ENG 200: Introduction to Literature
T 5:00-7:45
Cherry Hall 4
Fall 2012

Instructor
Prof. Gary Crump
E-mail
gary.crump@wku.edu

Office Hours
T 4:15-5 PM; 7:45-8PM

Telephone Number
TBA
Office Location
7J

Official Course Description
ENG 200 is an introductory study of fiction, poetry, and drama demonstrating techniques by which literary artists reflect human experience. Substantial student writing about literature will be required. We will read various poems, plays, and short stories throughout the semester and learn how to respond appropriately, both in writing and through research, to the literature.

Course Prerequisites
Credit for ENG 100

Required Text

Learning Outcomes
By the end of English 200, students should be able to:
- Use basic literary terminology to interpret literary texts.
- Write thesis-driven analytical papers about literature.
- Use MLA guidelines to document use of primary source material.

Course Structure
Lecture

Technology/Media Component
In order to provide access to grades and for students to turn in certain assignments, students will use Blackboard, which is available on the WKU website. The instructor may also incorporate PowerPoint presentations into the course from time to time. Students must also use Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx/.rtf format) when submitting typed essays online. Difficulty using the technology will NOT serve as an excuse for not completing assignments or submitting on time. If a student has never used a computer or Microsoft Word, then he or she should learn the basics quickly as an English instructor’s responsibilities do not include computer instruction.

Major Assessments
One comprehensive exam at the end of the semester will cover all material from class discussions
and readings throughout the semester.

**Essay Format**
Formal writings must be typed, double-spaced, and formatted in 12-point Times New Roman font. Essays MUST be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59 PM on the due date unless otherwise instructed. Essays must also conform to all additional aspects of MLA style/format with appropriate documentation. Essays including any borrowed material/research without in-text citations and/or an accurate Works Cited page may receive, at best, a high F or a 0 depending on the severity/amount of plagiarism. The penalty is at the instructor’s discretion. Essays must be submitted in .doc, .docx, or .rtf format and must be typed in Microsoft Word. If the student submits the document improperly so that the instructor is unable to open it, the document may receive a grade of 0. Difficulty using the technology is not an excuse for late work. Also, pay close attention to page frame guidelines—those are given for a reason. Grades are severely reduced for falling under or over the page range guidelines requested by the professor.

**Evaluation/Grading Policy**
Participation: 15%
Reading Quizzes and Group Reading Responses (unannounced): 10%
In-class Drama Analysis (2-3 pp.): 5%
In-class Fiction Analysis (2-3 pp.): 5%
In-class Poetry Analysis (2-3 pp.): 5%
Group Presentation (incl. 3 pp. individual response): 20%
Literary Analysis (3 pp.): 15%
Comprehensive Exam: 25%

A=100-90%  B=89-80%  C=79-70%.  D=69-60%  E=59-0%

**Reading**
Students will read a copious amount of material since this is a literature class; therefore, students must have all specified readings prepared before class on the days the readings are assigned. We will discuss each reading in detail and will often complete a follow-up writing or assignment in class, and these assignments or quizzes will often count for a grade. If a lack of reading on the students’ behalf becomes apparent on the evening that reading has been assigned, the instructor reserves the right to administer pop quizzes.

**Positive Learning Environment**
Students must maintain a positive learning environment. The instructor reserves the right to dismiss a student if he/she negatively disrupts the classroom. Students should schedule appointments with the instructor to discuss individual problems or concerns regarding work, absences, or anything else pertaining to the class. Disrespect to the instructor or to other students is simply not tolerated. Also, e-mail is NOT an appropriate method for discussing grades, gripes, etc. The repercussions of sending inappropriate and disrespectful e-mails to the instructor can be severe; please review the e-mail policy for further advice.

**Email Standards & Etiquette**
Faculty members have noticed an increase in student email messages that are difficult to understand. Many of these emails include poor grammar and punctuation or contain text message abbreviations that are not entirely clear. These poorly crafted emails carry the message that the sender pays little attention to detail and takes even less pride in his or her work. In a professional working environment, these sorts of messages will reflect poorly not only upon the individual who sends them, but also upon the company or organization for which that individual works. In an effort to better prepare students for the workforce and to promote better communication between faculty and students, the instructor will require students to communicate in a professional manner through e-mail.

**Decency**
While dress in college for both students and instructor may appear more relaxed at times, students are still expected to treat the college environment as a place of business and professionalism; after all, a college is absolutely, in every single way, a business. Therefore, students should dress decently and appropriately; also, students should remember that all classes serve as preparation for the work and professional environment.

