

Carleton University
Winter 2027 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 1010C: *Writing Essays About Literature*

Prerequisites: None

Precludes: Additional Credit for ENGL 1020

Format: In Person

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

Learning Outcomes:

Students in this course will:

- Learn how to analyze and interpret literary texts using techniques such as close reading
- Use one primary source to make a written 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
- Use primary and secondary sources to produce a written argument supported by textual evidence
- Learn how to document prose and poetic sources according to MLA style
- Learn some principles of grammar
- Practise notetaking, outlining, essay drafting and essay revising skills
- Practise writing under time constraints

- Follow a writing process that builds an essay from creating reading notes, planning/outlining an analytical structure, drafting, and revising.
- 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 Campus Store. E-book or hard copy versions permitted.

Required Readings (Provisional List):

This course will have a focus on readings about King Arthur and/or Knights of the Round Table and so will involve depictions of ladies, knights, monsters, armed combat, and/or magic. Right now, readings will likely include Marie de France’s *Lanval*, Alfred Tennyson’s “The Lady of Shalott,” Neil Gaiman’s “Chivalry,” and an anonymous story from *The Mabinogion*, but these specific texts may change. The readings will need to be purchased as a hard-copy course pack to support in-class writing tasks and assessments.

Evaluation:

- Many assignments will begin or be completed as in-class writing tasks and will only be accepted for grading if the set portions are completed in these 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.
- As this is a course on Writing Process, you are required to complete and submit all the component assignments for each essay before the final product will be graded.

Engagement (Attendance and Participation)	5%
Reading Notes I	5%
Reading Notes II	5%
Outline and Draft Introductory Paragraph for Essay on Primary Sources	5%
In-Class Essay On Primary Sources	15%
Preliminary Bibliography for Research Essay	10%
In-Class Research Essay Outline	10%
Research Essay (5-6 Pages + List Of Works Cited) + Oral Discussion with Prof	15%
Final Examination* (Compare And Contrast Essay)	30%
<i>*will be written during formal examination period</i>	