

Introduction to Literature (3 credit hours)

English 200 Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. Nancy Dinan

Office: 16C

Email: nancy.dinan@wku.edu

Office Hours: MWF 9-10 am and by appointment (via recurring Zoom meeting this semester)

Class Location: This is an online, asynchronous course.

Welcome

Welcome to English 200, another intensive course in college-level writing, reading, and critical thinking. My hope is that you will find the course academically challenging, intellectually interesting, and personally satisfying. In this course, you will continue the inquiry, critical thinking, and writing that will assure your success at WKU. Moreover, I hope that you will establish some friendships in this class as you share ideas, work with each other in groups, and come to value the intellectual life as a conversation of differing views about interesting and significant problems. You will learn how to understand and (perhaps) even enjoy literature. You will discover how to critically evaluate literature, a process that can help you enjoy the text more fully.

English 200 is a 3-credit course studying fiction, drama and poetry, principally of American and English authors, or international authors in translation. Students will learn to appreciate how these literary forms embody metaphoric, poetic, and mythic ways of knowing; through writing assignments, students will also learn how to formulate and respond to questions using methods characteristic of literary study. At the same time, students will learn that the student of literature is interested in many of the same questions that engage students of other disciplines (such as history, psychology, and the arts). English 200 shares themes, ideas, and even subjects of study with other courses that partially fulfill Foundations requirements.

Catalog Description

Prerequisite: ENG 100. Introductory study of fiction, poetry, and drama demonstrating techniques by which literary artists reflect human experience. Substantial student writing about literature will be required.

Colonnade Learning Outcomes Met by This Course

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English 200 helps to fulfill the Arts and Humanities (AH) Colonnade requirement. Upon completion of this English 200, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Utilize basic formal elements, techniques, concepts and vocabulary of specific disciplines within the Arts and Humanities.
2. Distinguish among various kinds of evidence by identifying reliable sources and valid arguments.
3. Demonstrate how social, cultural, and historical contexts influence creative expression in the Arts and Humanities.
4. Evaluate the significance of human expression and experience in shaping larger social, cultural, and historical contexts.
5. Evaluate enduring and contemporary issues of human experience.
6. Read, comprehend, and analyze primary texts independently and proficiently.

As we read and discuss fiction, poems, and plays, we will also be seeking answers to the following related questions:

- What does it mean to be human?
- Why do we value literature? Why is it a Gen. Ed. Requirement?
- What is involved in the process of reading sophisticated literature?
- In what ways do different genres call for different reading strategies?
- What are the various conventions associated with fiction, poetry, and drama?
- How do we “interpret” literature? What is at stake in this enterprise? What values and assumptions inform our interpretations? Are some interpretations more “correct” than others?
- What do we write about when we write about literature? What writing conventions do we need to be familiar with? Why do a lot of writing in a literature class?

Required Texts

HOW TO READ POETRY LIKE A PROFESSOR, Thomas C. Foster

Publisher: Harper Perennial; 1 edition (March 27, 2018)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780062113788

ISBN-13: 978-0062113788

ASIN: 006211378X

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, Tennessee Williams

Series: New Directions Paperback

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: New Directions; unknown edition (September 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780811216029

ISBN-13: 978-0811216029

ASIN: 0811216020

Important Dates

Last day to add a class or to drop a class without a grade: December 15

Last day to drop a class with a W: December 26

60% point: December 24

Other dates of interest:

No classes: December 24-25.

Final examinations: December 31

Academic Assistance:

Student academic computing labs are located in the library, TCCW, Grise Hall, DUC, MMTH, and CH 127.

The Student Study and Activity Room, CH 124, is available to any student taking an English class.

Writing Center Assistance

The Writing Center is located in Cherry Hall 123 on the Bowling Green campus and also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating

hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can *help you* brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper *for you*. See instructions on the website www.wku.edu/writingcenter for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (listed on the website) for help scheduling an appointment.

The Learning Center

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing University Center, A330) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DUC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects by appointment or walk in. Online tutoring is offered to distance learners. TLC is also a quiet study area, with side rooms designated for peer-to-peer tutoring, and offers a computer lab to complete academic coursework. Additionally, TLC has three satellite locations. Each satellite is a quiet study center and is equipped with a small computer lab. These satellites are located in Douglas Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. For more information, or to schedule a tutoring appointment, please call TLC at (270) 745-6254. www.wku.edu/tlc

Course Policies

WKU Mask Policy

Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) guidelines, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations to face coverings must be determined by the Student Accessibility Resource Center and documented before a student may attend class.

Program Assessment Notice

As part of a university-wide accreditation study, a small sample of papers will be collected from randomly-selected individuals in all ENG 100, 200, and 300 classes this semester. The papers will be examined anonymously as part of a program assessment; results will have no bearing on student assessment or course grades.

Incompletes

Typically, incompletes will not be granted for any Foundations category English course. When extenuating circumstances arise—for example, if a student in the military is deployed or if a student has a personal or medical crisis that comes up toward the end of the semester—the student must discuss the situation with the instructor if possible and the instructor will consider an incomplete. The instructor will only consider an incomplete for students who are in good standing (C or higher) in the course.

Resolving Complaints about Grades

The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the

problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook, available at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/> for additional guidance.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at <https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/251.pdf>. Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Participation

Participation from everyone is paramount to successful discussion and to the classroom environment in general. Avenues for participation include completing class reading and writing assignments, participating in a classroom dialogue (whether via discussion or peer editing), and communication with the instructor. Think of yourself as belonging to a book club (that has a mandatory attendance policy). Remember that when we discuss possible interpretations to a text, it is NOT the final say on a book. Reasonable people can disagree passionately on literature, but all opinions should be supported by textual evidence and historical facts. The only way we can improve the dialogue is for everyone to participate. Please feel encouraged to join in, and please keep all conversations professional and courteous in tone.

