Course Information:
English 201: Introduction to Literature, Section 113
Online course, first log-in expected by first day of “class” (Thursday, August 29th, first assignment due Tuesday, September 3rd)

Instructor Information:
Dr. Kelly O. Secovnie, Assistant Professor, Department of English
Office: N751N
Office hours: Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. in N751N
Thursdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. in N751N and 1:50-2:50 p.m. in Murray 1019, or by appointment
*NOTE: If you are unable to meet in person for office hours, we can arrange a phone call to discuss any issues you may have in the course. Contact me via email to set this up.
Office phone: 212-220-8000 ext. 5131
Email: ksecovnie@bmcc.cuny.edu

Prerequisites:
Students must have passed English 101 or its equivalent to enroll in this course.

Course Description:
As the second part of English 101, English 201 will build on students’ reading and writing skills through the use of literature. Students will read and respond to literature written in a variety of genres from short fiction, to essays, to plays and a novel. In addition, students will read and respond to literary criticism and theory that addresses the content and form of the various literary pieces they read. Students will build skills in analysis and argument, using research and correctly-cited MLA form documentation of their research. In this way, students will find themselves prepared for college-level reading and writing, and they will become overall better critical writers and thinkers.

Required texts:

Books are on order at the Campus Barnes and Noble bookstore (second floor, left-hand side in main building). In addition, I have put copies of the books on 2-hour reserve at the BMCC library, for your convenience.

Use of Blackboard:
Students will be expected to use Blackboard to access course materials, keep up-to-date on course announcements, complete discussion board and blog assignments, submit essays, and communicate with the professor and other students. You are therefore encouraged to have your email and all passwords updated and set up by the first week of class, as you will need to access Blackboard regularly starting then. Plan to log into Blackboard at least three times per week, in order to succeed in this course. Trouble with Blackboard can be addressed by contacting BMCC's E-Learning Center, 5th floor, south side of the Main Building (http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/elearning).
Nature of an Online Course:
An online course can be a fruitful and exciting experience for students, but students must be aware of the time commitment involved in doing well in an online environment. Having reliable access to a computer is imperative, as is the self-discipline to complete quality assignments on time. The workload for me, as your professor is greater than in a traditional course, and late assignments simply will not be accepted unless noted in the assignment prompt, as a backlog of assignments creates an unwieldy amount of grading for me, and puts you behind the rest of the class in terms of discussions and contributions.

Course Schedule:
Pay close attention to the course schedule. On it, you will find all of the topics addressed in class, the homework assignments, and the due dates for your four major essays.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English 201 Learning Outcomes:</th>
<th>Means of assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Acquire a critical appreciation of the nuances and complexities of a variety of literary texts</td>
<td>Blogs and discussion boards, essays 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Define and apply literary terms to analyses of texts within several literary genres</td>
<td>Blogs and discussion boards, essays 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Write at least four well-developed, thesis-driven argument and analysis essays that use evidence from literary texts and incorporate research, and are comprised of clear, grammatically-correct, effective sentences in well-organized paragraphs</td>
<td>Essays 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Frame research questions; plan research strategies; find and evaluate sources using the BMCC Library and the BMCC Library Website; present the results of research</td>
<td>Research proposal, annotated bibliography, participation in Library research assignments, Essays 3 and 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Correctly use the conventions of MLA documentation and citation, including a “Works Cited” page</td>
<td>Essays 2-4, Blog posts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Education Outcomes:</th>
<th>Means of Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Communication Skills—students will express ideas clearly in written form, employ critical readings skills to analyze written material, and exhibit active listening skills.</td>
<td>Blogs and discussion boards, Essays 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Values—students will demonstrate awareness of their own values and beliefs while showing respect for the ideas, values and beliefs of others; demonstrate an appreciation of social and cultural diversity; appreciate personal and social responsibilities; and demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning.</td>
<td>Blogs and discussion boards, responses to culturally-diverse texts in Essays 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Arts &amp; Humanities—students will develop knowledge and understanding of the arts and literature by critiquing various works of literature.</td>
<td>Blogs and discussion boards, Essays 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Information &amp; Technology Literacy—students will collect, evaluate, and interpret information and effectively use information technologies by conducting research using appropriate research strategies.</td>
<td>Effective use of Blackboard course software, participation in Library research assignments, research proposal, and annotated bibliography</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course Requirements and Evaluation of Students:
This course is graded A through F based on attendance, discussion board and blogs, writing assignments and notes, research assignments, and four formal essays you will write throughout the semester. A minimum of four formal essays is required, for a total of 15 to 20 typed graded pages, and you cannot pass the course without having completed all four essays assignments.

Breakdown of Grades:
Weekly Class Assignments (two per week): (total of 300 points—30% of your grade)
7 discussion board posts with responses (worth 15 points each)
7 blog posts with responses (worth 15 points each)
Other Assignments (these are various, and will occur throughout the semester, as listed on the course schedule) (worth 90 points total)

Essays: (total of 600 points—60% of your grade)
Ten percent of each essay grade will be composed of the notes you take on the textbook readings, which must be turned in on Tuesdays following the course schedule. No late notes will be accepted.
Essay #1: 100 points
Essays #2 and #3: 150 points each
 Essay #4: 200 points

Research Assignments: (total of 100 points—10% of your grade)
Research proposal: 30 points
Annotated bibliography: 70 points

Grand total: 1,000 points. At the end of the semester, I will drop your single lowest discussion board and blog grade (one each).

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Accessibility (Room N-360, phone: (212) 220-8180). You may also see their website at: http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility/index.jsp. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement:
"Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations of the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Plagiarism violates the ethical and academic standards of our college. Students will be held responsible for such violations, even when unintentional. To avoid unintended plagiarism, students should consult with their instructors about when and how to document their sources. The library also has both print and digital guides designed to help students cite sources correctly. Plagiarism carries a range of penalties commensurate with severity of the infraction. The instructor may, for example, require the work to be redone, reduce the course grade, fail the student in the course, or refer the case to the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee (see Article 15.4 of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees). Cases referred to that committee could result in suspension or expulsion from the college."
Students are sometimes tempted to copy/paste information they find online into their responses, particularly in online assignments. This activity constitutes plagiarism, and it will not be tolerated in this course. If you are discovered having plagiarized any part of an assignment, you will earn a zero on that assignment and will receive a warning and instruction on how to avoid future plagiarism. A second offense earns you an F for the course, with the option of reporting the incident to the College's Faculty-Student Disciplinary Council for disciplinary action.

One Final Note:
If at any time during the semester you find that you are struggling to complete assignments, need clarification about the work you’re doing, or would like extra feedback on your writing, I am happy to meet with you outside of class time—either during my office hours or by appointment—to help you. My goal is to offer you tools to learn to be a better writer and I am happy to help in any way I can to work with you to accomplish that goal. Please do not wait until you have become overwhelmed to contact me. Instead, know that this course will be challenging and that you may require additional help from time to time. This is a normal part of the process, and I am happy to help, though I cannot help you if you do not let me know of your difficulties.