a lot* of your final grade, so make sure to do your best on every assignment. *Normally*, revision is something I encourage; however, in this abbreviated session we simply do not have time, so make sure you get it right the first time.

Just as I am holding you to very strict deadlines, I assure you that I will be working just as hard as you. I will grade and return your work as soon as possible; that is my daily homework. That is also another reason I have zero tolerance for late work.

Discussion Board Expectations

Each day during the first two units, you will choose one of the poems or stories assigned and write a **one page paper** on it and respond to a classmate's posting. Directions and samples will be found in Day 1.

1) In **about 250 words**, you will select **one quotation** from one of the readings and *explicate* it fully to demonstrate your understanding of the text. This is your chance to show your capacity to interpret a text by referencing a specific passage. You are encouraged to take risks in your interpretations – just always base your analysis soundly in the text. Discussion board rubrics will be posted to the site so that you clearly understand how you are being graded/assessed. Writing should be 100% formal and academic. This is worth 10 points.

2) Write a **response to someone else's discussion** post. **Note:** You must choose a peer-response that addresses a different reading from the one you chose to post about. This should reflect real *engagement* with your classmate's ideas. This should be at least one solid paragraph (about 100 words) and should also contain some direct textual support. In other words, something like, "Wow, great post Adam. I totally agree with what you said. I thought the same thing about the reading. We're totally on the same page" will earn you a zero. I want thought and engagement, not fluff. Writing can be more conversational in tone. This will be worth 5 points.

Discussion Board Grading Scale

Discussion board postings are graded on a scale from 1-10. You will also be expected to reply to a classmate's posting, which will be worth 5 points. That means each day, your total Discussion Board grade will be out of 15 possible points. I use the numbers for the sanity of my spreadsheet. **Discussion board posts are not revisable; don't post until you're sure you've clearly said what you have to say.**

- Please note that I rarely give out 10s on discussion board posts – your work must be truly extraordinary. Simply meeting the criteria for the assignment does not earn you an A.
- If you meet the criteria for the assignment and do average work, you will earn a C (a 7).
- 9s and 10s are reserved for those students who are going above and beyond basic course expectations and who are thus engaging in above average work.
- I have programmed Bboard to drop your lowest discussion grade.

Guided Reading Questions: For each unit I will post a set of Guided Reading Questions. Since I don't have the pleasure of talking to you in class about the important aspects of each reading, this is my attempt to help you focus on significant parts/concept/ideas/language. You do not need to answer these and I will **never collect or grade them**. *However*, they should be a valuable tool as you read each text and answer one of the discussion questions. Really, these are my way of trying to help you get even more out of each reading assignment. You can also use these as a starting point for a casual conversation about the readings in the "**General Discussion**" board. Nothing on this board is graded, yet the more active you are on it, the more likely I am to give you grade a friendly little bump at the end of the semester. This is also a great place to chat casually (and publicly) with me about any of the course material!

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

1) “At Middlesex Community College we expect the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic dishonesty is prohibited in accordance with the Board of Trustees’ Proscribed Conduct Policy in Section 5.2.1 of the Board of Trustees Policy Manual. This policy prohibits cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaborations on assignments, unauthorized access to examinations or course materials, plagiarism and other proscribed activities. Plagiarism is defined as the use of another’s idea(s) or phrase(s) and representing that/those idea(s) as your own, either intentionally or unintentionally.” (Board of Trustees’ Policy 5.2.1)

2) So that was MxCC’s official policy on plagiarism. Here’s how I apply it in my class. If you do any of the following:

- Turn in material you did not write,
- Turn in papers written by you for another class (either high school or college),
- Turn in papers you drafted but revised or edited by another,
- Fail to paraphrase, summarize, or quote sources properly,
- Turn in papers written by someone else and edited or revised by you, or
- Get any of your *ideas* from another source. (*Anywhere* on the internet, for example)

then you have plagiarized.

Presenting another person’s **ideas or language** as your own will result in an automatic “F” (zero). If you plagiarize ANY of the discussion posts, then you will receive an “F” (zero) for that entire 20% of your grade. It may also result in an “F” for the course because I will report the incident to the Chair of the English Department and to the Academic Dean since it is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Don’t do it. I’ll find out, and it’s *really* not worth the consequences. My sincere advice/plea/warning: Don’t succumb to the urge to see what Sparknotes (or any of the other online sites) say about what we’re reading. That will only open up the possibility that you will use *ideas* (maybe not even words) from that source, and that’s plagiarism. I want to challenge you to think, and I want to read your ideas. If I want to read what other people on the internet think, then I’ll do that myself. YOU should NOT be doing that while taking this course. **Basically, just STAY OFF THE INTERNET (I know, ironic advice for an online course)!**

In the interest of full disclosure: I will use the computer to scan every single writing assignment turned in to see if *any* of it is plagiarized. Remember, if you can find something online, so can I. And I do check!

****Unfortunately, I have never taught this course without having to fail a student for plagiarizing.****

3) Because ENG 101 is a prerequisite for this course, I expect you to know how to use proper MLA citation. You MUST cite texts correctly. Failure to do so will either lower your grade or earn you a zero for plagiarism.

