

ENG 200: Introduction to Literature (web)

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Online office hours: I can be reached by email throughout each business day of the course (Monday through Friday). Feel free to email over the weekend, and I will respond as soon as I can, usually within an hour. If you don't hear back from me after a couple of hours, check the email address spelling and try again!

Communication: Check your WKU email and the Blackboard course site *daily*. If you email me, typing "E200 Summer and your last name" in the subject line will give your email top priority. Because spam and phishing from other servers are a major problem, the IT Department at WKU advises professors to encourage students to use only their Topper email accounts. Please do not email me from your personal email account (such as Hotmail, Gmail, etc.); instead, use your WKU Topper email account.

Required course prerequisite: ENG 100

Important dates:

July 6—The course Blackboard site will open; first day of class

July 8—last day to add a course, or drop the course without a fee

July 20—60% point of session. FN date. Students who stop meaningfully participating in this course before this date may be held responsible for student loans accrued.

July 22—last day to withdraw from the course

July 29-30—Testing window for exam

August 3—grades due to be posted on TopNet

August 11—The course site will expire and disappear

Catalog description:

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

English 200 fulfills the B1 (Humanities/Literature) general education requirement. The course will help students attain these general education objectives: (1) proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking; and (2) an informed acquaintance with major achievements in the arts and humanities.

English 200 provides an introduction to a variety of literature at the college level. Assignments encourage critique and analysis and give students introductory knowledge of key literary terms, concepts, and reading strategies. Students apply this knowledge in discussing and writing about literary texts and consider how literature inscribes the human experience. Because these classes emphasize the reading of primary texts, instructors will focus on literacy skills to supplement content course work.

Course objectives:

Colonnade (Fall 2014 and later) Learning Outcomes Met by this Course:

English 200 fulfills the following General Education Learning Outcomes for Arts and Humanities:

1. Utilize basic formal elements, techniques, concepts and vocabulary of specific disciplines within Literary Studies.
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 Literary Studies.
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. Students will read, comprehend, and analyze primary texts independently and proficiently.

This course examines representative works in the major genres of literature (fiction, poetry and drama), with attention to different time periods, cultures, and diversity. Through class discussions and through reading and writing assignments, students will question, think, and write critically about literature. The course introduces the concepts and methodologies essential to the analysis and appreciation of a significant body of work.

Required Textbooks:

The required texts will be needed on the first day of the course.

1)The 14th edition of Kennedy & Gioia's *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama, and Writing* contains the course readings. Some of the 14th editions may be Interactive Editions and/or may be accompanied by the supplemental material called MyLitLab. MyLitLab is completely optional for this course. The Interactive Edition is fine so long as it is the 14th edition. It comes in a large hardbound edition and can be rented from the WKU Store for around \$42.

Required Materials: a flash drive, daily access to high-speed internet, a word processing program that supports .rtf or .docx format, and a Blackboard-compatible web browser like Firefox, Chrome, or Safari (Microsoft Edge is NOT compatible with Blackboard); a posterboard, and a newspaper or other text to use for a blackout poem.

If you are unsure whether or not your computer is using Edge, please phone the IT ServiceDesk at 270-745-7000.

Optional, but recommended: movie rental of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (1999) starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Kevin Cline. Many public libraries have this video, or you may be able to find it on the Internet.

Graded Work:

Paper 1	100 points
Paper 2	100 points
Poetry Poster	100 points
Comprehensive exam	300 points
Weekly quiz (3 @ 20 points ea.)	60 points
<u>Daily post (17 @ 20 points ea.)</u>	<u>340 points</u>

Tentative points possible = 1000 points

90-100% of total possible points=A, 80-89=B, etc.

If I add or delete assignments, the total possible points will change. What won't change is the grading scale of 90-100% =A, etc. A "D" or above is a passing grade for this course.

Grading criteria and Feedback:

Refer to the grading criteria posted under the GRADING INFO tab.

I will respond with comments to one or more of your written essays. It is your responsibility to read my comments and then apply my feedback to your writing! The final essay will not receive feedback unless there's an issue with it that I need to discuss with you.

Grading:

All essays will be graded according to a holistic rubric. To view the rubric, go to the Holistic Grade Chart tab on our course site. You can find it under the GRADING INFO tab.

Daily posts are graded for content, grammar, punctuation, how closely you followed the directions in the prompt, plus the accuracy and thoroughness of the response. Please refer to the Sample Daily Posts tab to view some really successful examples.

Final grades are non-negotiable; however, if you believe I've calculated incorrectly, please let me know.

