



ENGL 110: Composition, Literature, and Critical Thinking

Course Syllabus | Spring 2019

Catalog Descriptions and Prerequisites

English 110 introduces students to the major imaginative genres of poetry, drama, and fiction. Students will write a minimum of eight thousand words of finished prose, employing methods of literary analysis and demonstrating skill in critical thinking. Plus 16 hours by arrangement per term. **Prerequisite:** ENGL 100 or 105. English 110 is a transferable course. (AA: Areas E2b, E2c, E5c; CSU: Area A2, A3, C2, UC: Area 1B, 3B)

Professor Teeka James

Class meetings: TTh 9:45 – 11:00

Office: 15-144

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:00, and by appointment

Phone: (650) 574-6390

Email: james@smccd.edu

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:

1. Apply critical thinking and reading skills to literary works, from a variety of genres, in order to analyze and interpret them.
2. Write fluent essays that explain and defend these analyses and interpretations, rather than merely present summaries.
3. Write essays that effectively incorporate both primary and secondary sources, some of which are discovered by the student through library research. (Secondary sources are not required for all essays.)

Required Books and Materials

I've tried to select books that will be as economical for you all as possible. You can find the books in the CSM bookstore, online, and in libraries.

The Maltese Falcon, by Dashiell Hammett. Vintage Crime, 1992. ISBN 0-679-72264-5

Wilderness Tips, by Margaret Atwood. Anchor, 1998. ISBN 0-385-491-115

Joe Turner's Come and Gone, by August Wilson. Plume, 1988. ISBN 0452260094

You'll still need to get paper, pens (four different colors), pencils, erasers, and anything else you need for class. Make sure you can access your Google drive and email, and if

you're going to be using school computers, you'll probably also want a USB flash drive to make sure you save your work.

Coursework

- ✓ Four essays of varying lengths, making a semester total of 8,000–10,000 words (32–40 typed pages)
- ✓ Brainstorming, organizing, essay planning, rough drafts, revisions, editing and proofreading for every essay
- ✓ Four essay reflection letters
- ✓ Weekly informal writing: critical reflection, comprehension, and vocabulary building efforts connected to the assigned course reading
- ✓ Completion of assigned Writing Center and office hour conferences
- ✓ Active, enthusiastic, and productive participation in class activities, discussions, and group projects

Grading

- ☞ Essay 1: 10%
- ☞ Essay 2: 10%
- ☞ Essay 3: 30%
- ☞ Essay 4: 30%
- ☞ Final exam: 5%
- ☞ Homework: 15%
- ☞ Writing Center (TBA): Extra credit, up to 5%

Course Policies

Academic Honesty: (Do your own work.)

If there is any point at all to taking this class, it is to improve your reading, writing, and analytical skills. So if you're not going to do your own work, you will have turned this class into a ridiculous waste of your time and mine. So let's just cut out the drama: do your own reading and writing; don't consult any sources beyond a dictionary unless the assignment specifically calls for research. If you do consult any source besides a dictionary—including Wikipedia, SparkNotes, and your mother—you *must* include a works cited page at the end of your paper.

To put a finer point on it:

- × Writing a paper based on the same organizational outline as someone else = cheating
- × Reading SparkNotes or another study guide and not citing it—even if you “only” paraphrase it or “just” use some of the points you find there = cheating
- × Having others write your papers = cheating

- × Hiring a service to write your papers = cheating
- × Copying and pasting sentences from online sources without putting quotation marks around them and documenting your sources = cheating
- × Presenting another person's ideas as your own = cheating
- × Doing research that shapes your thinking but not documenting those sources = cheating

If you think you may have stretched the boundaries of academic honesty, check with me *before* turning in your paper.

Essays Assignments:

Essays should be typed double-spaced with 1 ¼-inch margins, stapled in the upper left-hand corner, and turned in along with your planning and organizing work and a reflection letter. All essays should have an original title centered at the top of the first page. You should type your name and the date in the upper left corner and include page numbers on all pages. Attention to these details shows you take pride in your work. You also must upload your final draft to the assignment on Canvas.

Conference Appointments:

Meeting with me one-on-one is probably the most effective way I can help you improve your writing and reading skills. Not only does it allow us to focus exclusively on your questions, but (and this might be more important) it helps us build a more effective relationship with one another. You should each meet with me at least once during the semester.

Homework:

I will assign roughly eight hours of homework each week; I appreciate typed work, though it is not always required. While I may not collect all assigned homework, I expect you to do it. Homework is announced in class and posted on Canvas. Most work is submitted through Canvas.

Deadlines:

We don't have a lot of time together this semester, and frankly, it's going to feel like a sprint. Do us both a favor and don't fall behind. Any changes in due dates or the assignment schedule will be announced in class and apply to all students, present or not. Late work is penalized 2% per day.

Revisions:

You may revise one essay for a higher grade. In addition, you may revise one not-passing essay for a grade of "credit." Schedule a revision appointment with me before reworking your paper.

Attendance:

The College says I can drop any student who has missed the equivalent of two weeks' worth of absences. However, that doesn't mean you have four freebies; you

have zero freebies. I expect you to attend every class session. **Every single one.** If you're sick, stay home, but tell me because if you don't, I'll worry that you got hurt on your way to school. (No joke.) So the policy is, don't miss class. All assignments and homework will be announced and explained during class meetings. Being absent is not an excuse for not completing work on time. Oh, and don't be late; it's rude.

Writing Center—TBA Requirement:

Part of your grade is based on the to-be-arranged hours (TBA)—your work in the Writing Center completing instructional activities designed to help improve your reading and writing skills. Activities may include orientations, one-on-one tutoring conferences with English instructors, tutorials on specific writing and critical thinking skills, and group workshops. You must complete the activities in the Writing Center (18-104) and be sure to log in and out each time you visit the Center.

Learning Resources:

If you have a documented disability and need accommodations for this class, please see me as soon as possible or contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for assistance. The DRC is located in Bldg. 10 First Floor. (650) 574-6438; TTY (650) 574-6230. If you are eligible for services, I strongly recommend you use them.

Remember

I am here to help you. But it's hard for me to do that if I don't know that you need help. So, please, when you have questions about the class, talk to me. If you think you are falling behind, talk to me. If you're experiencing adversity that is affecting your school work, talk to me. I'm trustworthy and I care about you. It's easy to solve problems when we work together.