4) Again, plain and simple: Even if you don’t understand a reading, do not look up summaries/analyses somewhere else. The goal is for YOU to develop YOUR OWN interpretations!

Proposed Schedule:

Here is an overview of what the “semester” holds for you. I ABSOLUTELY encourage you to get ahead as much as possible. Heck, the BlackBoard course shell is available a week before the course officially starts—that’s a whole extra week to do this work. I will have everything available/unlocked on Bboard as soon as the course “goes live.” I will also provide very clear daily instructions regarding what needs to be accomplished each day. In addition to the below, there will be powerpoints, notes, and other such items for you to read/review as well.

Date	To Do Today	Due Tomorrow by Noon	Due Tomorrow by 8 PM
Tuesday 12/27	-Read Notes and “Scarlet Ibis” -Begin Ibis Packet	---	-Scarlet Ibis Test Packet
Wednesday 12/28	-Submit Test Packet by 8PM -Read “The Lottery” and “The Story of an Hour”	*Post on “The Lottery” or “The Story of an Hour”	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Thursday 12/29	-Read “The Things They Carried,” and “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge,”	*Post on “The Things They Carried” or “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge”	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Friday 12/30	-Read “A Rose for Emily,” “The Chrysanthemums,” and “Eveline”	*Post on “A Rose for Emily,” “Chrysanthemums,” or “Eveline”	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Saturday 12/31	-Read “I Stand Here Ironing,” “Hills Like White Elephants,” and “The Cask of Amontillado”	*Nothing (or get ahead...)	*Nothing (or get ahead...)
Sunday 1/1	-Nothing (or get ahead...)	*Nothing (or get ahead...)	*Nothing (or get ahead...)
Monday 1/2	-Nothing (or get ahead...)	*Post on “Hills Like White Elephants,” “The Cask of Amontillado,” or “I Stand Here Ironing”	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Tuesday 1/3	-Read “A+P,” “Araby,”	*Post on “A+P” or “Araby”	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Wednesday 1/4	Write Short Story Essay	---	Short Story Essay Due
Thursday 1/5	-Short Story Essay due by 8PM -Read Elizabethan + Metaphysical Poems	*Post on one of the Elizabethan + Metaphysical Poems	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Friday 1/6	-Read Romantics and Victorians Poems	*Post on one of the Romantic + Victorian Poems	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Saturday 1/7	-Read Modernists Poems and Prufrock	*Nothing (or get ahead...)	*Nothing (or get ahead...)
Sunday 1/8	-Nothing (or get ahead...)	*Post on one of the Modernist Poems	*Reply to a classmate’s post
Monday 1/9	Write Poetry Essay	---	Poetry Essay Due
Tuesday 1/10	-Poetry Essay Due by 8PM -Read all of Act 1 of <i>Equus</i>	---	* <i>Equus</i> Questions 1
Wednesday 1/11	- Finish <i>Equus</i>		* <i>Equus</i> Questions 2
Thursday 1/12	-Research	---	---
Friday 1/13	-Research	---	Drama Essay Due
Saturday 1/15	-Drama Essay Due by 8PM	---	---
Sunday 1/16	*You’re D-O-N-E. Take a huge sigh of relief and pat yourself on the back!	---	---

(The next few pages are college policies that I have to include—read at your own discretion)

General Outcomes of the Course
(Statement identifying educational goals of the course)

Written Communication (full competency)

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

Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking (full competency)

- 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 (full competency)

- 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 (full competency)

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

Social Phenomena Knowledge/ Understanding (embedded 1-4)

- 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 (full competency)

- 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 Dimensions of Humankind (full competency)

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

Unit No	Instructional Unit	<p style="text-align: center;">Specific Objectives of Instructional Unit</p> <p>(The specific objectives reflect the behavioral outcomes, which include what the student will be able to do at the completion of the unit. Evaluation is then to be based on the student's accomplishment of these objectives. Assume that each statement is prefixed with "The student will be able to".)</p>
<p>Written and Oral Communications in English Committee</p>	<p>Students will be prepared to develop oral messages and written texts of varying lengths and styles that communicate effectively and appropriately across a variety of settings.</p>	<p>In written communication:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respond to Rhetorical Situations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and evaluate the specific audience and purpose in different writing situations, and adapt their writing appropriately to those situations. • Develop effective prose that influences attitudes, beliefs, and actions through appropriate logical, ethical, and emotional appeals. 2. Use Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate and evaluate sources appropriate to the rhetorical situation. • Read, comprehend, and summarize an argument from a complex piece of writing. • Analyze, evaluate, and respond to an argument from a complex piece of writing. • Summarize, paraphrase, and quote accurately the ideas of others, clearly differentiating them from the students' own ideas. • Synthesize and integrate others' ideas purposefully and ethically with correct and appropriate documentation. 3. Craft Logical Arguments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate a controlling idea or thesis. • Provide clear and logical evidence, support, or illustration for their assertions. • Choose appropriate and effective organizing methods, employing effective transitions and signposts. • Write a focused and sustained argument of at least 1500 words that demonstrates all of these outcomes