Grades can be calculated by taking the final number of points you have and dividing them into the total possible points for the course. The number will correspond to a letter grade.

Late work policy:

There are strict deadlines for submission of work for this course, and the deadlines will be listed in the assignment information. No late work will be accepted. Note that the assignment link will expire at a time that is in the Central Standard Time zone. If you're in a different time zone, you need to figure out how to get your work submitted in plenty of time before the link expires. Remember to always allow 10-15 minutes for the upload process, and make it a habit to go back into Blackboard to confirm that your paper is indeed visible (don't trust the confirmation email Blackboard sends you!).

I encourage you to work ahead and submit your essays before the due date because I will not accept late work for any reason, even "failure of technology" or uploading errors (See Failure of Technology policy below) unless there's a "glitch" with Blackboard and you follow the Failure of Technology policy completely. You can work ahead on the Daily Posts BUT they must be submitted daily. Daily posts must be posted and timestamped by Blackboard on the day for which they are assigned in order to earn credit for the post(s). Blackboard will automatically timestamp them for you.

Failure of Technology policy:

In the event your computer might crash, you should save all of your work on a flash drive, email your work to yourself, and print out a hard copy to keep. I will not accept late papers if your computer crashes, and I do not accept papers via email.

Have a backup plan that allows you to retrieve your paper if something happens to your computer.

Since you have been asked to submit your work through Blackboard, you will submit all of your written work as a file saved in .rtf or .docx format. If I cannot open your paper because you did not save it correctly, the paper will not receive credit and there won't be a second chance for submission. Do NOT use Microsoft Edge as your browser when uploading into Blackboard because it will cause your paper to be completely blank. If your paper shows up blank in Blackboard, credit and a second opportunity for submission will not be given. It is your responsibility to go back into Blackboard once you have submitted the paper to make sure it is there. If you are concerned this may be a problem, you should upload well before the deadline so troubleshooting may occur. Once the deadline has passed, it's too late for troubleshooting.

The most common error students make in Blackboard is to click SAVE instead of SUBMIT. You will upload your file into Blackboard via a link in the assignment, and then you will click SUBMIT.

Clicking the SAVE button on the submission screen only saves it for you to see and does not upload it to Blackboard. Assignments that are late because you clicked SAVE instead of SUBMIT will not receive credit. If you see a blue circle icon in the grade column, it means you saved, but did not submit. If you catch this error before the deadline, you can go back into the assignment and submit it, which will make the blue circle icon go away.

The submission links in Blackboard expire promptly at their designated time. Do not wait until just before the link is due to expire to upload because the upload may not be complete. Assignments that were not submitted successfully before the link expires will not be accepted.

Allow at least 10 to 15 minutes for uploading. It's also advisable to upload during the IT HelpDesk's business hours, which will be posted on the IT HelpDesk tab on our course site.

Follow the instructions below very carefully if you encounter technological difficulties in Blackboard.

If you encounter a "glitch" in Blackboard, you will need to take a screen shot of the error message and email it to me before the link expires AND you will need to contact the IT HelpDesk immediately or if they're closed, as soon as they are open on the next business day. You will receive an email from the IT HelpDesk which shows the name of the person from the HelpDesk that you spoke to, AND you must forward that email that to me. If you encounter an error message while uploading an essay, email the essay to me prior to the time the link would expire. Expect to hear from me when I return to work the next business day. I will not make concessions for these situations unless all of these conditions are met.

You will have only one attempt to upload your paper, so make sure you are submitting the correct one. Once you have clicked SUBMIT, exit out of Blackboard and then go back in to make sure you can view your submission.

Blackboard is not compatible with the web browser Microsoft Edge. Using Microsoft Edge will cause your paper to be blank when uploaded. Blank papers do not earn credit, and there is no second chance for another upload, so make sure you do not use Edge when uploading into Blackboard.

The Respondus Lockdown Browser for the quizzes and the exam will not work with Chromebooks. It will, however, work with iPads.

I do not accept assignments via email; you must submit your work through Blackboard.

Exam information:

There will be one comprehensive exam which will cover any and all of the material in the course. The exam may consist of any combination of the following: multiple choice, multiple answer (partial credit given), and true-false questions. More information about the exam will be posted on the course site. The exam questions will be similar to the weekly quiz questions. There is only one attempt at the exam, and once it has been started, it must be completed. You must download the Respondus Lockdown Browser on your computer (it doesn't work on Chromebooks) and you must make sure you have reliable internet access during the testing

window. The exam must be taken during the testing window—no exceptions.

