

Carleton University
Winter 2027 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 1010D: Writing Essays About Literature

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1020

Prerequisite(s): n/a

Lecture 3 hours / week

day / time tbd

Location: please confirm on Carleton Central

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

Instructor: Professor Jody Mason

Email: jody.mason@carleton.ca

***** 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. *****

I. Course Description

This is an intensive writing course focusing on the formulation and construction of a literary essay. Our particular focus will be learning to analyze and write about poetry; using a small selection of contemporary poetry (with a focus on three Black North American poets), we'll hone our skills in poetics and work on writing assignments that will culminate in the construction of a research essay based on one poem.

We'll meet three hours per week: there will be lecture/discussion in class, but at least half of our class time will be devoted to small group and individual writing exercises.

Please note:

- this is an in-person writing workshop that requires regular attendance (more than two absences per term will result in a failing grade in the course) and in-class work—if you choose this section, you're committing to attending class each week
- most of our in-class writing will be device-free (no laptops, no phones)

II. Learning Outcomes

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

III. Texts

The course text listed below will be available for purchase at the University Bookstore in September. All other readings in the syllabus are available on Brightspace.

You may buy the course text used, but it must be the Second Edition. I require that you use the hard copy of this text because many of our classes will be device-free.

Acheson, Katherine O. *Writing Essays About Literature*, Second Edition, Broadview P, 2021.
(ISBN: 978-1-55481-551-7) price: \$27.25

IV. Evaluation

Workshop Notes (5 x 2%=10%)

Analyzing Poetry (in-class assignment, 25%)

Research Assignment (20%)

Thesis Paragraph + Topic Sentence Outline (in-class assignment 10%)

Research Essay (in-class assignment 35%)