Welcome!
Hello and welcome to English 102 online. I am Mary Petersen, and I will be your instructor for this course. English 102 is designed to foster deep thinking about the connections of literature to the human experience and to the experiences of your life. The great Maya Angelou, reflecting on the importance of literature, said, “When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.” I hope that if you join this course, you will be inspired to explore the value of literature to your life. This orientation letter will help you determine whether taking this online course is right for you.

Course Description:
English102 is a reading and writing intensive class that builds on the critical thinking and writing practices begun in English101. This course emphasizes critical analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of literary works along with writing argumentative essays about literary works. Utilizing a variety of critical theories, students will perform close reading and analyses of a variety of literary genres—poetry, drama, fiction, and essay.

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the end of the course, students will be able to:
- Compose well organized expository essays of at least 5 pages that include appropriate supporting details and citation format and that develop the writer’s own argument.
- Analyze and evaluate the explicit and implicit meanings of a wide variety of written and visual materials, including academic essays, short stories, poems, advertisements, films, novels, and plays.
- Explain the basic principles of argumentation and apply them in their essays.

Prerequisites:
Successful completion of English 101 or English 101 Honors. English 102 meets UC and CSU transfer requirements.

Is online right for you?
An online course provides students with the flexibility of completing work when it is convenient for them. However, that does not mean that the course has no deadlines. An online class has strict assignment deadlines, just like a
traditional course. In fact, an online course requires more self-discipline than a face-to-face course. Without actually attending a scheduled class, students must be responsible to keep up with weekly readings and postings.

Students who do well in online courses tend to have the following qualities:

- They are independent, self-motivated, and disciplined to complete work by deadlines.
- They have effective time management skills.
- They enjoy cooperative learning experiences and communicating with others in writing.
- They have consistent and reliable access to the Internet.
- They have basic computer skills, including the ability to create, save and submit documents online.

If you are unsure whether an online class is right for you, take the distance learning readiness assessment at the following link. 
http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/Assessments.aspx

Texts and Materials:

- Literature: An Introduction to reading and Writing 5th compact ed., Roberts and Zweig ISBN# 979-0205000349
- The Elements (and Pleasures) of Difficulty, Salvatori and Donahue ISBN 978-0321106179
- The Handmaid’s Tale, Margaret Atwood ISBN# 978-0-385-49081-8

These texts can be purchased at the COC book store or online in advance by going to www.canyons.edu. Scroll down to the bottom of the homepage, click on “student resources,” then “bookstore.” You must purchase the text, and you must have it for the first day of class. If you order it online, make sure you allow time for delivery. Don’t wait until the last minute!

Requirements:

- A my.canyons email address. Education Code concerning student privacy requires that I contact you at your own personal email address, so I will not be using any other email address to communicate with you. Please check this email account frequently each week.

- Dependable, consistent access to the internet. Since your course work and our “class site” are online, your computer must have reliable internet access. All assignments and discussion board postings will be submitted online, so be sure that your internet access is dependable.

- Microsoft Word Processing capability. All course documents are written using Microsoft Word. Therefore, you must be able to open documents composed in MS Word. If you do not have Word, it is your responsibility to save documents in .rtf, .doc, or .docx. Make sure your classmates and I will not have problems opening your documents. Make sure that the format remains intact so that I can read and provide comments on your essays electronically.

- Turnitin.com. All essays will be submitted to turnitin.com before they are read or graded. Instructions for registering with turnitin.com will be provided.
Blackboard:
- We will use Blackboard as our course website. The course website will not be available until 6am on the first day of class, **August 25th**.
- To access the site, go to [bb.canyons.edu](http://bb.canyons.edu). Select our class section # and log in with your 7 digit COC ID and the password **student**.
- **NOTE:** You must log in on **August 25th**, complete the introductory discussion board and the online orientation by midnight, or you will be dropped from the class as a “no show.” Instructions will be provided on the home page.

Assignments:
- **Discussion board postings and response entries.** Each week, 2-3 discussion board postings will be assigned. These must be completed by the stated deadline to receive credit. You will also respond to classmates in these discussion forums. Detailed instructions for completing each discussion board posting will be provided.
- **Three formal, critical essays.** Articulation requirements with UCs and CSUs require that students in English 102 complete a minimum of 5-6,000 words or about 20 pages of polished writing. For this course, students will complete one 6 page essay and two 7 page essays. Each essay will require 3 drafts, and essays that do not meet minimum requirements for each draft will lose credit. Using literature and criticism to effectively to support and develop the essay is essential in meeting minimum length requirements.
- **Peer responses.** For each first draft, you will read and respond to the essay of a peer. These peer responses will be graded on their depth of insight, knowledge of effective essay organization, and helpful comments and suggestions. You will engage in small groups and respond to your group members’ second draft essays.
- **Quizzes:** Quizzes will be frequently assigned which assess comprehension of texts.
- **Final Exam:** This exam will involve self-reflection on the writing process and on your engagement with literature.

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; draft Essays (3)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; draft Essays (3)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; draft Essays (3)</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Responses (3)</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1000</td>
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A = 900-1000 points
B = 800-899 points
C = 700-799 points
D = 600-699 points
F = 599--below

**Final Words:**
I hope to provide you with a rich and rewarding experience in which you grow as a writer and critical thinker. I hope that the literature we study will inspire you, encourage self-reflection, and make you curious to learn more. I am committed to creating an optimal online learning environment for you.
Please feel free to contact me at mary.petersen@canyons.edu if you have any further questions about the course.

Thank you,
Mary Petersen