

English 103/104: Introduction to Literature and Language

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Each section of these first-year classes approaches the study of literature through the exploration of a single theme in texts drawn from a variety of literary genres (tragedy, comedy, lyric poetry, epic, novel, short story, film, autobiography, etc.) and historical periods. Students in each section are asked to work intensively on composition as part of a rigorous introduction to reading, thinking, speaking and writing about literary texts. During the semester, instructors will assign frequent essays and may also require oral presentations, quizzes, examinations and research projects.

OBJECTIVES

- Investigate the purpose of literature in society
- Enhance the ability to write at the collegiate level
- Apply the style and stance of formal academic writing
- Develop the skills to write in a variety of styles and situations
- Foster good work habits that promote success and learning

BY THE END OF THE YEAR YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THE FOLLOWING

- Come to class automatically prepared with something to contribute.
- Write a three page essay with no problem.
- Read on your own for fun.
- Develop your own ideas for papers.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following texts will be covered in class. You may have hard copies or download the books onto your iPad unless I require you to have one or the other as noted below. You should be prepared to do some annotating in class every day, so you must have a copy of the book in class with you every day. Many of the works we will read in class are in the public domain and free versions are readily available in iBooks. I **reserve the right to change any of the selections listed below.**

First Semester (English 103)

- *Pride and Prejudice* - Jane Austen
- The poetry of Walt Whitman (no purchase needed)
- *Macbeth* - William Shakespeare*
- The poetry of Emily Dickinson (no purchase needed)

Second Semester (English 104)

- *The Importance of Being Earnest* - Oscar Wilde
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* - Oscar Wilde
- The short stories of Flannery O'Connor (no purchase needed)
- *Station Eleven* - Emily St. John Mandel

*I have yet to find a good ebook version of the play that includes line numbers and definitions of old words, so we will use the Folger Library version of the play. (ISBN: 978-0743477109). Because this is a college level class, NO FEAR versions are not permitted.

COMMUNICATION

I teach all of my classes in Room 241. When I'm not there I can usually be found in the media center or the English office (room 229.)

Outside of regular school hours you can contact me through email at david_rickert@hboe.org or by using the Remind app. Please be aware that I generally limit my use of email and devices after 9PM. In general, Remind is the quickest way to contact me.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

- Respect everyone's opinions. Everyone has a unique way of seeing the world and that should be embraced.
- Be focused on what you are supposed to be doing.
- Believe that you belong in class. Regardless of why you are in this class, you should be because you are. Work at that level.
- Embrace a growth mindset.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

iPads present us all with a new set of opportunities and challenges. However, one of your responsibilities as a student is to manage your use of such devices. When in class you should not be on your cell phone at all and you should not be using your iPad for anything other than what you are currently asked to do. Everyone needs to develop a good sense of self control so that electronics and all the distractions that they present do not prevent us from getting our work done and, more importantly, enjoying all of the wonderful people and things around us. Every day we are given the opportunity to be completely focused on whatever you are doing or whomever you are with. View this class as one such opportunity to develop your ability to focus.

FOOD AND DRINK POLICY

Food is not permitted in the classroom. This is a school rule. Water is fine.

INDEPENDENT READING

We will begin each class period with ten to fifteen minutes of independent reading. By the second week of school this should be a habit - I should not need to tell you to start. You may use this time to select a book from the classroom library or, occasionally, from the media center. During this time I will be reading as well, but I may also use the time to conference with students. You are welcome to read whatever you want during this time. However, because you are in a college level class you will be strongly encouraged to pick books that are out of your comfort zone.

HANDING IN WORK

Please hand in your work when it is due, either on Canvas or on paper (whatever I require.) I am very strict on due dates for Canvas, and anything that is completed past the deadline will need to be handed in directly to me. Please do not leave things on my desk. If you hand things in late, please do me the courtesy of handing it to me directly and, if necessary, own up to why it wasn't handed in on time. I do understand that occasional problems occur and you can't get a paper to me on time. Please email me a copy of it to show that you have it done when it was due.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

My expectation is that you will do the work you are asked to do. This involves reading the assigned texts instead of reading online summaries, writing without plagiarism, and in general approaching everything we do with an open mind. Because you chose to take a college level class instead of a regular elective, you are expected to respond with the appropriate mindset.

Plagiarism is a serious offense. It is up to my discretion whether or not you will receive credit for plagiarized work, but at the very least you will be asked to rewrite the paper over and choose a different topic. The following are examples of plagiarism:

- Using work from other sources in your writing and not giving credit.
- Handing in someone else's work as your own
- Using papers from online sources
- Writing a paper that is inspired by something you have read online without giving proper credit
- Writing about a work without actually reading the work (for example, using online summaries.)

ASSESSMENTS

PARTICIPATION

English 103 and 104 are designed to be discussion based classes. Because of this, you will be expected to come to class with something to discuss everyday. Sometimes I will have something I would like us to talk about, but more likely it will be you that will lead the discussion. This is not a class where you will passively sit while I feed you the information you need to do well on tests and quizzes.

Part of the participation grade will be the weekly online discussions that will take place on Canvas outside of class. Get used to these, because they are a common practice in college courses. If you do the minimum - start a discussion and respond to two others - you will receive a 20/25 for the week. If you go beyond this by responding more and checking in on the conversation a few times a week you may earn full points.

TESTS AND QUIZZES

There will be occasional tests and quizzes over the material we study. Some may be unannounced.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

The majority of your assessments will be papers and short responses. We will do one paper each nine weeks with several shorter response throughout that will help prepare you for them. Very rarely will you be one your own for these. You will have opportunities to brainstorm in groups and will be required to do revisions after I comment on a first draft. I will not give you any time to write your papers in class although planning and preparation will be a major part of the class.

PARTICIPATION - 30%

TESTS AND QUIZZES - 20%

WRITING - 50%