

Murray State University

Revised 7/28/15

DEPARTMENT: ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY

COURSE PREFIX: ENG COURSE NUMBER: 221 CREDIT HOURS: 3

I. COURSE TITLE: Introduction to English Studies

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PREREQUISITE(S): An introductory course for English majors and minors designed to familiarize students with a range of literary and writing genres, as well as the discourses, practices, and major theories of English studies.
Prerequisite(s): ENG 105 or 150 or the equivalent.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This class is designed to give students the skills and vocabulary to successfully analyze and discuss poetry, prose, and drama in English. Students will develop close reading skills that will allow them to critically analyze various genres of texts and ask focused, critical questions about literature. Students will use their critical thinking and writing skills to complete short essays that focus on class texts and concepts. To develop these skills and explore literature we will ask ourselves about the role and place of the author, textual reception, and literary and social contexts of literary production.

By the end of the course students will

- A. define different genres of literature through structure, context, and purpose;
- B. correctly define and use literary terms to examine and discuss literary text,;
- C. complete effective close readings of a variety of genres including poetry, prose, and drama;
- D. use critical thinking skills to clearly analyze literary works based on style, theme, structure and genre; and
- E. identify and write about appropriate questions concerning literary analysis.

IV. CONTENT OUTLINE:

Students will read selected works of literature in three major genres: poetry, prose, and drama; they will complete an annotation activity and a short, 2-page reading response, two, 5-page essays (a close reading engaging poetry and a close reading engaging prose), participate in workshops and class discussion, and complete a mid-term and final evaluation.

V. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Class activities include discussion, group workshops, and peer reviews. The majority of the class will focus on discussion and student participation. Occasional lectures will supplement discussions.

VI. FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:

Students must attend one performance of *Hamlet* during the MSU Shakespeare Festival.

VII. TEXT(S) AND RESOURCES:

- A. Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

- B. Murfin and Ray, eds. *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*, 2/e.
- C. Peter Schakel and Jack Ridl, *Approaching Poetry* (AP)
- D. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*
- E. Daniel Woodrell, *Winter's Bone*
- F. Short stories and assorted readings on Canvas

All texts are required.

Additional Writing Support:

Writing Center

Main Floor, Waterfield Library

The Racer Writing Center offers free, one-on-one assistance with all aspects of writing, at any stage in the writing process, and for any class a student may be taking. To make an appointment, please call 809-2267, visit [the Writing Center's website](#), or drop by the center in the northeast corner of Waterfield Library. To make the best use of your time there, please bring a copy of your assignment with you. The Writing Center will not proofread (mark corrections on) papers or talk with you about grades.

VIII. EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:

Please see the detailed assignment sheets for due dates for individual assignments. Late work will be penalized one full grade for each day it is late. For instance, if you hand in a paper two days late and it would have earned a B, you will receive a D. If you find that you are in need of an extension to complete written work, you must request the extension at least 24 hours before the due date of the assignment as to not be penalized. Students may ask for one (1) extension during the semester. **To pass this class, you must complete all formal written work.**

All assignments must be handed in on Canvas. I do not accept printed assignments.

Where assignments list minimum numbers of pages, you should assume that you are being asked to produce double-spaced pages. Your work should appear in a professional typeface with a 12-point font size (Times New Roman and Georgia are both appropriate font choices) and margins of no larger than 1" around your text. Please use MLA citation style.

Revision Policy

Any student may resubmit their graded work after revising it, within one week of it being returned to them. The final grade will be the second grade received for the assignment. Remember, revision is not simply proofreading and editing, but rather wholesale changes that are made to your document.

To hand in a revision you must write a short memo outlining then changes and reasons for those changes.

Assignments:

Annotation Activity

Reading Response (2 pages)

Poetry Close Reading (4-5 pgs)

Reaction Paper to *Hamlet*

Midterm Exam
Prose Close Reading (4-5 pages)
Final Exam

IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students are expected to adhere to the MSU Attendance Policy outlined in the current *MSU Bulletin*.

X. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgement.

Instructors should outline their expectations that may go beyond the scope of this policy at the beginning of each course and identify such expectations and restrictions in the course syllabus. When an instructor receives evidence, either directly or indirectly, of academic dishonesty, he or she should investigate the instance. The faculty member should then take appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy

elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Equal Opportunity. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Policy Statement

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access, 103 Wells Hall, (270) 809-3155 (voice), (270) 809-3361 (TDD).

Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889(TDD).