

**Carleton University
Early Summer 2025
Department of English**

ENGL 1010 A: *Writing Essays about Literature*

Prerequisites: None

Preclusions: ENGL 1020

Scheduled Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35–5:25pm

Location: *check Carleton Central*

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

Instructor: Dr. Morgan Rooney Office Hours: Wednesdays @ 4:00-5:30pm

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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:

ENGL 1010 is a writing-intensive course designed to prepare students to write essays about literature at the undergraduate level. Because the advent of Generative AI has radically disrupted our relationship with the act of writing, we will be thinking carefully about the writing skills that we humans still need to develop and the tasks with which GenAI might be able to assist us. As a student in this course, you will learn about and apply core essay writing concepts, practice key essay writing skills such as close reading and analysis, and improve your command of the more mechanical aspects of writing (e.g., grammar and documentation). Our class time together will be a mix of mini-lectures, interactive activities, and hands-on workshop-style sessions, with recurring time set aside for groups to make progress on the Term Project. As this is a course about writing in a compressed summer term, however, take special note: you will be called on to write on a weekly basis throughout the term.

This course is hosted on Brightspace. Brightspace is effectively our online classroom, and so you are required to be familiar with everything posted on it. Be sure to check out our course page at least 3 times a week.

COURSE MODALITY:

The format for this course is in-person. This means that this is a real-time, in-person course where the instructor and students meet in a physical classroom at scheduled days and times, where instructors and students share information, ideas, and learning experiences. Participation in in-person courses requires students to be available and able to come to in-person meetings. Some assessments are written and submitted in an in-person setting, while some are completed and submitted on Brightspace. Online students should not register.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, successful students will have demonstrated their ability to:

1. **Write a research paper on a literary topic that employs the techniques of an effective essay.** This skill includes the ability to:
 - a. Write effective introductions, thesis statements, and direction statements
 - b. Organize arguments in a coherent fashion, using complementary but distinct subpoints that derive from, and accurately reflect, the texts being analyzed
 - c. Write paragraphs that effectively use topic sentences, transitions, and concluding sentences
 - d. Engage effectively and responsibly with primary and secondary sources
2. **Develop sustained analytical readings of literary texts that are informed by close readings.** This skill includes the ability to:
 - a. Identify the formal/generic features of works under study, and explain the significance of authors' choices of form/genre
 - b. Identify authors' deployment of various literary devices (symbolism, foreshadowing, and so on), and explain their significance to the texts
 - c. Explicate and analyze passages from literary texts in support of an argument
3. **Assess and correct writing samples using elemental principles of English grammar.** This skill includes the ability to:
 - a. Label and explain the parts of speech
 - b. Identify, define, and differentiate between phrases, subordinate clauses, and independent clauses
 - c. Identify and classify different sentence types
 - d. Explain the grammatical function of all marks of punctuation, and diagnose and correct punctuation problems
 - e. Identify, explain, diagnose, and correct common sentence errors
 - f. Apply the rules of grammar in their own writing
4. **Work collaboratively as a member of a group.** This skill includes the ability to:
 - a. Identify and define relevant tasks and timelines for completion
 - b. Identify and divide tasks up among group members according to each other's strengths
 - c. Provide and receive feedback in a constructive fashion
 - d. Identify and collectively resolve any breakdowns in group dynamics.
5. **Assess the utility of Generative AI for literary studies.** This skill includes the ability to:
 - a. use ChatGPT to generate preliminary analyses to literary essay prompts
 - b. analyze and assess the quality of the text it generates (i.e., its strengths, omissions, and errors)
 - c. make recommendations regarding the strength and limitations of GenAI for literary studies

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Katherine O. Acheson, *Writing Essays about Literature: A Brief Guide for University and College Students* (Peterborough: Broadview Press, 2011) – **Estimated Cost: \$26 + tax**
2. Other readings on ARES and Brightspace (free)

EVALUATION:

Assignment	Type	Percentage
Introductory Activities (Syllabus Quiz, 2%; Plagiarism Quiz, 2%; AI Honour Pledge, 1%)	Individual	5%
Responses to Stories (2 in total, 5% per)	Individual	10%
Midterm Exam (3 hours, in class)	Individual	15%
Term Project – 6 Parts (Topic Selection, 1%; Group Contract, 2%; Response to Story, 5%; 1 st Attempt & Annotations, 10%; Final Draft & Reflection, 20%; Self- and Peer Evaluation, 2%)	Parts 1-5: Group Part 6: Individual	40%
Final Exam (3 hours, at the exam site)	Individual	30%