English 1127: 12:30-2:25 Tuesday and Thursday

Cheratra Yaswen: cyaswen@langara.bc.ca
Office: A118q
Phone: 604-323-5281
Office hours: Monday 12:00-12:30, 2:30-4:30; Tuesday 12:00-12:30; Wednesday 12:00-12:30; Thursday 12:00-12:30 or by appointment.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to help you improve your essay writing skills, conduct academic research, understand and analyze essays, and understand and interpret short stories. To this end, we will focus on six major areas of study: MLA citation and avoiding plagiarism, general essay writing, research, essay comprehension, literary analysis, and writing literary analysis essays. Upon successful completion of English 1127, the student is able to:
- analyze short fiction
- identify and understand the components and techniques of essays
- think critically
- write clear and correct sentences and paragraphs
- write essays that demonstrate and awareness of audience and the importance of both form and content
- draft, revise, format, document and correct writing

Assignments:

- participation 10%
- pop quizzes 5%
- June 12: in class essay (1 hour) 15%
- July 15: take home essay 20%
- July 22: library research assignment (hand in to library)
- July 31: literary research essay 20% + correct citation 5% = 25% total
- date TBA: final exam (2 hours) 20%

A+ 95-100%
A 90-94%
A- 85-89%
B+ 80-84%
B 75-79%
B- 70-74%
C+ 65-69%
C 60-64%
C- 55-59%
D 51-54%
F 50% or less

You must receive a C- or above in-class work in order to pass the course.
Textbooks:
- *College Style Sheet*
- a good English dictionary

Course Outline:

Note: *This outline is subject to change as I assess student needs.*

Week One (May 5-9)
- introduction to course
- some grammar
- logic

Week Two (May 12-16)
- MLA citation
- Read:
  1. *College Style Sheet* p. 32-88 (This is a lot of boring reading but it’s very important. It will make more sense after we do exercises on the material.)

Week Three (May 19-23. *There will be no classes on Monday, May 19.*)
- thinking about reading
Read:
  1. “Four Kinds of Reading” by Donald Hall, p. 181
  2. short passage by from Raymond Chandler’s “The Simple Art of Murder” (I will hand this out)
  3. “The Storm” by Kate Chopin, p. 61
  4. “Rising Feminist ‘Storms’ by Amy Mendenhall (I will hand this out)

Week Four (May 26-30)
- Essay structure; essay writing

Week Five (June 2-6)
- tone, narration, language use and structure in short stories
Read:
  1. “Happy Endings” by Margaret Atwood, p. 1
  2. “A Coyote Columbus Story” by Thomas King (I will hand this out.)
  3. “Reunion” by Raymond Carver, p. 8
  4. “Nuits Blanches” by Colette, p. 69
  5. “You’ll Never Believe What Happened” (short section) by Thomas King, p. 138-139
Week Six (June 9 - 13)
* in-class essay*
- literary terms, using research to write about literature
Read:
1. introduction to *Fiction: A Pocket Anthology*, p. 12
2. “The Painted Door” by Sinclair Ross, p. 94
3. p. 222-225 of “The Perils of Depression and War by Roger Riendeau, last essay

Week Seven (June 16 - 20)
- critical reading
Read:
1. “Boys and Girls” (the story) by Alice Munro (I will hand this out.)
2. “Boys and Girls” (the essay) by Marlene Goldman (I will hand this out.)

Week Eight (June 23 - 27)
Read:
1. “The Indian Camp” by Ernest Hemingway, p. 91
2. “American Horse” by Louise Erdrich, p. 192
(Recommended reading: “Conjuring Marks: Furthering Indigenous Empowerment through Literature” by Daniel Heath Justice, p. 143)

Week Nine (June 30 – July 4 *There will be no classes on July 1*)
Read:
1. “Stones” by Timothy Findley, p. 23
2. “The Red Convertible” by Louise Erdrich, p. 78

Week Ten (July 7 - 11)
* library workshop July 10*
- research methods and uses of research for literary essays
Read:
1. “Everyday Use” by Alice Walker, p. 71

Week Eleven (July 14 - 18 )
*take-home essay due*
Read:
1. “Walker’s ‘Everyday Use’” by John Gruesser, near p. 181

Week Twelve (July 21 - 25)
- the canonicity debates
Read:
1. “Two Kinds” by Amy Tan, p.112
2. “In the Canon for all the Wrong Reasons” by Amy Tan, p. 87
3. preface to *Fiction: A Pocket Anthology*, p. 10
Week Thirteen (July 28 – August 1)
- workshops for final essay
* final essay due*

Week Fourteen: (August 4 – 5. No classes on Monday, Aug. 4; last day Tues. Aug.5.)
TBA

Participation:

Though attendance of all classes will help ensure that you receive a good participation grade, mere attendance is not enough to receive the full 10% for participation. You must also demonstrate that you are prepared for class and have read the assigned readings. (The pop quizzes will help me determine if you have prepared for class. If you miss a pop quiz, for whatever reason, you cannot make it up at a later time.) You must also contribute to class discussions, activities and exercises. I understand that some students may feel uncomfortable or shy about class participation but you must make an effort.

Lateness:

Late students can be very disruptive in class. It is extremely important that you show up on time. If you are late, this will affect your participation grade and you may be marked absent. In addition, you will not be able catch up on whatever you have missed. This includes pop quizzes which you cannot take if you miss them for whatever reason.

Attendance:

Each day that you miss class without an excused absence will affect your participation grade. Whenever possible, if you know that are going to have to miss a class for a legitimate reason, inform before the day of the class; if I give you an excused absence, it will not affect your final grade. I may ask for such things as doctor’s notes or proof of car accidents if these help me determine whether to permit you an excused absence.

Late Papers:

Assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day they are due; if they are not, they will be considered late. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have provided me with a legitimate reason well before the paper is due and I have accepted that reason as legitimate. Computer failures and family or relationship problems are not considered acceptable excuses for late papers. If you are ill and cannot hand in your paper on time, I will require a doctor’s note and advance notification. I may also require such things as proof of car accidents in order to verify your need for an extension. If I receive a late paper and have not already given permission for you to hand it in late, I will not grade it and it will be considered incomplete.
**Incompletes:**

If you stop attending classes altogether or fail to hand in any of your assignments, you will receive a grade of incomplete for the course. If you decide to withdraw from the course, make sure to do so officially through registration or you will receive a grade of incomplete.

**Tutors and Outside Help:**

If you decide to hire and/or get a tutor to help you with this course, you must inform me that you have done so and provide me with a way to contact your tutor. Likewise, if you receive help from anyone on your paper, you must inform me of this. No-one may write or rewrite any portion of any of your assignments, for any reason, including a substantial correction of your grammar. If anyone does, you will be guilty of academic dishonesty (i.e. plagiarism) and will fail the assignment.

**Plagiarism (Academic Dishonesty):**

Plagiarism is a serious offence; it is theft. If any of your assignments are plagiarised, either in full or in part, they will receive an automatic F. Please keep all your notes and rough drafts of your assignments as I may ask to see them to help determine your academic honesty. If you are unsure about how use citation in order to avoid plagiarism, please refer to your *College Style Sheet*. If you have any further questions about plagiarism, please feel free to discuss them with me in my office hours. In this course, we will also discuss plagiarism and how to avoid it.