Course Information:
English 201: English Composition II, Section 981
Online course, first log-in expected by first day of “class” (Tuesday, August 28th, first assignment due Thursday, August 30th)

Instructor Information:
Dr. Kelly O. Secovnie, Assistant Professor, Department of English
Office: N 714
Office hours:
Tuesdays 1:50-2:50 p.m. in Murray 1407
Thursdays 11:50 a.m.-12:50 p.m. in N714 and 1:50-2:50 p.m. in Murray 1407, 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:

Important Note: please purchase the listed editions (the full-length (not the backpack version) 4th edition of Legacies and the Norton Critical Edition of Things Fall Apart), as you will need to use the supplementary essays and materials in your research and writing.

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.
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.

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<th>English 201 Learning Outcomes:</th>
<th>Means of assessment</th>
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<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>
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<td>• Define and apply literary terms to analyses of texts within several literary genres</td>
<td>Blogs and discussion boards, essays 1-4</td>
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<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>
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<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 day, Essays 3 and 4</td>
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<td>• Correctly use the conventions of MLA documentation and citation, including a “Works Cited” page</td>
<td>Essays 2-4</td>
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<th>General Education Outcomes:</th>
<th>Means of Assessment</th>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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>
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<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 day, research proposal, and annotated bibliography</td>
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Course Requirements and Evaluation of Students:
This course is graded A through F based on attendance, discussion board and in-class writing assignments, 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)
15 discussion board posts with responses (may sometimes be substituted with a quiz or other written response) (worth 10 points each)
15 blog posts with responses (worth 10 points each)

Essays: (total of 600 points—60% of your grade)
Essays #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 two lowest discussion board and two lowest blog grades.

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-320, phone: (212) 220-8180). You may also see their website at http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/disabled/Office of Students with Disabilities. 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.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cite work. The full policy can be found on BMCC’s web site. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

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.