

Spring 1-15-1997

ENG 1002-015-051: Composition and Literature

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Recommended Citation

Britton, Nancy, "ENG 1002-015-051: Composition and Literature" (1997). *Spring 1997*. 25.
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Spring, 1997
Nancy Britton, teacher
Office 315B 581-6309
MWF only

Syllabus English 1002

Required Text: Meyer, Michael, Ed. The Bedford Introduction to Literature. 4th ed. Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1996.

Course Objectives: Students will learn the basic terminology for fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will be exposed to numerous examples of fiction, poetry, and drama and guided in developing an understanding and appreciation for the different styles. Students will be expected to form and present opinions both orally and in writing that reflect thought and reasoning that can be supported. Students will be expected to write thoughtful, reasonable, well-supported and MLA documented papers using proper grammar, punctuation and essay form.

Assignments and Grading:

Students will be required to read assignments from their text in each of the three genres, poetry, short stories, and drama, keep a journal concerning these readings, and take part in classroom discussions of these readings. All students will be required to go to a stage play on campus at some point during the semester.

Students will write a 3-5 page paper on a short story and a play and present an oral analysis of a poem of their choice. Students will have a great deal of leeway in choosing topics, but all papers are expected to be insightful and will not be accepted if only summaries. Comparison/contrast papers dealing with works of one author or themes, styles or symbolism etc. of two authors are always possible topics. Other possible topics might include examples of ways an author's personal life is reflected in his/her works or the way the social setting influences literature. Creative topics are also encouraged. These papers and the poetry presentation equal 25% of the course grade.

Students will write a 5-10 page literary paper using the MLA style. This paper must encompass short stories, poetry and drama. Students may take one of the shorter papers and expand it for this paper, but all three genres must be included in the paper. This final paper equals 25% of the course grade.

All papers will be peer edited and must be typed in acceptable MLA form. No folders or binders or blank pages. Papers must be stapled. No title pages except on the research paper.

A short story test, a drama test, and a poetry test will be given. These three grades equal 25% of the course grade.

A reading journal will be required. Students will learn how to do a literary journal. Entries in response to reading assignments will be expected. There may also be in-class entries or specific out-of-class assignments.

Class participation is a must for this class to be interesting. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the assignments. Disagreement is expected and welcomed, but courtesy and respect is a must. All supported opinions will be considered.

Attendance is a must. This is NOT an independent study class. You will be tested over information presented in class. Assignments and due dates for assignments are subject to change. If you miss the class that a change is made, it is your responsibility.

Journals and class participation equal 25% of the course grade.

Grading scale: 100-92 A
91-83 B
82-75 C
74-65 D

You must receive a C or above to receive credit for the course.

Please keep in mind that plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work, writing, words or thoughts. If you refer to someone else's work, writing, words or thoughts, **you must** give them credit. The MLA style of documentation shows you how to do this. Become familiar with it. A teacher who discovers plagiarism has the right to fail that assignment, fail the student for the course, and report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Also, understand that I do not GIVE grades, you EARN them. You are responsible for attending class, asking questions, getting assignments in on time, and seeking additional help if needed. You are also responsible for dropping the class, if you should find that that is in your best interest.

There will be one optional extra credit project. In order to earn extra credit you will have to read a book from the provided book list, discuss it with me out of class, and write a 3-5 page paper on an approved topic relating to it.

Writing Center: If you have a problem with your papers or already know that you are weak in a certain area, make use of The Writing Center in Coleman Hall. If I discover a consistent problem or weakness in your writing, I will refer you there, but you do not need to wait for my referral. You must be prepared to ask for specific help to use the center properly. It is not a proofreading or editing service.

Disabilities: If you need special accommodations because of a documented disability, you must contact the Office of Disability Services. They will arrange for the necessary accommodations.