**Late Policy**
The instructor will accept no late work.

**Participation**
The instructor will not appreciate walking into a classroom filled with students who are unprepared and unwilling to engage in appropriate discussion throughout the class period. Ideally, students will respond actively to questions, assignments, etc. However, the instructor will not hesitate to call on students individually if discussion wanes or if students appear not to be paying attention. The semester grade will also be derived primarily from voluntary participation in classroom discussion and assignments. Keeping a seat warm is NOT enough.

- **Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy**
  Good participation also indicates that students will have cell phones and all electronic devices turned off and that attention and respect will be given not only to the instructor but to all students in the classroom as well. Any student whose cell phone rings OR audibly vibrates during class or who is found using a cell phone during class will receive a warning; persistent, disruptive violations may result in dismissal for the evening. Cell phone usage in class is extremely tacky, disrespectful, and unprofessional. All work missed will receive zeroes, and the student will be counted absent for the period. Only in an emergency or otherwise approved situation will a cell phone (or any other electronic device) be permitted, and this MUST be cleared through the instructor BEFORE class; if a situation requires cell phone usage over multiple, consecutive class periods, the student should clear this each day as a courtesy and reminder to the professor.

**Attendance Policy**
Attendance is mandatory. Any student who misses more than 3 classes during the semester may receive an F(N) or F for the course regardless of circumstance; this is a generous policy. Evidence clearly shows a link between attendance and success in coursework. Also, literature courses require a lot of discussion, and absences indicate that you are not becoming adequately
involved in discussion. In situations of extreme emergency, the student must present adequate documentation to make up any work AND notify the instructor IMMEDIATELY of the situation. For example, a student who is out for a week for surgery should notify the instructor BEFORE the surgery and should present documentation from the physician/hospital immediately upon return. No documentation will result in no makeup work. The absence rule, however, will still apply regardless of circumstance. Bad situations happen, and sometimes life circumstances must take precedence over education, but students simply must be in class to learn and succeed. Above all, students should always prepare themselves for professionalism in the business and professional environment—the reason for college, in the first place—and excessive non-attendance on the job would undoubtedly result in employee termination.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of presenting ideas, words, or organization of a source, published or not, as if they were one’s own. All quoted material must be in quotation marks, and all paraphrases, quotations, significant ideas, and organization must be acknowledged by some form of documentation acceptable to the instructor for the course. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work that a student submits as the student’s own. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual material is completed, it must be done by the student and the student alone. The use of the term “material” refers to work in any form including written, oral, and electronic. All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by a student to an instructor or other academic supervisor, is expected to be the result of the student’s own thought, research, or self-expression. In any case in which a student feels unsure about a question of plagiarism involving the student’s work, the student must consult the instructor before submitting the work. Cheating includes buying, stealing, or otherwise obtaining unauthorized copies of examinations or assignments for the purpose of improving one’s academic standing. During examinations or in-class work, cheating includes having unauthorized information, and/or referring to unauthorized notes or other written or electronic information. In addition, copying from others, either during examinations or in the preparation of homework assignments, is a form of cheating.

**Resolving Complaints about Grades**

Any student who takes issue with a grade or another aspect of a course should first speak with the instructor. If the student and instructor cannot resolve the issue, the student may refer the matter to the Director of Composition, who will assist the instructor and the student in reaching a resolution. If either party is dissatisfied with the outcome at that level, the matter may be appealed to the Department Head. The Student Handbook (available online at [http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/](http://www.wku.edu/handbook/2009/)) outlines procedures for appeals beyond that level.

**ADA Notice**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room A200, Downing University Center. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004 V/TDD. Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.
Important Dates
Last Day to Add or Drop a Class without a Grade: September 4th, 2012
Last Day to Withdraw from a Class: October 17th, 2012
F/N Date*: October 29th, 2012
*F/N date is the 60% point in the semester. Students who stop attending class before this date, or in online classes, students who stop participating before this date, are assigned a final grade of FN, not F. The grade of FN, according to the undergraduate catalog, indicates “Failure due to non-attendance (no semester hours earned and no quality points).” This grade could have implications for financial assistance.
Tentative Schedule

Week 1: Introductions; syllabus

Week 2: Literary terminology; British and American literary chronology

Week 3: The Renaissance; The British Romantics

Week 4: Modernism & Postmodernism

Week 5: In-class Poetry Analysis


Week 7: Mansfield “Miss Brill”; Jackson “The Lottery”; Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper”


Week 9: Chopin “The Story of an Hour”; Chopin “Desiree’s Baby” (online); Hawthorne’s “The Birthmark” (online)

Week 10: MLA documentation; In-class Fiction Analysis

Week 11: Presidential Election (No Classes)

Week 12: Death of a Salesman

Week 13: Death of a Salesman; In-class Drama Analysis

Week 14: Group Presentations

Week 15: Comprehensive Exam

Week 16: Literary Analysis due 11:59 PM on Blackboard