		<p>4. Apply Language Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use diction, tone, and level of formality appropriate to audience, purpose, and situation. Apply the conventions of Standard English grammar, spelling, and mechanics. <p>5. Formulate Effective Writing Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop flexible strategies for generating, revising, editing, and proofreading their writing. Reflect on and explain the effectiveness of their writing choices regarding the audience, purpose, and situation.
Critical Analysis and Logical Thinking Committee	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.	<p>1. Demonstrate competence in argumentation by identifying issues, evidence and reasoning processes: recognizing various types of arguments, analyzing components of arguments, and formulating good arguments, including a significant focus on inductive reasoning as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the presence of arguments, as distinguishable from explanations, illustrations, descriptions, or creative works. Identify the components of an argument (premises/evidence and conclusion/thesis) and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between these components. Identify different types of reasoning (e.g., generalization, analogy, induction, deduction, and "reasoning to the best explanation"). <p>2. Demonstrate competence in analysis by breaking subject matter into components and identifying their interrelations to ascertain the defining features of the work and their contributions to the whole as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish fact from opinion. Examine works in order to identify distinct elements, patterns, and their interrelationships and express their significance. <p>3. Demonstrate competence in identifying assumptions, assessing the quality and reliability of sources of evidence, and learning the criteria for evaluating the success of each kind of inference as outlined below :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the reliability, reasonableness, and perspective of the sources of evidence. Identify their own assumptions and minimize confirmation ("my-side") bias while considering viewpoints other than their own. Apply criteria for evaluating the success of each kind of inference <p>4. Draw together disparate claims into a coherent whole in order to arrive at well-reasoned and well-supported inferences that can be justified as a conclusion as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and present an integrated, well-reasoned, and well-supported independent interpretation of ideas based on appropriate evidence and methodology.
Continuing Learning/ Information Literacy Committee	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.	<p>1. Demonstrate competency in using current, relevant technologies to solve problems, complete projects, and make informed decisions.</p> <p>2. Access, navigate, identify and evaluate information that is appropriate for their need(s) and audience(s).</p> <p>3. Synthesize information to broaden knowledge and experiences and produce both independent and collaborative work.</p> <p>4. Evaluate the economic, legal, ethical, and social issues surrounding the access and use of information and relevant technologies.</p>
Historical Knowledge/ Understanding Committee	Students will study the interrelatedness of various realms of human experience from multiple historical perspectives.	<p>1. Interpret and differentiate types of historical sources including popular, academic, primary, and secondary.</p> <p>2. Recognize ever-changing interpretations of history.</p> <p>3. Examine the development of societies in national and/or international contexts.</p> <p>4. Explain the influence and agency of race, class, gender, and other perspectives on historical events.</p> <p>5. Describe the impact of the past on subsequent events, including the present.</p> <p>6. Examine the complex, dynamic, and interrelated nature of change.</p>
Social Phenomena Knowledge/ Understanding Committee	Students will develop an increased understanding of the influences that shape a person's, or group's attitudes, beliefs, emotions, symbols, and	<p>1. Explain social, organizational, political, economic, historical, or cultural elements that influence and are influenced by individuals and groups.</p> <p>2. Describe different theories and research methods used to investigate social phenomena.</p> <p>3. Recognize ethical issues pertaining to social contexts and phenomena.</p> <p>4. Explain issues of diversity within and across cultures.</p>

	actions, and how these systems of influence are created, maintained, and altered by individual, familial, group, situational or cultural means.	
Appreciation of the <i>Aesthetic</i> and Ethical Dimensions of Humankind Committee	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.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply key concepts, terminology, and methodologies in the analysis of literary, performing, visual, or other arts. 2. Identify works of visual, performing, or literary art within historical, social, political, cultural, and aesthetic contexts. 3. Articulate ways in which literature, performance, the visual arts or related forms respond to and influence society and culture. 4. Actively engage with the literary, performing or visual arts or other cultural forms through experience or creative expression. 5. Articulate the ethical dimensions surrounding the creation, circulation, and interpretation of works of visual, performing, or literary art.
Appreciation of the <i>Aesthetic</i> and Ethical Dimensions of Humankind Committee	Students will identify ethical principles that guide individual and collective actions and apply those principles to the analysis of contemporary social and political problems.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Respond critically to ethical issues. 2. Apply appropriate concepts and terminology in identifying ethical problems, proposing and defending solutions to them. 3. Apply standards and practices of scholarship, research, and documentation to defend positions and beliefs, including reevaluating beliefs in light of unforeseen implications or new evidence. 4. Recognize the value of creative, collaborative, and innovative approaches to problem-solving, including the ability to acknowledge differing points of view.

ADDITIONAL SYLLABUS INFORMATION

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather/emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/



NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

- Primary Title IX Coordinator
Dr. Adrienne Maslin
Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123|

Secondary Title IX Coordinator
Ms. Queen Fordham
Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk
qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011

Hey, are you still reading? The syllabus is over—go get started on the actual work! 😊