

English 225

Introduction to English Studies (Writing Intensive)

(Guidelines subject to change)

Blackboard enrollment code for course: ENGL225FA11

Fall 2011
Instructor: John Black
Classroom: Zinzendorf 103
Class schedule: TTh 2:35-3:45

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Office: Zinzendorf 303
Office Hours: T & W 1:30-2:30
and by appointment
English Dept. Phone: 861-1390

Course Description, Objectives, and Format: Welcome to English 225! As the gateway course for English majors and minors at Moravian, this class is designed to develop students' existing skills in English studies and to introduce students to more advanced approaches to the understanding of content, resources, and methods in the discipline. Using selected texts from various genres, the course will focus on aspects of English studies such as close reading, analysis, and interpretation of literature, bibliographic and research techniques, critical thinking, and literary theory. The course will allow you to read, analyze, and interpret a diverse range of works, to write several different types of papers, to develop your research skills, to explore critical theory with a variety of different genres and authors, and to continue establishing your own distinctive approach to literary scholarship. Reading, whether literally reading the written word or figuratively 'reading' marketing ads or political stances, requires you to interpret and to support your interpretation with evidence. Our discussions and written assignments will help you refine the critical reading and writing skills essential not only to reading literature, but also to critical assessment and understanding in general. And, along the way, you'll get to enjoy some great reading! While we'll occasionally use short lectures, audio-visual aids, Blackboard postings, and presentations, our class will consist primarily of reading, writing, and discussion: *your preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.*

Assignments: English 225 is a writing-intensive class. You will draft and revise two 3-5 page papers, one 10-12 page paper, and several other shorter assignments. You will also conduct a research skills project and make individual and group presentations. There is no mid-term or final exam, although you will have the option to re-write one paper at the end of the semester in lieu of a final exam. Specific requirements for the assignments will be discussed in advance of each assignment. Please choose paper topics in a timely fashion. I encourage and expect you to consult with me throughout the course of your assignments. Draft workshops and individual conferences will help you strengthen your writing process. **I do not accept papers that have not been reviewed in the draft workshop process.** Papers are due in class on the due dates noted on the syllabus. **In addition to the final version of a paper, all preliminary drafts, notes, etc. are to be handed in; otherwise, the assignment is incomplete and will not be accepted. I do not accept or read late papers, except under very unusual circumstances.** ****In preparation for creating an English Major Portfolio in your senior capstone seminar, please save both digital and hard copies of your work for this class, including drafts with peer and instructor comments.*

Attendance and Participation: Be here - I will take roll regularly. You are expected to attend each day. **Be prompt** - Class begins at 2:35 pm sharp. **Be prepared** - Your first responsibility is to read carefully, re-read, and be prepared to discuss, both orally and in writing, all assignments. You should expect to devote several hours to preparing for each class. (A general rule of thumb for college courses is 2-3 hours outside of class for every hour in class.) **Participate** - Classes become more meaningful the more you engage yourself in them. You are expected to make comments or ask questions on the readings and topics each day. I will not hesitate to call on you if you are not contributing. Class time allotted for group work, group discussion, draft feedback, review, etc. is instructional time; you are expected to remain focused on the assigned activity for all of the allotted time.

If you know you will be absent from class, please talk to me beforehand. If you are sick, please notify me as soon as possible. *Your absence from more than three classes may affect your final grade. Every three times you come to class late or leave early without notifying me first will also count as an unexcused absence. Missing more than five classes may result in your failing the course. If you are absent, it is wholly your responsibility to determine what was covered in class and what revisions, if any, were made to the syllabus in your absence.*

Other notes:

-One of the qualities I expect and appreciate most in students is **personal integrity**. Students who exhibit this quality are ethical and honest, are engaged in class, turn in thoughtful assignments, are responsive to the world beyond themselves, meet deadlines, and keep me informed of any difficulties or successes they have while in my class.

-Please arrange to go to the restroom before or after class.

-Please refrain from bringing food or drink into the classroom.

-Please silence and put away all cell phones, pagers, etc. before coming into the classroom.

Office Hours: Students are always welcome in my office. My office hours are times that I have set aside specifically to talk with you – not only about class and assignments, but also about life at Moravian, about something fun and exciting you've done, or whatever's on your mind. Make use of them. I realize that it may be difficult for you to meet during my posted office hours, so I'm also readily available by appointment: jrblack@moravian.edu

Other Resources:

- With work on written assignments, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the help available through appointment at the Writing Center (2nd fl, Zinzendorf). For more information, visit its website at: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/eng/writingCenter/appointments.htm> The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you have mobility impairments and need the services of the Writing Center, please call 861-1392.
- Similarly, the librarians in Reeves are very resourceful. Make it a habit of consulting with them when research questions arise. The library webpage (<http://home.moravian.edu/public/reeves>) is an excellent resource, offering live online help and research guides.
- The Learning Services Office (1307 Main St., 861-1510) provides many services to help you achieve academic success: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/learning/>
- Another important resource that provides help with the demands of college life is The Counseling Center (also at 1307 Main St., 861-1510): <http://home.moravian.edu/public/stusvc/counseling/>
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Office of Learning Services.