Late Assignments and Makeup

There will be no make-ups for late work in this class except under the most extenuating circumstances. Please do not email assignments – if there's a last-minute problem with Blackboard, please take a screenshot and email the screen shot, and I can help you submit your assignment the next day. All papers are due on the assigned day. Quizzes and exams cannot be made up, and writing assignments will be lowered one letter grade for each day they are past due.

Evaluation & Grading

One of the goals for this course is to encourage you to develop critical reading and analytical skills as you practice thoughtful reading and writing about literary texts. A second and equally important goal is to help you continue to develop your writing skills. Thus, you may receive feedback from me on drafts of major essays before submitting them for grading. But once a grade is posted on Blackboard, additional revisions will not be accepted.

You can expect to write approximately 3600 words this semester of revised and finished analysis. Grades will be determined by the following tasks:

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| • 10 Quizzes (3 points each) | 30% |
| • 10 Discussion Board posts (1 point each) | 10% |
| • 10 Discussion Board responses (1 point each) | 10% |
| • 2 Literary Analysis Papers (15 points each) | 30% |
| • Reflective Final Exam | 20% |

Final grading scale: A = 100-90, or 90% and up; B= 89-80%; C=79-70%; D=69-60%; F- 59% and below

Quizzes: Each day, you will have a quiz based on your reading. These will be open-book quizzes, and they are designed to help you think through the day's reading.

Discussion Boards: Each day in your initial post, I will ask you to reflect on the reading and to complete a specific task. In addition, I will ask you to respond to at least two peers' posts. Specific instructions are provided for each board.

Writing Assignments:

Two literary analyses.

Final Exam: At the end of the semester, we will have a reflective final exam that asks you to consider poetry, short fiction, drama, and the novel. Questions will be largely essay-based, and they will focus on both our specific texts and on our literary forms in general.

Plagiarism

I will provide further information regarding plagiarism in a student handout, but please be aware that plagiarism can happen either intentionally or accidentally. **Blatant, intentional plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class or at WKU.** In class, we will discuss strategies for avoiding accidental plagiarism, but when in doubt, please give others credit for their words, ideas, and work.

Calendar of Assignments

In general, our schedule will follow a predictable pattern. Every day, you will complete the following tasks:

- Read assigned texts
- Take quiz over assigned texts
- View the day's PPT
- Complete the discussion board

Twice during the semester, you will be assigned a paper of approximately 3-5 pages, and at the end of the semester, you will complete a reflective exam. This course moves extremely quickly – do not fall behind!

You can find more detailed assignments (and links!) on our Blackboard site, but here is the overall schedule for the semester:

Day One: Monday 12/14

- Day 1 PPT -- Introductions, objectives, and syllabus
- Quiz 1
- Discussion Board 1

Day Two – Poetry: Tuesday 12/15

- Complete the day's reading:
 - *How to Read Poetry Like a Professor*, Introduction & Chapter 1
 - "Because I Could Not Stop for Death," Emily Dickinson
 - "Ozymandias," Percy Bysshe Shelley
 - "Bullet Points," Jericho Brown
- Quiz 2
- Day 2 PPT
- Discussion Board 2

Day Three – Poetry: Wednesday 12/16

- Complete the day's reading:
 - *How to Read Poetry Like a Professor*, "Interlude" & "Rhyme Time"
 - "My Last Duchess," Robert Browning
 - "Black Postcards," Tomas Tranströmer
 - "A Small, Needful Fact," Ross Gay
 - "The Peace of Wild Things," Wendell Berry
- Quiz 3
- Day 3 PPT
- Discussion Board 3

Day Four – Poetry: Thursday 12/17

- Complete the day's reading:
 - *How to Read Poetry Like a Professor*, "Images, Symbols, and Their Friends" & "Conclusion: Supreme Fictions"
 - "The Summer Day," Mary Oliver
 - "The Two-Headed Calf," Laura Gilpin
 - "Small Kindnesses," Danusha Lameris
 - "The Second Coming," William Butler Yeats
- Quiz 4
- Day 4 PPT
- Discussion Board 4

Day Five – Short Fiction: Friday 12/18

- Complete the day's reading:
 - "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas," Ursula K. LeGuin
 - *Writing Analytically* Excerpt
- Quiz 5
- Day 5 PPT – Assign paper due 12/23
- Discussion Board 5 – "Notice and Focus"

Day Six – Short Fiction: Monday 12/21

- Complete the day's reading:
 - "Woman Hollering Creek," Sandra Cisneros
- Quiz 6
- Day 6 PPT
- Discussion Board 6 – "Notice and Focus"

Day Seven – Short Fiction: Tuesday 12/22

- Complete the day's reading:
 - "Everyday Use," Alice Walker
 - "The Lottery," Shirley Jackson
- Quiz 7
- Day 7 PPT
- Discussion Board 7 – Comparative analysis

Day Eight – Drama Wednesday 12/23

- Complete the day's reading:
 - *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Acts I-III
- Quiz 8
- Day 8 PPT
- Discussion Board 8 – Second literary analysis assigned
- First literary analysis due

Day Nine – Drama Monday 12/28

- Complete the day's reading:
 - *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Acts IV-VII
- Quiz 9
- Day 9 PPT

- Discussion Board 9

Day Ten - Drama Tuesday 12/29

- Complete the day's reading:
 - *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Acts VIII-XI
- Quiz 10
- Day 10 PPT

Final literary analysis due Wednesday, December 30

Final reflective exam due Thursday, December 31