

**Carleton University
Fall 2021
Department of English**

ENGL 1010A: Writing Essays About Literature

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1020
Prerequisite(s): n/a
Lecture 3 hours / week

Tues / Thurs, 2:35-3:55pm

Location: 5050 MC

Format: In-Person Section (not suitable for online students)

Instructor: Professor Jody Mason

Email: jody.mason@carleton.ca

Office: 1903 Dunton Tower

Phone: 613.520.2600 x8907

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-3 pm (zoom, by appt.)

I. Course Description

This is an intensive writing course focusing on the formulation and construction of a literary essay. We will meet three hours per week: the first half of the week will be used for lecture/discussion, and the latter half of the week will be used for writing workshops—small-group and individual writing and research exercises.

II. Preclusions

This course precludes additional credit for ENGL 1020.

III. Learning Outcomes

This hands-on writing course prepares students to: analyze poetry (its form, its language, its rhythms, its contexts); construct persuasive written analyses of poetry in essay form (using thesis statements, body paragraphs, and conclusions); and locate, incorporate, and cite appropriate research materials in the context of a literary essay.

IV. Texts

The course texts listed below can be purchased at Haven Books (43 Seneca St., K1S 4X2, 613.730.9888). This is a student-run bookstore and it's worth supporting! Walk east on Sunnyside from campus until you reach Seneca (about a ten-minute walk). You may also order online and have the books shipped to you anywhere in Canada or the United States: www.havenbooks.ca.

All other readings in the syllabus are available through Ares (accessible from the "Tools" tab on the black navigation bar in our Brightspace course). To make it easier to identify these readings in the syllabus, they appear in red font.

Acheson, Katherine O. *Writing Essays About Literature*, Second Edition, Broadview P, 2021.

(ISBN: 978-1-55481-551-7)

Adams, Stephen. *Poetic Designs: An Introduction to Meters, Verse Forms, and Figures of Speech*. Broadview P, 1997 (ISBN: 9781551111292)

V. Course Calendar

Week One: Course Introduction

Sept. 9th: Acheson, chapter 1 (pp. 3-15)

Week Two: How Do I Analyze and Interpret Literary Texts?

Sept. 14th: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 2 (pp. 19-34)

Sept. 16th: (workshop) Dionne Brand, "Blues Spiritual for Mammy Prater"; Robert Hass, "Sonnet"; Yusef Komunyakaa, "Facing It"

Week Three: How Do I Analyze and Interpret Literary Texts?

Sept. 21st: (lecture) Adams, chapter 4 of *Poetic Designs* (pp. 105-147)

Sept. 23rd: (workshop) Dionne Brand, "Blues Spiritual for Mammy Prater"; Robert Hass, "Sonnet"; Yusef Komunyakaa, "Facing It"

Week Four: How Do I Analyze and Interpret Literary Texts?

Sept. 28th: (lecture) Adams, chapter 5 of *Poetic Designs* (pp. 149-198)

Sept 30th: (workshop) Dionne Brand, "Blues Spiritual for Mammy Prater"; Robert Hass, "Sonnet"; Yusef Komunyakaa, "Facing It"

Due: Analyzing Poetry due Oct. 1st on or before 11:59 pm

Week Five: How Might I Use Reference Works to Help Me?

Oct. 5th: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 3 (pp. 35-53)

Oct. 7th: (workshop)

Week Six: How Do I Research Social and Historical Contexts?

Oct. 12th: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 4 (pp. 55-67)

Oct. 14th: (workshop)

Week Seven: How Do I Research Existing Literary Criticism on a Text?

Oct. 19th: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 5 (pp. 69-83)

Oct. 21st: (workshop)

Due: Research Assignment due Oct. 22nd on or before 11:59 pm

Fall Break: Oct. 25th-29th (no classes)

Week Eight: How Do I Make An Argument?

Nov. 2nd: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 6 (pp. 85-97)

Nov. 4th: (workshop)

Week Nine: How Do I Begin to Compose My Argument?

Nov. 9th: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 7 (pp. 101-13)

Nov. 11th: (workshop)

Week Ten: How Do I Write the Body of My Essay?

Nov. 16th: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 8 (pp. 115-23)

Nov. 18th: (workshop)

Due: Essay Outline due Nov. 19th on or before 11:59 pm

Week Eleven: How Do I Document My Sources and Format My Essay?

Nov. 23rd: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 10 (pp. 147-59); MLA resources on Bright Space

Nov. 25th: (workshop)

Due: Documentation Assignment due Nov. 26th on or before 11:59 pm

Week Twelve: How Do I Edit and Proofread My Essay?

