

**LIT 2110: INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: FALL 2022**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH and MODERN LANGUAGES**  
**AT FLORIDA A& M UNIVERSITY**

**Dr. April McCray**

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**Student Hours: TR 12:30-2 and/or by appointment; I am also available by email during business hours, M-F. Please allow 24-48 hours for an email response.**

**Required Text: *The Norton Introduction to Literature. Portable 12th Edition. Ed. By Kelly Mays. W.W. Norton & Co: New York, 2017***

The **Overarching Goal** of this course is to develop the ability to critically analyze writing from various genres.

**Course Objectives:**

- 1) Improve upon writing techniques that were learned in ENC 1102
- 2) Learn new critical strategies for evaluating literature
- 3) Successfully write literary criticism on various genres of literature
- 4) Learn to write for different audiences

**Prerequisites:** You must have successfully passed ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 with a C or better.

**Class Requirements: To complete the course with a C or better, a student must fulfill the following requirements:**

- 1) Successfully write all essays covering the skills cited in the course objectives
- 2) Read and thoughtfully participate in the discussion of all assigned readings
- 3) Identify and correct any consistent writing errors
- 4) Come to class on time, engaged, prepared, and ready to learn EVERY DAY; Attendance is not optional

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) POLICY:** Individuals who need a reasonable accommodation must notify the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs at 599-3076. Students should also provide the instructor with the letter from CeDAR indicating which accommodations will be needed within the first two weeks of class.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** “It is the policy of Florida A & M University that each member of the University community be permitted to work or attend class in an environment free from any form of discrimination including race, religion, color, age, handicap, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, veteran status, and sexual harassment, as prohibited by state and federal statutes” (*Regulations of Florida A&M University* 10.103).

For a more detailed explanation of the **Non-Discrimination Policy and Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures**, consult section 10.103 under “University Regulations” on the FAMU website: [www.famu.edu](http://www.famu.edu). All related questions and concerns should be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (599-3076).

**Method of Evaluation:** Participation includes class discussion, timely arrival to class, and preparation. Final papers will be graded on editing, organization, thoughtfulness, and audience-awareness. All other written and oral work will be graded on meaning or content and appropriateness to the assignment.

**All formal papers must be completed to earn a passing grade in this course.**

**PLAGIARIGED PAPERS WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF “0”**

**Attendance:** I keep strict attendance and will enforce the rule that excessive absences are grounds for failure, unless of course there are extenuating circumstances that can be documented. Missing more than two classes puts you in danger of failing this class. You should always inform me, ahead of time when possible, about why you miss class if you have a documented, legitimate excuse (i.e. hospitalization of you or an immediate family member). Save your absences for when you get sick (and you will), or for family emergencies. Three tardies count as one absence. If you come to class more than twenty minutes late, that is considered an absence, not a tardy.

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the make-up work from the instructor. If a paper is turned in late, one letter grade will be deducted from the final score for each day it is late (including weekends). No paper will be accepted more than a week late unless there are dire, extenuating circumstances that can be documented. I always require a hard copy of essays. They must be turned in to me during class time on the date the essay is due. If you cannot come to class on the day an essay is due, please turn it in to the main English office in Tucker Hall 446. Have the receptionist put it in my box. NEVER slide papers under my door or tape them to my door. **IF YOU ARE MORE THAN 15 MINUTES LATE TO CLASS, YOU ARE ABSENT-NOT TARDY.**

**Final Papers:** Final papers must be typed (no covers or title pages). All your written and typed work must have your name, the course and section number, my name, and the date in the top right hand corner of the first page, with page numbers on all following pages, etc. Each essay should have an original title that is centered and is not in bold or italics or underlined.

You will be choosing your own topics and structures for the drafts and papers in this class (after the first week). Your audience, though, is always primarily your peers present in this class.

Therefore, your writing for this class is nearly always public writing in the sense that others will be reading, hearing, and commenting on it.

**General Matters and Concerns:** 1) If you get in trouble, please come see me immediately. If you are having problems, academic or personal, please notify me as soon as possible. The end of the semester is often too late to resolve issues.

2) There is no university rule that students can leave class if a Professor is more than 15 minutes late. If you leave, you will be counted absent. If I am ever unable to attend, I will always send a representative. If we miss class, please check the Blackboard announcement page for instructions.

