Carleton University
Winter 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 1010: Writing Essays About Literature

Prerequisites: none
Preclusions: precludes additional credit for ENGL 1020

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05pm-5:25pm
Format: In-person

Instructor: Professor Julie Murray
Email: julie_murray@carleton.ca

Carleton University is located on unceded Algonquin territory

******This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term.******

Course Description:
This course is designed to teach students how to write a good (effective, persuasive, compelling, lucid) essay about literary texts. You will develop the key skills necessary to write a literature essay, including close reading, analysis, and interpretation of literary texts; finding and working with textual evidence; finding and working with secondary and scholarly sources; and the nuts and bolts of essay writing (argument/thesis, essay structure, organization, grammar, proper citation and documentation). Class time will include lecture, discussion, and some in-class workshops.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

-Write a literature essay that develops an argument supported by textual evidence

-Learn how to analyze and interpret literary texts using techniques such as close reading

-Understand the importance of drafting and revising in writing an essay

-Learn how to properly format an essay and document sources in MLA style

-Learn the principles of grammar and how to write an error-free essay

Required Texts:
Katherine Acheson, *Writing Essays about Literature*, Broadview Press (second edition). Click here to purchase the text in either digital or print format. Short stories and poems that we will analyze in class will be available on ARES and accessible through Brightspace.

Course Requirements: (tentative)

Experiments in ChatGPT (generate essay using ChatGPT, then grade essay) – 20%

Notes for Short Essay – 15%

Outline for Short Essay (1-2 pages) – 15%

Short essay (4 pages) – 30%

Reflection on Short Essay (1 page) – 5%

Grammar quiz -- (10%)

Participation (attendance and participating in class) – 5%