Daily post:

As instructed on Blackboard, you will post at least once per day between 12:02 AM and 11:59 PM Central Time on the discussion forum during the business week, Monday through Friday. Blackboard will automatically timestamp your posts. The daily post counts for 20 possible points per day. The writing in the post is graded on the accuracy and thoroughness of the content and the grammar and punctuation used.

The post you create for each day on the daily board must contain at least 100 words. You cannot have two separate posts that total up to 50 words; you must have all 100 words in one post. At the end of each post, type the word count.

Avoid summarizing the readings! Respond to the prompts, and choose aspects of the readings to discuss in detail. Review the samples of successful daily posts provided on the course site.

Summaries of the readings do not count for points. What counts toward points are posts that discuss the significance of the readings to everyday human experience and/or that respond accurately and adequately to the instructions in the weekly prompt.

It is perfectly appropriate for you to discuss your opinion of the characters, etc. Example: Students reading “Barn Burning” may talk about how they feel about Sarty’s decisions or Abner’s treatment of his family. Try to relate the readings to everyday life, and try to imagine what it might be like to be the character(s) you’re reading about.

Grammar and punctuation are taken into consideration for grading in every area of this course, posts included. Your level of language/diction in the discussion forum should be “business conversational.” Text message lingo is not appropriate and will reduce your grade each time it appears in a post or paper. Examples include, but are not limited to, “u” instead of “you” and the non-capitalized “i.” Posts that do not cite the stories, poems, or plays cannot earn credit because lack of citation is plagiarism. Make sure you cite each time you refer to the source; use in-text MLA citations. Our course site contains MLA Overview videos in case you need a refresher on how to use it.

You should strive to use good grammar and punctuation. For example, a run-on sentence or a fragment is just as inappropriate in a post as it is in a paper, and grammar errors will reduce your grade.

Plagiarism and posting: If you reference a specific idea, event, or quote from one of the works we read, then cite it. Referring to a specific event in a story requires that you cite where that event happened in the story, as it is summary. For example, if Abner Snopes threatens Sarty and tells him he must be loyal to the family, then cite it (Faulkner 175).

If you have questions about the daily post assignment, please email me. There are samples of well-written posts under the Sample Posts tab for you to imitate.

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](http://www.wku.edu/handbook/), (<http://www.wku.edu/handbook/>) for additional guidance.

Academic integrity:

Plagiarism is a serious issue and you will have some assigned readings over the topic and possibly a quiz.

Plagiarism and cheating on any assignment for this course (large or small) may result in a failing grade-- an F-- for the particular assignment involved or for the entire course, to be determined at my discretion.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *knowingly or unknowingly submitting another person's published or unpublished (print or web) writing as your own (this occurs often when students fail to include a necessary citation)
- *having another person dictate to you what should be written in your assignment
- *having another person write the assignment and then submitting that work as your own
- *using another person's ideas, words, sentences, etc. without properly crediting the source within the paper and on the Works Cited page
- *scanning the Internet for ideas and then using those ideas in your paper as your own
- *failing to include the necessary MLA in-text citation for a paraphrase, summary, or quote

Papers written for this course may be checked for plagiarism through the use of plagiarism-detection software.

Resources:

The WKU Writing Center offers individual conferences about writing with its staff of English graduate students. The Center's services are available to all WKU students and can conference via the web. Visit <http://www.wku.edu/pcal/writing-center> for more information about their free services. They do have summer hours, so check out their website for details!

IT ServiceDesk: There's a tab on our course site that will take you to the WKU's [free](#) IT ServiceDesk if you have technological issues. The technicians at the IT ServiceDesk are experts and can solve most technology issues within a short time. Their phone number is 270-745-7000.

If you've never taken a Blackboard course before, you can view a tutorial at

<https://www.wku.edu/online/dl101/using-bb.php>. When you get to this page, you will want to choose “Blackboard Student User Training.”

ADA Notice:

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center, Room 1074, Downing Student Union. The SARC telephone number is (270) 745-5004 (TDD: 270-745-3030). Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Student Accessibility Resource Center.

If you do require accommodations, please get the paperwork to me quickly so we can get the accommodations in place as soon as possible.

Miscellaneous:

I reserve the right to make changes to this course syllabus and schedule as I deem necessary during the duration of this course. I also reserve the right to remove students from daily post participation for inappropriate, offensive posts; students who have to be removed from the daily post board will forfeit credit and/or may be removed from the course.

The tentative schedule will be posted on our course Blackboard site under the weekly tabs.

The course Blackboard site will expire and disappear on July 11, 2021.

“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you're not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.”

— F. Scott Fitzgerald