

Carleton University
Fall 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 1010A: *Writing Essays About Literature*

Prerequisites: None

Precludes: Additional Credit for ENGL 1020

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***** *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 teaches first-year students the skills involved in writing university-level essays about literary texts. We will study how one writes an essay that presents a convincing analysis of literature in effective academic prose. We will read some short primary sources (prose and poetry) and hone your skills in close reading, analysis, and interpretation of literary texts. We will develop your ability to find and work with textual evidence from literature and to discern what counts as effective evidence from a primary source. We will discuss the types of secondary, scholarly sources professors expect you to consult in an English course and develop your facility with locating such texts and integrating them into your written analysis in academically rigorous and intellectually honest ways. We will discuss the key components of essay-writing (argument/thesis; paragraphing; structure; presentation of evidence; clarity and accuracy of prose; grammar; proper source acknowledgement and documentation). We will discuss and practise a sensible and intellectually honest writing process to use when writing essays for future courses. Classes will involve a mixture of lectures, activities, and in-class writing workshops.

Learning Outcomes:

Students in this course will:

- Learn how to analyze and interpret literary texts using techniques such as close reading
- Write a literature essay that uses one primary source to make an argument supported by textual evidence
- Learn what constitutes a scholarly secondary source in English literary study
- Locate scholarly secondary sources on literature using university library resources
- Write a literature essay that uses primary and secondary sources to make an argument supported by textual evidence
- Learn how to format essays and document prose and poetic sources according to MLA style
- Learn some principles of grammar
- Practise note-taking, outlining, essay drafting and essay revising skills
- Practise writing under time constraints

- Follow a writing process that builds an essay from reading notes, drafting, and revising. **Please note: essays will only be accepted for grading after all preliminary drafting assignments for that essay have been submitted and returned.**
- Write a literature essay that compares and contrasts two primary sources to make an argument supported by textual evidence

Required Textbook:

- Katherine O. Acheson, *Writing Essays about Literature: A Brief Guide for University and College Students*. 2nd ed. Broadview Press, 2021.

The textbook will be available from the Carleton University Bookstore.

Required Readings:

- Marie de France, *Lanval*. Translated by Judith P. Shoaf, University of Florida, 1991 and 2005, <http://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/files/lanval.pdf>. Accessed 18 Dec. 2022. (also available in a different translation in both the Norton and Broadview Anthologies often used for ENGL 2301)
- Tennyson, Alfred. "The Lady of Shalott." *Tennyson's Shorter Poems and Lyrics, 1833-1842*. Edited by Beatrice C. Mulliner, Oxford UP, 1909, pp. 1-6. (available on ARES)
- Gaiman, Neil. "Chivalry." *Quests, Visitations and Other Occurrences*. Edited by Richard Gilliam, Martin H. Greenberg, and Edward E. Kramer, Unnameable Press, 1992. (available on ARES)
- « Peredur Son of Efrog. » *The Mabinogion*. Translated by Sioned Davies, Oxford UP, 2007, pp. 65-102. (available on ARES)

Evaluation:

N.B.

- **Many assignments will begin in in-class writing sessions and will only be accepted for grading if first drafted in supervised writing conditions.**
- **Because of this, attendance is required, and absences will only be excused for documented illnesses, bereavement, and religious obligations. If you are not committed to attending class regularly, do not take this course.**
- **Essays will only be accepted for grading after all preliminary drafting assignments for that essay have been submitted and returned.**

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

10%

(Attendance is required and absences will only be excused for documented illnesses, bereavement, and religious obligations. If you are not committed to attending class regularly, do not take this course. Many assignments will begin with in-class writing assignments and will only be accepted for grading if first drafted in supervised writing conditions.)

READING NOTES I

5%

(Using the models provided by Acheson and the professor, you will amass a set of reading notes on the first two texts studied. Notes will be assessed on their accuracy regarding the texts and their efforts to

follow the guidelines and suggestions provided in class and in the textbook; a separate assignment hand-out will be posted on Brightspace)

DRAFT INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH TO ESSAY ON PRIMARY SOURCES 10%

(Drawing on the ideas from Acheson and class, you will draft the first paragraph of your Essay on Primary Sources. This paragraph will be assessed on how well it introduces the text(s), indicates your thesis statement, and provides a map or outline of your essay body. Proper prose and grammar are expected. Please double space.)

ESSAY ON PRIMARY SOURCES (3-4 pages + List of Works Cited) 15%

(MLA format is required for this essay. A detailed list of my expectations for structure, form, and language will be distributed during term. No secondary research is required.)

NB: Your essay can only be submitted for grading after you have completed and submitted Reading Notes I and the Draft Introductory Paragraph.

READING NOTES II 5%

(Using the models provided by Acheson and the professor, you will amass a set of reading notes on the two texts studied since the last reading notes assignment. Notes will be assessed on their accuracy regarding the texts and their efforts to follow the guidelines and suggestions provided in class and in the textbook; a separate assignment hand-out will be posted on Brightspace)

LEARNING REFLECTION 5%

PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR RESEARCH ESSAY 5%

(Using MLA format, list the primary and secondary sources that you plan to use in your Research Essay. Assessment will consider correctness of MLA format used, scholarliness of secondary sources located, and appropriateness of the sources to the assignment. See Assignment Sheet.)

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH and RESEARCH ESSAY OUTLINE 10%

(Drawing on the ideas from Acheson and class, you will draft the first paragraph of your Research Essay and an outline for the body of your essay indicating the main points you will cover and the evidence you will use to support your claims. Assignment will be assessed on its completeness and timeliness as well as its efforts to follow the guidelines for Introductory Paragraphs and Essay Outlines discussed in class.)

RESEARCH ESSAY (5-6 pages + List of Works Cited) 15%

(MLA format is required for this essay. A detailed list of my expectations for structure, form, and language will be distributed during term. Secondary research is required.)

FINAL EXAMINATION (Compare and Contrast Essay) 20%

(Will require preparation of an essay outline and written essay answer comparing and contrasting two texts studied in course; will be scheduled as an in-person examination during the formal examination period)