

**Introduction to Composition II (English 102)**

Welcome to your second college-level writing course offered by the English Department. This course, Writing Through Literature, extends and intensifies the skills that you have learned in Composition I (ENC/G101), including process-based writing and research methods. You will learn close-reading techniques to further develop your critical thinking and writing skills through the study of culturally diverse works in poetry and at least two other literary genres (short story, drama, the novel, the literary essay, and others). You must have passed ENC/G101 to remain in and receive credit for Composition II (ENG102).

1. Your instructor will assign books and materials that you must purchase. S/he will give you a detailed syllabus that includes an overview of the course, an outline of course themes and learning objectives, a schedule of assignments and class activities, attendance and punctuality policy, grading standards, and/or other information.
2. All of the essays written in ENG102 will build on the writing and editing skills you have learned in ENC/G101. All papers should use precise and effective language, demonstrate a sound analysis of the literary text(s) in focus, as well as exhibit organized and developed ideas that support a thesis or main point.
3. You will be introduced to methodologies that help you access and think critically about modes of literary analysis, including biographical information, historical context, and/or critical theories such as formalism, reader-response theory, psychoanalysis, feminism, and postcolonialism.
4. You will write five essays of varying lengths (between 600 and 2000 words): three critical essays (one of which might be in-class), plus an in-class midterm essay and in-class final examination. One or more of the three critical essays must be a research paper. You will be provided with at least one opportunity to revise each essay, except for the final examination. Your instructor has the right to refuse, or lower the grade for, late work. At the beginning of the semester, your instructor may also assign a diagnostic essay to determine what areas of your writing need reinforcing; this essay does not count toward your final course grade.
5. For the research paper or papers, you will be required to conduct library research, locate reliable and appropriate sources, and use them to develop and support your ideas. As in ENC/G101, your instructor will guide you through the research, drafting, and writing process. You will review how to document your sources in the Modern Language Association (MLA) style.
6. You will also review how to use quotations and paraphrases with the appropriate MLA Works Cited documentation to avoid plagiarism (presenting someone else's work as one's own). Any student who plagiarizes will be given a failing grade.
7. Your instructor may conduct the class through group work, lecture, and/or other teaching methods. S/he may use various technologies to enhance instruction. At times, you may work with your instructor and classmates to develop your essay ideas, and they may, in the revision process, make suggestions on improving drafts of your essays.

8. Your instructor will respond to your papers in written comments and/or in conferences. The instructor will evaluate and grade your written work according to content, organization, style, grammar, and/or other criteria. The instructor will also make suggestions for revisions.

9. Tutors in the Writing Center (E111) are available to offer you help in improving your writing skills. The Writing Center is a free service. You are encouraged to use it to help revise your work and to work on areas that are giving you problems. Your instructor may require that you attend the Writing Center if your writing skills need significant improvement.

10. Classroom learning is essential to this course. Therefore, class attendance and punctuality are mandatory and are requirements for passing ENG102. You may have no more than four hours of absences. According to the College's 2007-2008 *Catalog*, "Absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program" (117).

Your ENG102 instructor will:

- Reinforce process-based writing, including pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing and proofreading.
- Enable you to write essays of varying lengths (between 600 and 2000 words) that demonstrate the concept of writing as a critical thinking process by using various rhetorical strategies.
- Familiarize you with at least three genres of literature, one of which will be poetry, and introduce you to techniques for close reading of literary texts through the study of literary elements.
- Reinforce research methods, conventions, and practices that will be integrated into critical and analytical writing about literature.
- Introduce you to methodologies that access and evaluate forms of literary analysis, including biographical information, historical context, and/or critical theory.
- Reinforce test-taking strategies to prepare you to write a final in-class essay.
- Reinforce your knowledge of standard U.S. English and further refine editing skills.

At the end of this course, you will:

- Demonstrate understanding of writing as a process by pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing and proofreading their essays.
- Write essays of varying lengths (between 600 and 2000 words) that demonstrate the concept of writing as a critical thinking process.
- Interpret and write critically about poetry and at least two other genres of literature (novel, short story, play, etc.), while applying techniques of close reading and incorporating literary elements.
- Demonstrate understanding of research methods, conventions, and practices as they are integrated into critical and analytical writing.
- Identify and evaluate forms of literary analysis, including biographical information, historical context, and/or critical theory.
- Pass a timed, in-class final essay.
- Write essays that conform to standard U.S. English and reflect developed editing skills.

The English Department wishes you a productive semester strengthening your writing skills through literature! Completion of this course will help to prepare you for the CPE examination. It will also prepare you for a range of exciting literature, writing, and journalism courses offered by the English Department, including courses that lead to an Associate of Arts degree in Writing and Literature. For further information, contact your instructor or the English Department at E103 (718-482-5656), or visit the Department website (<http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/english/>).