

# ENGLISH 200 – INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE (On-Demand Course)

INSTRUCTOR: Katherine Pennavaria (k.pennavaria@wku.edu)

## **DESCRIPTION**

PREREQUISITE: ENGLISH 100

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

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Have reliable access to a computer (a high-speed internet connection is recommended).
- Use the recommended browser per IT guidelines at <blackboard.wku.edu/>, top right of screen
- Take final exam at a WKU Testing Center or other location (there may be a fee when taking exams off campus)
- Submit all assignments as .doc, .docx or .rtf

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

1. An initial video meeting, during which I will discuss how to succeed at the highest level.
2. Subsequent video meetings to discuss progress in the class, as requested.
3. Detailed advice on each submission containing strategies for success and recommendations for improvement.
4. Assignment responses/grade within two weeks.

## **TEXTS:**

- X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia, BACKPACK LITERATURE: AN INTRODUCTION TO FICTION, POETRY, DRAMA, AND WRITING, 4TH ED., 2012.
- John Howard Griffin's BLACK LIKE ME or Alice Walker's THE COLOR PURPLE (any edition). Choose one of these books to read for lessons 15-16.

## **GOALS:**

English 200 fulfills the B.1 (Humanities/Literature) general education requirement. This 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 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.

## **GRADING**

LESSONS GRADES: Each of the 16 lessons counts 100 points (A = 90%+, B = 80%+, C = 70%+, D = 60%+). All 16 lessons must be submitted before a student can take the final exam.

COURSE GRADE: The course grade is based on a total of 2000 points: A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam counts 400 points but is *optional*. After completing the 16 lessons, students can choose to take the average grade of those assignments for their final grade. If a student chooses to take the final, it will be done at a testing center without notes or books, except a dictionary or spell checker. For information on finding a testing center near you and scheduling an appointment, see the On Demand site <http://www.wku.edu/ondemand/>

There is no time limit. To prepare for the final, review the 16 lessons of the course. The exam consists of three essay questions on the readings for this course, one question per genre (short stories, plays, poems—specifically, the Robert Frost poems).

## **COMMUNICATION AND FEEDBACK**

Email is the best way to contact me. I will usually respond within 24 hours. I have two weeks to provide feedback on assignments, but usually respond within one week.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is borrowing/using someone else's words and presenting them as your own. It's tempting to copy and paste what you find on the Internet, I know, but resist that temptation and submit only your own words for the assignments.

**Any assignment that demonstrates plagiarism will receive a zero.**

Here is what the Student Handbook says:

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: "Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in a course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary sanctions. A student who believes a faculty member has dealt unfairly with him/her in a course involving academic dishonesty may seek relief through the Student Complaint Procedure."

PLAGIARISM: "To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving a credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism."

## **STUDENT DISABILITY STATEMENT**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for this course must contact the Office of Student Disability Services, DSU A200. The OFSDS telephone number is (270)745-5004; TTY is (270)745-3030. Per university policy, please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

## **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY**

Western Kentucky University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) theme, "Engaging Students for Success in a Global Society," is based on the premise that students who are more actively involved in their education will learn more, and thus be more successful during their educational careers and beyond (WKU Mission Statement, January 2003). Lessons 15-16 of this course will attempt to achieve this learning goal.

## **ENGLISH 200 LESSONS**

Short Stories, 1

Short Stories, 2

Short Stories, 3

Short Stories, 4

Short Stories, 5

Short Stories, 6

Plays, 1

Plays, 2

Plays, 3

Plays, 3 (cont.)

Poems, 1

Poems, 2

Poems, 3

Student Social Engagement

Student Social Engagement (continued), Final Exam