

INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE ELECTIVES

You have taken one or more courses in the English Department. In this course you will build on your achievements. You should expect to write at the 200-level, and you should also expect to look at texts in greater depth and further your reading and writing analytical skills. This course will also help you prepare to transfer to a four-year institution of higher learning and help you prepare for the CUNY Proficiency Exam (CPE) graduation requirement, if you have not completed this requirement.

1. You will be encouraged to experience reading, writing, speaking, and listening as an integrated process. You should read closely and with an open mind, be prepared to make observations and ask questions in class, and then keep in mind that when you write, you are yourself creating a literary text. You are as much a part of the literary community as the authors of the texts.
2. Your instructor will encourage you to analyze and respond to the metaphorical, imagistic, and symbolic language of texts; to develop the interpretative strategies and critical vocabulary needed to understand, talk, and write about literature; to appreciate the formal and thematic aspects of literature; to see connections between what is written and how it is written; to see the relationship of literature to society and to human experience; to see texts in comparison with earlier texts and to understand some of the historical forces which created them; to find joy and pleasure in reading a diversity of texts by women and men of varied philosophies and writing styles, from a range of social and ethnic origins.
3. You will be required to write three to four essays ranging from 500 to 2,000 words in length. At least one of these essays must incorporate secondary sources or alternate texts. Your instructor may also assign other writing assignments. As in English 101, you will be required to follow the appropriate MLA format. You will be reminded of the various pitfalls of plagiarism (presenting someone else's work as your own). Any student who plagiarizes will be given a failing grade.
4. All of the essays written in the course will build on the writing skills you learned in English 101. All papers should use vivid and effective language and exhibit organized and developed ideas which support a thesis or main point.

5. Your instructor will also respond to your writing both in conferences and in written comments on your papers. The instructor will evaluate and grade your written work according to content, organization, style, grammar, and your use of analytical skills. The instructor will also make specific suggestions for revision.
6. Remember that tutors in the Writing Center (El 11) 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 those areas which are giving you specific problems. Your instructor may require that you attend the Writing Center if your writing needs significant improvement.
7. You must buy the assigned text(s) and, if required, appropriate sized paper and/or a computer diskette. A dictionary should be used for all in-class writing assignments.
8. You may be absent for no more than four hours (not counting excused absences). Your instructor will decide what constitutes excused and unexcused absences.
9. Your instructor will determine your final grade primarily on the quality of the overall work submitted in the course. Your instructor has the right to refuse to accept a late assignment and may lower the grade for late work. Your instructor will inform the class of how final grades will be determined.
10. Your instructor will provide a detailed syllabus.

*Note that you must have passed ENG 101 to remain and receive credit for this literature electives course.