Academic Honesty: Moravian College expects its students to perform their academic work honestly and fairly. A Moravian student, moreover, should neither hinder nor unfairly assist the efforts of other students to complete their work successfully. This policy of academic integrity is the foundation on which learning at Moravian is built. Read and familiarize yourself with the College's Academic Honesty Policy, found in the *Student Handbook*:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html> I take the provisions of the Academic Honesty Policy very seriously and am obliged to report any suspected violations. Plagiarism, representing someone else's work as your own, is a serious breach of personal integrity and a violation of academic honesty, the consequences of which may be failure, suspension, or dismissal from the College. If you plagiarize, you will receive a 'zero' on the plagiarized assignment, which will very likely result in your failure for the course. Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism will not be accepted as an excuse. We'll discuss use of sources during our assignments, but if at any time you have any questions about documenting sources properly (MLA style, for this course) or as to whether or not the aid you are receiving is authorized, don't hesitate to ask me. The Reeves Library online research tutorial also addresses the issue: <http://home.moravian.edu/public/reevestutorial/pages/index.htm>

Evaluation:

(The instructor will apply both quantitative and qualitative assessments in determining grades for assignments and for the course. Final grades are calculated on 10-pt. scale: 90=A-, 80=B-, etc.)

Paper 1: Summary & Analysis paper (<i>Frankenstein</i>).....	15%
<i>Tempest</i> Group Presentation.....	10%
Savvy Researcher Group Project.....	10%
Proposal for Research paper (<i>Tempest</i>).....	5%
Paper 2: Research paper (<i>Tempest</i>).....	20%
Paper 3: Poetry explication.....	15%
Reading Responses.....	10%
Informal Writing.....	5%
Class Participation.....	10%

You must complete all these requirements in order to be eligible to pass the course.

Extra Credit: Learning takes place both in and outside the classroom. To encourage you to learn more about the richness of the College and local community, students may earn extra credit through confirmed participation (usually in the form of a brief write-up) in various activities related to language, literature, and writing. Up to a total of three points of extra credit can be added at the end of the semester to a student's lowest assignment grade. One hundred points is the maximum total for the course. Some examples of eligible activities are: attending a College theater production or poetry/fiction reading, submission of creative work to *The Manuscript*, or a meeting with a Writing Center tutor. In December, Moravian will host the Undergraduate

Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies; a student who submits a paper for the conference, assists with the conference, or attends the conference will earn one point. Other, similar activities may also be eligible; please confer with me.

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Resources

Required texts:

- Graff, Gerald and James Phelan, eds. *William Shakespeare's The Tempest: Case Studies in Critical Controversies*. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.
- Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: MLA, 2009.
- Paul, Richard and Linda Elder. *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*. 5th ed. Dillon Beach, CA: Foundation for Critical Thinking, 2008. ('P&E' on syllabus)
- Smith, Johanna M., ed. *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein: Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*. 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000.
- Readings for poetry unit (on the Harlem Renaissance and African American Poetry) provided via Blackboard or photocopy. Additional supplemental readings and films via Blackboard, photocopy, or reserve.

Other useful books:

- Abrams, M. H., ed. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 5th ed. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1988.
- Groden, Michael, Martin Kreiswirth, and Imre Szeman. *The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory and Criticism*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins U P, 2005.
- Hacker, Diana. *The Bedford Handbook*. 8th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010.
- Holman, Hugh and William Harmon, eds. *A Handbook to Literature*. 5th ed. New York: McMillan, 1986.

Some useful websites for writing, composition, analysis, and theory:

- Bedford Handbook Online. 8th ed. http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/bedhandbook8e/#t_518572
- Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL): <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- The University of Wisconsin Writing Center Writer's Handbook: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/>
- Critical Reading: A Guide (by J. Lye at Brock Univ.): <http://www.brocku.ca/english/jlye/criticalreading.html>
- Literary Resources – Theory (by J. Lynch at Rutgers Univ.): <http://www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/theory.html>

Syllabus (subject to change)