Nov. 30th: (lecture) Acheson, chapter 9 (pp. 127-45)

Dec. 2nd: (workshop)

Due: Editing Exercise due Dec. 2nd in class

Week Thirteen: Bringing It Home

Dec. 7th: time to write and edit in class

Dec. 9th: optional consultation in class with Prof. Mason

Due: Research Essay due Dec. 9th on or before 11:59 pm

VI. Evaluation

Note that all term work must be completed in order to pass the course.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Workshop Participation (10%)

Analyzing Poetry (20%)

Research Assignment (10%)

Essay Outline (20%)

Documentation Assignment (5%)

Editing Exercise (5%)

Research Essay (30%)

Workshop Participation (10%)

Attendance at workshop sessions (Thursdays) is required to pass the course, but there will be extenuating circumstances. If you miss or plan to miss more than two Thursday sessions, please see me and we'll make an alternate arrangement. I will be evaluating your participation in these sessions: do you arrive with the reading completed and the required

materials (specified in the syllabus)? Do you participate actively in the in-class work for each of these sessions?

Analyzing Poetry (20%)

Due: Oct. 1st on or before 11:59 pm

This is a brief writing assignment that challenges you to use the information presented in chapters 4 and 5 of *Poetic Designs* in relation to the three poems we're studying in this course (Brand, Hass, Komunyakaa). This assignment will introduce you to the analytical vocabulary and concepts that you will need to analyze one poem in your research essay. Fuller instructions are available on Brightspace.

Research Assignment (10%)

Due: Oct. 22nd on or before 11:59 pm

During weeks five, six, and seven, we will discuss what qualifies as an appropriate secondary source for the purpose of an essay about literature. This assignment requires you to locate three appropriate secondary sources that could potentially be used in your research essay. These sources need to be cited in MLA format, and you must summarize the main argument of each source in a brief paragraph below each citation. Each summary paragraph should be between 150 and 200 words. Fuller instructions are available on Brightspace.

Essay Outline (20%)

Due: Nov. 19th on or before 11:59 pm

Using the information contained in chapters 6 and 7 of *Writing Essays About Literature*, you will construct an essay outline based on your chosen topic. You will find a template for this outline in Brightspace.

Documentation Assignment (5%)

Due: Nov. 26th on or before 11:59 pm

This brief assignment will give you an opportunity to practise MLA documentation. Fuller instructions are available on Brightspace.

Editing Exercise (5%)

Due: in class on Dec. 2nd

Before you submit your research essay, you will edit and proofread your essay using the information contained in chapter 9 of *Writing Essays About Literature*. Fuller instructions are available on Brightspace.

Research Essay (30%)

Due: Dec. 9th on or before 11:59 pm

The final research essay must be 1,500 words (about 6 pages in MLA style). This is a research essay that focuses on a single poem (Brand, Hass, Komunyakaa). It will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- your demonstration of close reading skills to make an argument about a text as a whole (i.e., your ability to identify and analyze form and literary devices, and your ability to connect these features to themes in the text)
- your ability to use a precise thesis statement that guides a coherent argument

- your ability to support your argument with well-chosen textual evidence
- your ability to use the elements of the essay—introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, conclusion—effectively
- your ability to use two (and not more) appropriate secondary sources in the formulation of your argument (these sources should come from your Research Assignment)

The essay must conform to the academic conventions we will learn in class: i.e., it must follow MLA format (e.g., double-space throughout, 12-point font, parenthetical citation, Works Cited page, etc.) and have correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Email and Office Hours: I encourage you to use my office hours for questions relating to lectures, readings, and assignments. I have two office hours for this course—please see the header on this document. **You must make an appointment on Brightspace to meet me during office hours.** You may also use email for questions requiring brief responses.

Assignments and Late Policy: Assignments must be submitted to Bright Space the day they are due (by 11:59 pm). *Please submit your assignments as Word documents.* Assignments may be handed in up to five days late with a penalty of 1% per day; the maximum penalty is 5%. Assignments will not be accepted after this period unless proper medical or other documentation is provided. *Please keep a backup copy of all your assignments.*

Grades: Grades for written work will be based on insightfulness, presentation of focused ideas supported by textual evidence, effective organization of ideas, clarity of expression, correct use of MLA style, spelling and grammar. The following percentage equivalents will be used when calculating your final grade for this class:

A+=90; A/A+=88; A=85;A-/A=83; A-=80

B+/A-=79; B+=77; B/B+=75; B=73; B-/B=72; B-=70

C+/B-=69; C+=67; C/C+=65; C=63; C-/C=62; C-=60

D+/C-=59; D+=57; D/D+=55; D=53; D-/D=52; D-=50

F=0-49 (a numerical grade will be assigned for any paper receiving an F)

Writing Tutorial Service: Students requiring assistance with their writing should contact the Writing Tutorial Service at 411 MacOdrum Library (613-520-6632, <www.carleton.ca/wts>).

Student Academic Success Centre: Questions about academic rules and regulations, selecting a major, and other matters relating to academic planning should be directed to the Student Academic Success Centre at 302 Tory Building (613-520-7850, <www.carleton.ca/sasc>).

VII. Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

VIII. Special Information Regarding Fall 2021 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

IX. Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>