COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

English 1102 is a humanities course. A crucial premise of the humanities is that truth is subjective. In this class you will often hear me respond to questions with statements that begin "It depends on…." The goal of humanities education is to affect not what you think and know but how you think and know, illustrating that there is more than one perspective on anything, and that the perspectives each of us currently hold have been shaped by our cultures and experiences, neither of which are universal. Socrates encouraged us to think critically, to be skeptical, to investigate and demand evidence before we accept any premise. The focus of this course is on the evidence available within literary texts, on accredited methods of analyzing that evidence, and on the effects of those methods and texts upon our own thinking.

More specifically, English 1102 explores what the study of literature can teach us about composition and critical thinking. With a prerequisite of C or better in English 1101, this course combines discussion, research and workshop activities with a variety of reading and writing assignments to prompt you to try writing as a cognitive strategy and to develop your writing skills beyond the level of proficiency required by English 1101. I hope that the course will also inspire you to make literature an enduring part of your life.

Our course is organized by genres of literature into four major units, each of which closes with the submission of a major essay assignment. A calendar of assignments is posted on our course D2L website. You are responsible for preparing for and participating in class and for completing all assignments listed in the calendar of assignments. If you do so successfully, by the end of the semester you will have achieved the following objectives:

1) Read, analyze, interpret and write about fiction, drama, poetry and essays from a diverse range of authors; compare and contrast themes, characters, plots and other literary devices among various texts; apply literary principles and use literary terms in writing and in discussion;
2) Utilize the university library as well as the internet to find primary and secondary sources; evaluate sources for credibility and relevance; effectively incorporate data from research into writing; document sources in MLA style;
3) Situate your own ideas into relevant and productive contexts by responding and replying to texts, critics, and other students;
4) Think, talk and write about how you and others write and think; evaluate samples of analytical writing and recommend revision;
5) Use computer technology as a writing, research and communications tool; and
6) Speak, write, listen and respond appropriately with classmates and instructor in class discussions, group work, conferences and online as part of an active discourse community dedicated to the mastery of these course objectives.
TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Howells, *Literature: Reading to Write* with MyLiteratureLab.com access
- Graff & Birkenstein, *They Say/I Say* (3rd ed)
- A notebook you can bring to class each day
- A reliable computer storage device (flash drive, etc.) on which to save your essays

WEBSITE

Our course has a D2L website, accessed via the Port of Armstrong. The majority of our assignments will be posted, completed, and/or submitted via this website. Check the website before each class meeting. Resolve any access issues PROMPTLY. Free computer labs are available throughout the ASU campus, but if you use your own computer, read the technical specifications for D2L access at [http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/cis_training/cis_trainingtechnical_requirements_for_student_computers](http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/cis_training/cis_trainingtechnical_requirements_for_student_computers)

ATTENDANCE

Regular, substantial participation is necessary in order to meet the course objectives. Absence does not change deadlines, and most assignments cannot be made up or turned in late. Knowing all this, if you still feel that you absolutely cannot avoid missing a class, heed the following:

- Check with a classmate and check the D2L site **before class** to make sure you are ready for the day you return.
- Talk with me during my office hours to make sure you understand what we did while you were out. Do not e-mail me for such information.
- If you MUST miss more than one class in a row, e-mail me ASAP to tell me when you will return and how you plan to stay current in the course while you are out.
- **Failure for Non-attendance:** If you miss all or part of 5 or more class meetings before Midterm Day **OR** 10 or more meetings all term, you will have earned an F for the course.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Your course grade will be calculated using the following formula, where "PA" means the average of the unit's preparatory assignments and "E" means the grade on the final essay for each unit:

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\frac{(PA1 + E1 + PA2 + E2 + PA3 + E3 + PA4 + E4)}{8}
\]

**Preparatory assignments** are homework, classwork, online, and group activities such as oral and written reading responses; préces; discussion board posts; oral and written peer review activities; research exercises; quizzes; and drafts, required preliminary revisions, and post-submission self-evaluations of your essays. Everything assigned in this course counts. **Depending on the nature of the assignment, preparatory assignments may not be eligible for make-ups.** Preparatory assignments are graded on the following scale (except quizzes, where the score is the percentage of correct responses):

- **A:** Well-prepared, thorough, and enthusiastic completion of all aspects of assignment.
- **B:** Well-prepared, thorough, and conscientious completion of most of the assignment.
• **C**: Completion of all essential goals of the assignment despite some problems with preparedness or thoroughness.
• **D**: Measurable accomplishment toward completion of the essential goals of the assignment though 0-50% of the assignment's goals are not met.
• **F**: Failure to participate acceptably in the assignment.