### **COMMON WRITING MISTAKES TO AVOID: PLEASE USE THIS AS A CHECKLIST BEFORE YOU TURN IN AN ESSAYS TO ME OR ANY OTHER PROFESSOR**

- **All papers should have an original title, which means a creative phrase that captures the essence of your argument. The title is not in bold or italics. It is centered above the body of your essay.**
- **In a research paper, never use first person. It is not appropriate to include phrases such as “I think” or “I feel”. Research papers are meant to be objective arguments based on research. Your personal opinion matters not.**
- **When integrating sources for analysis, begin with your own idea, and then follow it up immediately with examples from the primary text and/or secondary source.**
- **Assume your reader knows the work you are writing about. Summary is unnecessary. Remember, your audience is your peers and your professor. We have all read the text, so don’t waste space with plot summary.**
- **READ ALL MY COMMENTS. I spend a great deal of time making notes and correcting not only surface grammatical errors, but also context and organizational issues. This process of me correcting and you taking note of it is part of your learning process.**
- **SHOW, DON’T TELL-It is far more effective to give specific quotes and examples from the text rather than just mentioning them in passing.**
- **Number your pages in the upper right hand corner.**
- **Always use the author’s last name, not their first name. For example, you would refer to Alice Walker as Walker, not Alice. She is not your friend. It is not appropriate to refer to her by her first name.**
- **All research papers must have a Works Cited page that lists, in alphabetical order by the author’s last name, all sources used.**
- **Do not announce to the reader. For instance, don’t write, “This paper will talk about ”----- Don’t talk about doing it, JUST DO IT.**
- **Always write in present tense. For example, Alice Walker’s novel tells (not “told”) the story of the Copeland family struggling to survive in the south.**

- Don't ask rhetorical questions. The reader cannot answer you.
- The titles of longer works like novels should be in italics. The titles of shorter works like the names of short stories or poems should be in quotation marks.
- The format for parenthetical citations is the author's last name followed by the page number, i.e. (Smith 200). There is NO comma in between.
- Anything that is not common knowledge must be cited. Common knowledge is considered what 95% of Americans know. Barack Obama is the president of the United States is common knowledge. The fact that he was born in Hawaii, his father is African, and he was raised by his white grandparents is not. This information would need a citation.
- Introduce the title and author of the work you are analyzing in the first paragraph of your essay, i.e. In the novel, *Red Hats*, by Damon Wayans, he explores issues of sisterhood and trust.
- Wikipedia, Google, and bookrags are not credible sources. Never use them for an academic paper. Instead, you should always use peer-reviewed articles from the library's online databases, such as JStor, Project Muse, MLA International Bibliography.

#### **Grading:**

Midterm-30%

Term paper 20%

Participation/Attendance- 20%

Quizzes 15%

Group presentation 15%

**Evaluation:** Your grade for this course is based on one exam (at midterm), a 5-7 page critical analysis, a group presentation, daily attendance and participation, and weekly quizzes. Your exam will draw from the material covered during lecture and discussion, as well as important aspects of the stories we explored up to that point. I will provide more details during the semester.

**NOTE:** All assignments must be completed with a passing grade and submitted to me in order to pass this course.

Reading quizzes will be given if the class seems unprepared for discussion on any given day. Generally, there will be one quiz per week.

**Participation:** I expect my students to attend class on time prepared to participate regularly. This means that all readings on the syllabus for discussion each day have been read closely. Participation involves taking an active role in class discussions.

**The keys to a great class – and solid participation are:** Arriving on time; asking questions and making comments for further discussion and consideration; taking complete notes;

having your textbook everyday; taking part in all exercises and activities. Do this, and you will get the most out of this class.

**THE GROUP PRESENTATION MUST INCLUDE:**

- 1. The Author's Biography (in the student's own words, with appropriate parenthetical references/documentation). 1-2 pages. Address the author's literary works and genres, their contemporaries, as well as their influences and/or whom they influenced. What was the social and political environment in which they wrote?**
- 2. Cultural/Historical Images and Documents that are relevant to the author's life and/or the text (ex. photos—with captions and citations) 1-2 pages**
- 3. Connect this text to something contemporary. How do the themes or ideas presented in the short story relate to the literature or media of today? Are those issues still relevant? If so, to whom and why? Once you pick a literary work, a film, a television show, a song, a comic strip, a magazine, a newspaper, or any other type of media, write a coherent essay that shows the link between it and your short story. This essay should have a thesis as well as a definite beginning, middle, and end. Once you make the connection, write about why this issue is still relevant. What does that say about our society? Have things really changed all that much? And if so, have they changed for the better or for the worse? This essay should be at least 2 pages.**
- 4. Each group member must also find a literary criticism on their text from one of the library's databases. Print it out. And type a one-page analysis of the criticism. Do you agree or disagree with it? What does the author get right? What do they get wrong?**

