Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course: Introduction to Literary Studies
Course Number: ENG 250

Class Hours per Week: 3
Credits: 3

ENG 250

A. Description

Introduction to Literary Studies is an inquiry into what it means to study literature, involving close reading, critical and creative analysis of a wide variety of prose fiction, drama, and poetry, and informed by an introduction to some of the theoretical issues currently invigorating literary studies. This course combines a study of literature with continued training in clear and effective expression.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

Satisfactory completion of English 101, 100.5, 121, or the equivalent from another college.
Co-requisites: ENG 201

C. Student Outcomes

(Students will be able to)

● Display a working knowledge of basic terms and concepts used in the analysis of a variety of literary genres.
● Demonstrate a historical and critical understanding of how to approach literary works.
● Demonstrate an understanding of how literary works relate to their immediate historical context and to the traditions from which they emerge.
● Produce a close reading of a literary work, with particular emphasis on the relationship between parts and wholes and between form and meaning.
● Construct a literary argument using secondary sources (in particular discipline-specific databases and archives) and employing MLA style.
● Engage in written reflection on the critical assumptions that inform their own and others’ interpretations of literary works.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

Critical editions of various texts
Longman Anthology of World Literature Vols. I & II.
Abrams, A Glossary of Literary Terms.
The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

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**Oral Presentations (15%)** One thoroughly planned and well-developed three to five minute presentation on a question or topic of interest arising from the readings is given on an assigned day. Missing the day of your presentation constitutes an F on the assignment.

**Quizzes (15%)** Frequent reading comprehension quizzes throughout the semester will insure each student consistently does the reading.  

**3 short papers (30%)** Three short close analysis writing assignments.

**Final Research Project (25%)** For this final project, students will be divided into groups for revisions and support. This final well-organized research essay must be typed, in MLA format, and at least six double-spaced pages in length. The Works Cited is an additional page.

**College Attendance Policy**  
At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

**Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**  
Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for 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 to 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 cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC’s web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

**F. Outline of Topics**

- **Week one:** Pre-Classical and Classical Periods 1200BC-455 AD  
- **Week two:** The Medieval Period / The Middle Ages 455AD-1485 AD  
- **Week three:** The Renaissance 1485-1660  
- **Week four:** Neoclassical Age /The Enlightenment /The Age of Reason 1660-1785 (18th Century)  
- **Week five:** The Colonial Period/ Colonialism 1600-1800 (17th-18th Centuries)  
- **Week six:** The Romantic Period 1785-1830 (Late 18th Century)  
- **Week seven:** American Romantic Period (later called Transcendentalism) 19th Century  
- **Week eight:** The Victorian Age 1830-mid 19th Century  
- **Week nine:** Realism, Post-Civil War (Early 20th Century)  
- **Week ten:** Naturalism, First half of 20th Century
Week eleven: Existentialism, Post WWII
Week twelve: Modernism 1900-1950
Week thirteen: Post-Modernism 1960's- Present
Week fourteen: Final Writing Project Text – Critical Edition
Week fifteen: Final Writing Project Text – Critical Edition
Finals Week: Final Writing Project Due