

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program:	Humanities
Course Number:	ENG 205
Course Title:	Introduction to Literature
Number of Credits:	3
Prerequisites:	None

A. Catalog Description of Course :

A study of the basic literary forms, techniques and processes used in poetry, drama and the short story, as well as an introduction to some of their classical origins. In addition to selections from European and American literature, students will read selected classical and religious texts that have contributed to the development of Western Literature.

B. Goals :

- * To introduce students to some key classical texts that have influenced Western Literature.
- * To aid the student in better understanding the major literary forms: poetry, drama, and short story.
- * To encourage a close reading and interpretation of literary texts.

C. Objectives :

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to

- * Respond to the literature in a more mature way both orally and in writing.
- * Use appropriate literary vocabulary in critiquing poetry, short story, and drama.
- * Apply concepts learned e.g. characterization, plot, poetic techniques, etc. to literary works in other courses.
- * Recognize and comprehend some key seminal texts.

D. Outline of Course Content :

- Overview of the historical development of each genre
- Introduction to the essential vocabulary needed for discussion and critique

- Historical/literary background necessary for dealing with the criticism and discussion of literature presented in class
- Reading and class discussion of anthologized works

E. Suggested Texts :

Literature: the Human Experience, Eighth Edition. Richard Abcarian & Marvin Klotz (Bedford)

Thinking and Writing About Literature: A Text and Anthology. Michael Meyer, Editor (Bedford)

Literature: Reading, Reacting, Writing. Laurie Kirsznner and Stephen Mandell, editors (Thomson-Wadsworth)

Angles of Vision: Reading, Writing, and the Study of Literature. Arthur W. Biddle and Toby Fulwiler, editors. (McGraw-Hill)

Arguing Through Literature: A Thematic Anthology and Guide to Academic Writing. Judith Ferster, editor. (McGraw-Hill)

The Norton Introduction to Literature (shorter eighth edition). Jerome Beaty, et al, editors. (W.W. Norton)

An instructor may need to supplement any of the above with one or more of the following

Individual Selections:

The Bible, especially:

The Book of Genesis, some Psalms, perhaps the Song of Solomon

New Testament readings, in particular: selections from Matthew & Luke, a letter or two from Paul, The Book of Revelation

The Koran, selections

One Thousand and One Nights, selections

Mythology – Greek, Roman, Egyptian, Norse, German, Irish

The Decameron, selections

The Epic of Gilgamesh (selections)

Aesop's Fables (selections)

The Metamorphoses (selections) – Ovid

The Aeneid (selections) - Virgil

Grimm's Fairy Tales (selections)

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction :

lecture/discussion guest lectures
recitation videos/films
small groups recordings
collaborative learning projects
inductive, deductive,
and reflective thinking

G. Instructor References :

Apollodorus. *The Library of Greek Mythology*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1998.

Bullfinch, Thomas. *Greek and Roman Mythology*. Dover, 2000.

Caratello, John and Patty Caratello. *Literature and Critical Thinking* . Teaching Center Materials, 1990.

Cooper, Charles. *Researching Response to Literature and the Teaching of Literature* . Ablex Publishing, 1985.

Cudden, J.A. *Dictionary of Literary Terms* . New York: Viking Penguin, 1982.

Delean, Joan. *Literary Fortifications* . New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1984.

Deutsch, Babette. *Poets Handbook: A Dictionary of Terms* . New York: Harper & Row, 1982.

Elliot, Robert C. *Literary Persona* . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982.

Hamilton, Edith. *Mythology*. Warner, 1999.

Lerner, Lawrence. *Literary Imagination: Essays on Literature and Society* .Imports, 1982.

Lindow, John. *Norse Mythology: A Guide to Gods, Heroes, Rituals and Beliefs*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2002.

Minot, Stephen. *Three Genres: The Writing of Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* .Princeton: Prentice-Hall, 1965.

Rolleston, T.W. *Celtic Myths and Legends* Dover, 1990.