**To recap: You must first pick a text from the syllabus that you would like to present on. Then, you will do research on the author's life (a biography); find cultural/historical images and documents that either pertain to the author's life or the short story they wrote, and finally, connect a theme or idea that is prevalent in your short story to some contemporary form of media. Also, you must analyze a literary criticism. This essay should be the meat of this project. When you do your presentation, you should only focus on how and why you made this connection. Points will be deducted from students who merely provide biographical details of the author or simply give a summary of the text.**

- 5. You must have parenthetical citations after each paragraph of borrowed material for each of the three sections. Parenthetical citations are documentation within your text that are used to acknowledge borrowed material that is either directly quoted or paraphrased. The format is the author's last name and the page number, i.e. (Smith 235).**
- 6. Works Cited (a complete list of all sources cited in the project) This list should not be numbered and must be in alphabetical order by the author's last name. Be sure to cite**

**your pictures as well, both within the caption as well as in the Works Cited page. Also, don't forget to cite your short story (ironically, this is student's most common mistake).**

**Each group will present their text to the class in a 15-20 minute oral presentation at the beginning of class, which will highlight the most significant, useful, and/or interesting ideas from the reading. Presenters should also prepare to successfully field questions. Do not spend a significant amount of time on biographical information. The meat of your presentation should focus on your chosen text and this author's overall contribution to the literary canon.**

**All essays must be typed and double-spaced. Points will be deducted from essays that are not formatted correctly. Extra credit will be given for creativity during the presentation. A simple PowerPoint does not warrant extra credit.**

**\*The titles of short stories are in quotation marks; they are not underlined or in italics.**

**\*To cite quotes (either direct or indirect) from the story, put the page number in parentheses immediately following the quoted material, i.e. (25).**

**Attendance:** If you have more than 2 absences, you are in danger of failing the class. If you must be absent, inform me ahead of time. But keep in mind that you may not be able to make up what you have missed. The midterm CANNOT be made up, unless there are dire, extenuating circumstances that can be documented. In such a rare case, an alternative exam may be provided. Notes from the doctor's office do not necessarily excuse you from class. Quizzes cannot be made up if you come in late or miss class (unless you have a university excused absence).

**Tardiness is not accepted. Disturb class by arriving late three times, and you have an automatic absence. Arriving more than fifteen minutes after class begins is also an absence. Poor attendance will receive a poor participation grade.**

**Late Paper Policy:** The penalty for late papers is TEN points per day, which includes days we don't meet, as well as weekends. It is never a good idea to turn in an assignment late. Plan ahead, and come see me if you get stuck.

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is grounds for suspension from the university as well as for failure in this course. It will not be tolerated. Any instance of plagiarism must be reported. Plagiarism is a counterproductive, non-writing behavior that is unacceptable in a course intended to aid the growth of individual thinkers. Plagiarism is included among the violations defined in the Academic Honor Code.

**Cheating on an exam or turning in a paper that is not entirely your own work will earn you an F for the course. This is your warning.**

**Classroom Etiquette and Civility Clause:** As a member of this classroom, you must agree to uphold the standards set here for citizenship within my class. This includes, but is not limited to:

**Courtesy toward instructor and fellow students – conduct yourself with respect toward others; do not interrupt your classmates or me.**

**Maintaining inoffensive language and behavior – I will not tolerate violent and/or belligerent and/or insulting remarks including sexist, racist, homophobic or ethnic slurs, bigotry, or disparaging comments in your speech or your writing.**

**This does not bar us from lively, informed discussions about these issues. Indeed, be forewarned that some of the readings that we will discuss will include this type of inflammatory language. I expect you to discuss it as an adult. Your opinions are your own, and I encourage you to raise well-thought and well-phrased questions about any topic mentioned here. But, any expression stemming from ignorance or hate has no place in this class.**

**Please turn off your cell phones, blackberries, iPods, etc while in class. Should you forget, and your phone rings, beeps, sings – simply turn it off immediately. DO NOT answer your phone or text message in my class. Also, the use of laptops during class is prohibited. THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING CLASS WILL RESULT IN A LOWER PARTICIPATION GRADE.**