**Final essays** are the final edition of the essay assignment for each unit of the course. Submission procedures and evaluation criteria are as follows:

1) **Do not plagiarize**: Proper and complete MLA-style documentation of sources can protect a good paper from charges of plagiarism. Intentional plagiarism is a violation of the ASU Honor Code and will result in a 0 on the assignment and an informal hearing per the procedures outlined in [http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/office_student_affairs/student_affairs_honor_code](http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/office_student_affairs/student_affairs_honor_code). All students at ASU must agree to abide by the Honor Code and Code of Conduct. Unintentional plagiarism will result in a 0 on the assignment the first time it happens; subsequent acts of plagiarism will be treated as intentional. A plagiarism tutorial is available through the Subject Guides at library.armstrong.edu. If you are ever in doubt about whether you're about to commit plagiarism, ASK ME. D2L utilizes Turn It In plagiarism detection technology.

2) **Submit your essays on time through D2L**: If you would like to earn a grade for your essay, you must post the essay to our D2L course website no later than the deadline published in the assignment. **Late papers are not accepted.** Essays must be prepared on a computer using Microsoft Word software (your file should have a .doc or .docx suffix). **Computer problems do not affect essay deadlines.** To avoid disaster, save your work, e-mail it to yourself, and keep a back-up copy on a flash drive.

3) **Read the rubric**: On the content section of our course D2L website you'll find a copy of the rubric I will use to evaluate your final essay editions. When I evaluate your essay, I will highlight the applicable descriptor for each aspect of the paper. An F rating for any criterion in the rubric will prevent an essay's grade from reaching C level or higher; if no F ratings are earned, the assignment's grade will be the average of the highlighted ratings. After examining the rubric and your essay, you are welcome to discuss your grade or my comments with me. You may contact me by phone or email to make an appointment, but we should discuss your grades face to face.

4) **Consider post-evaluation revision**: At your discretion, no more than 2 of your first three final edition essays may be revised after my evaluation and resubmitted for a new grade. Post-evaluation revisions first require a planning conference with me and then must be accompanied by a detailed written description of what has been changed since the evaluation and why. The grade on the post-evaluation revision **will replace** the essay grade for the paper in question, whether the revision grade is higher or lower than the earlier grade.

**PLAN TO SUCCEED**

English 1102 is a challenging course, but you don't have to be an English major to succeed here. Conscientious preparation and regular attendance have a measurable impact on your grade. These two achievements also enhance your ability to write successful papers in our course. Follow the suggestions on the next page to keep preparation, attendance and other factors working for you rather than against you this semester:
• Plan to set aside six hours every week (in addition to class time) to prepare for this course. Use the six hours to read and reread each assigned text, to complete assigned homework, to conduct research, to draft and revise essays, to meet with classmates to discuss texts and paper drafts, and to seek help in the Writing Center if you need it.

• Plan to talk with me outside of class at least once before midterm, and more often as you need to. I am happy to discuss questions you may have, to read and comment on drafts, and to share additional study strategies that may help with particular problems or concerns. It is especially important to talk with me if you miss a class, earn a grade you didn't expect on an assignment, or feel confused or overwhelmed by course material or assignments.

• Plan to attend every class meeting and complete every assignment. Most missed assignments cannot be made up and will count as zeroes. Additionally, our papers require that you participate in writing process activities in as well as out of class; they cannot be completed successfully if you miss more than one class per paper.

• Plan to open your mind to what happens in this course. Your course grade reflects more than the quality of writing in your essays, and you're not being evaluated on what you knew or did not know when you started the course. Having a strong background is always good, but don't plan to exit this course without moving forward from wherever you start.

• Plan to use the ASU campus resources. Computer labs are here FOR YOUR USE. The Writing Center, located in Gamble 123, is available to provide a variety of free and helpful resources to any student who desires assistance in the improvement of his/her writing skills. Reference librarians (1st floor of the Lane Library and online at library.armstrong.edu) offer guidance that cannot be over-valued. IT Services (in Suite 16 of the Armstrong Center) can remedy access issues you may have with university technology. If you suspect that you may have a learning disability or similar special challenge, know that under the Americans with Disabilities Act, ASU provides appropriate, reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Documentation and services are available at the Office of Disability Services located in Student Affairs in the MCC.