Aug.	30	T	Introduction; syllabus; policies and goals of course; introduction to <i>MLA Handbook</i> , Bedford Handbook Online, and OWL; informal writing
Sept.	1	Th	Discuss concepts of interpretation; collaborative exercise; discuss critical thinking; read P&E thoroughly and closely (prompts on Bb); discuss paper rubric and features of good writing; readings on contexts for <i>Frankenstein</i> (3-18); begin reading <i>Frankenstein</i> itself (19-189); Paper 1 assigned
	6	T	Introduction to history of literary criticism and to theoretical approaches; introduction to reading and writing about fiction; response writing to <i>Frankenstein</i> assigned ; overview of theoretical approaches to <i>Frankenstein</i> ; readings on contexts for <i>Frankenstein</i> (190-234); continue reading <i>Frankenstein</i> itself (19-189)
	7	W	Paper 1 topic due (by email by 5pm)
	8	Th	Introduction to <i>Frankenstein</i> ; read critical history of <i>Frankenstein</i> (237-261); discuss contexts (3-18 and 190-234) and critical history (237-261); overview of film analysis; discuss <i>Frankenstein</i> film
	13	T	Discuss <i>Frankenstein</i> ; finish reading <i>Frankenstein</i> itself (19-189); begin discussion of <i>Frankenstein</i> (19-189)
	15	Th	Discuss <i>Frankenstein</i>
	20	T	Paper 1 draft workshop (bring 2 copies of draft to class) ; review features of effective writing; read sample Paper 2 <u>in advance</u> of class; bring copy of sample Paper 1 to class; critique sample Paper 1 in class; Paper 1 individual conferences (TBA)
	22	Th	Discuss <i>Frankenstein</i> (focusing on student selections of theoretical approaches); discuss <i>Young Frankenstein</i> ; wrap up with <i>Frankenstein</i> ; <i>Frankenstein</i> response re-evaluation (in-class writing)
	27	T	Paper 1 due ; introduction to reading and writing about drama; introduce <i>The Tempest</i> ; view and discuss excerpts from BBC's <i>The Tempest</i> ; response writing to film (in class); discuss <i>The Tempest</i> (3-9; "Shakespeare's Life and Work"); overview of controversies in study of <i>The Tempest</i> ; Paper 2 assigned ; introduce Tempest group presentation assignment

	28	W	Preferences for group presentation due by email by 5pm
	29	Th	Discuss <i>The Tempest</i> (10-88)
Oct.	4	T	Discuss <i>Tempest</i> ; discuss contextual material (91-115); review of oral presentation skills
	6	Th	Work on <i>Tempest</i> group presentation; introduce Savvy Researcher Project; introduce Reeves Online Tutorial assignment
	11	T	No class - Fall Break
	13	Th	Tempest presentations: Sources and Contexts (116-140); Shakespeare and the Power of Order (213-244); Postcolonial Challenge (265-292, 309-319); Responding to Postcolonial Challenge (320-351); Feminist Challenge (388-412)
	17	M	Topic for Paper 2 due (by email by 12n)
	18	T	Library session (resources) - meet in Reeves; bring <i>MLA Handbook</i> ; work on Savvy Researcher Project; read assigned short story in advance
	20	Th	Library session (web evaluation) - meet in Reeves (at computer stations to right on entering); work on Savvy Researcher Project; critique of Reeves Online Tutorial - Section 6 due (by email by classtime)
	24	M	Paper 2 proposal due (by email by 5pm)
	25	T	Practice with MLA style sheet (bring <i>MLA Handbook</i> to class); practice with annotated bibliography; work on SR Project
	27	Th	Discuss <i>Tempest</i> ; view and discuss excerpts from <i>Prospero's Books</i> ; Savvy Researcher project due
Nov.	1	T	Discuss <i>Tempest</i>
	3	Th	Paper 2 draft workshop (bring 2 copies of draft to class); review paper rubric and features of good writing; discuss selected elements of composition; read sample Paper 2 <u>in advance</u> of class; bring copy of sample Paper 2 to class; critique sample Paper 2 in class; wrap up with <i>Tempest</i> ; <i>Tempest</i> response re-evaluation (in-class writing)
	8	T	No class meeting - Paper 2 individual conferences (TBA)
	10	Th	Discuss <i>Tempest</i>
	15	T	Paper 2 due; introduction to reading and writing about poetry; view Dodge Poetry Festival video; explication handouts and samples for explication; Paper 3 assigned
	17	Th	Discuss and practice explication of selected poems; introduction to Harlem Renaissance and its legacy
	22	T	Discuss selected poems by African American poets (handout); in-class reading responses to assigned poems; Paper 3 topic due
	24	Th	No class - Thanksgiving Break
	29	T	Discuss selected poems by African American poets (handout); in-class reading responses to assigned poems; discuss re-write option
Dec. of	1	Th	Paper 3 draft workshop (bring 2 copies of draft); read sample Paper 3 <u>in advance</u> of class; bring copy of sample Paper 3 to class; critique sample Paper 3 in class; distribute Career Office materials for English majors/minors

6 T **Paper 3 due;** guest presentation by Career Office representative; read over Career Office materials for English majors in advance of class for Q&A and discussion; course review and evaluation