**Throughout the semester, please do your best to respect and give hearing to the opinions, comments, and questions of others. I hope that this class will be a comfortable, open, and respectful atmosphere of academic inquiry. Violating any part of civility outlined in this statement will remove you from my classroom.**

**\*The following Pacing Schedule will be revised to accommodate the Fall TR teaching schedule before the semester begins**

**The following is a tentative schedule of due dates and assignments. It is subject to change. Readings and Assignments are from your textbook, unless marked otherwise. Make sure you're ALWAYS looking ahead to the next week; assignments must be COMPLETED by the date on which they appear. You'll find that most stories (especially short selections) should be read twice.**

**WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE: ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND READINGS ARE DUE ON  
THE DATE LISTED BELOW. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE  
DISCRETION OF THE PROFESSOR**

**WEEK 1**

**W-1/6-Intro to Course- materials, texts, guidelines; icebreaker**

**F-1/8 In-Class Diagnostic Essay**

**WEEK 2**

**M-1/11 Discuss "The Literature Essay" 1255-1263; sign up for group presentations**

**W-1/13- Discuss "The Literature Research Essay" 1295**

**F 1/15 Discuss pages 1264-1278**

**WEEK 3**

**M 1/18 Discuss "Fiction: Reading, Responding, Writing" 12-33**

**W 1/20—Discuss "Basic Moves: Paraphrase, Summary, Description" 1250**

**F 1/22 Discuss "Cathedral" 33**

**WEEK 4**

**M 1/25-Discuss "Plot" 57-93 "Sonny's Blues"**

**W 1/27- Discuss "Narration and Point of View" 110-122 "The Cask of Amontillado"**

**F 1/29 Discuss 122-129 "Hills Like White Elephants" and "Girl"**

**WEEK 5**

**M 2/1-Discuss "Character" 130-155 "Recitatif"**

**W 2/3 Discuss "Setting" 164-186 "Lady with the Dog"**

**F 2/5 Discuss "A Pair of Tickets" 186**

**WEEK 6**

**M 2/8- Discuss "Symbol and Figurative Language" 213-233 "The Birthmark"**

**W 2/10- Discuss "The Yellow Wallpaper" 316-330**

**F 2/12 Discuss “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” 94-109**

**WEEK 7**

**M 2/15 Discuss “A Rose for Emily” 308-316**

**W 2/17 Discuss “Theme” 249-274 “The Open Boat”**

**F 2/19 Discuss 234-248 “A Wall of Fire Rising”**

**WEEK 8**

**M 2/22- MIDTERM-DO NOT MISS IT- THIS EXAM CANNOT BE MADE UP**

**W 2/24 – Discuss “A Good Man is Hard to Find” 412-425**

**F 2/26 Discuss “I Stand Here Ironing” 426**

**WEEK 9**

**M 3/1- Library Orientation-on Zoom**

**W 3/3 -“Quotation, Citation, and Documentation” 1308-1340**

**F 3/5 Discuss 800-811**

**WEEK 10**

**M 3/8 – “A Doll House,” Act 1 812**

**W 3/10- Discuss Act 2**

**F 3/12 Discuss Act 3-discussion board**

**WEEK 11**

**M 3/15 Discussion board**

**W 3/17 Workshop draft of essay in class; bring 3 copies for peer review; failure to share a draft will result in a 10-point deduction from your essay grade**

**F 3/19-Discussion board**

**WEEK 12**

**M 3/22 Discuss “A Letter from Phillis Wheatley” 490**

**W 3/24 Discuss “The Birthmark” 219**

**F 3/26 Discuss “Good People” 156**

**WEEK 13**

**M 3/29 Discuss 450-456 RESEARCH ESSAY DUE IN CLASS (YOU MUST ATTACH PEER REVIEWED DRAFTS AS WELL)**

**W 3/31 Discuss “Wildwood” 455-473**

**F 4/2 Discuss “A &P” 437**

**WEEK 14**

**M 4/5 Discuss “Boys and Girls” 400-412**

**W 4/7– Discuss “We Wear the Mask” 704**

**F 4/9“Ballad of Birmingham” 734**

**WEEK 15**

**M 4/12-Discuss “The Raven” 730 and “Harlem” 715**

**W 4/14 Discuss "We Real Cool" 521 and "cream of wheat" 521**

**F 4/16 Last Day of Class-Course Reflection-Teacher Evaluations**

**THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM FOR THIS CLASS**