Welcome to ENGLISH 102 (15102)

Intermediate Composition, Literature, and Critical Thinking

A 100% Online Course for Winter Intersession 2015

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Welcome to English102: Intermediate Composition, Literature, and Critical Thinking. I will be your instructor for this 100% online course in English Composition and am happy that you are considering taking ENGL102 online. This Welcome page can help you decide if an English102 online is a right choice for you in fulfilling your curricular needs.

An online course allows students to have the freedom to do their work at places and time that are convenient to them. Such freedom, however, does not mean that there will be no deadlines. To many students’ surprise, an online class usually requires more discipline and determination than a face-to-face (F2F) class. More often than not, it also takes more time to complete assignments for an online writing class than for a F2F one.

In addition, this is a reading and writing intensive course, conducted in a very short term format: 5 weeks. Students are expected to devote, as they would for a F2F 5-week class, a minimum of 25 hours per week to complete their assignments and do well in this class. My goal for an online class is such that students, with the right books in their hands, can complete and submit all their homework at home, online, without having to leave their house. All homework will be done, quizzes taken, and essays submitted on Blackboard, our course’s management system. In order to do so, please make sure that you have the right books in your hand BEFORE the first day of class. See the information on textbooks below.

About ENGL102 at COC:

English 102 Student Learning Outcomes

1. Compose well-structured, grammatically-correct essays which assert the reader's analytical interpretation of a literary work and support that interpretation with convincing textual evidence.

2. Apply critical thinking, specifically multiple perspectives and elements of argument, to the analysis and interpretation of literature.
Course Objectives
By the successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Analyze the relationship between literary genre and meaning.
- Analyze the effect of point of view, character, diction, tone, imagery, figurative language, plot, and structure on the theme of the literary work.
- Relate the text’s values and assumptions to the social, historical, ethical, psychological, philosophical, or religious context of the work.
- Compare one’s own values and assumptions to those of the text, and debate the extent to which the literary work’s values and assumptions challenge those of the reader.
- Evaluate the formal and stylistic aspects of the literary work.
- Create a thesis that argues and assembles the reader’s interpretation of a literary work or works, and assemble supporting evidence to validate that interpretation.
- Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of one’s own arguments about literary works.
- Revise written work with attention to issues of organization, clarity, mechanics, and style.
- Examine logical fallacies in literary works and in the interpretations of those works.
- Analyze and evaluate other elements of reasoning, such as quality of evidence and underlying assumptions, in literature and arguments about literature.
- Compare and contrast literary theories.

Required Textbooks

   - If you are interested in purchasing the online e-book, use Bedford St Martin’s website and 2nd edition ONLY. Select the cover with the image of the woman walking. (Do not order the edition with the cover image of the man on the bicycle.)
   - Bedford E-Book. Literature to Go: Digital literature anthology: http://bcbedfordstmartins.com/meyerlit9e/#!/t_650423


5. Additional, free online resources – announced throughout the course. In addition to the textbooks, you will also be asked to read e-texts online, listen to podcasts, and watch instructional videos when available and applicable.

Course Description
Welcome to English 102! Through close reading, discussion, and written analysis of a variety of literary genres—poetry, short stories, plays, novels—students will develop their critical thinking and writing skills in this class.

Prerequisite: ENGLISH 101 or 101H

Course Expectations:
For the amount of reading and writing this course requires, Students are expected to invest at least 20 hours per week into this course. To keep yourself aligned with the progress of the class, you are required to log on to the course website at least four times a week with a lapse of no longer than a consecutive 72-hour period, weekend included: to remind yourself of the assignment due dates, to check if your classmates or I have responded to your postings, and to
see if any updates, announcements, or clarifications about assignments have been made. Such a 
“check-in” requirement is similar to a 5-week class that meets four times a week conducted in a 
F2F format. In addition, because this is a college level writing class, I expect students to be 
respectful in their postings and communication with the Instructor and their fellow students.

When you send an email, do observe the basic netiquette:
1) Be sure that you have “102 Your Name Brief Question” in your subject (such as: “102 J. 
Smith Problem logging in”),
2) Address the instructor properly: Dear Professor Kroll, (or your fellow student),
3) Employ proper language and style in your message, such as using complete sentences and 
proper punctuation, and
4) Sign your name, since some email addresses do not indicate who you are.

Email messages sent to me that do not observe the basic netiquette as mentioned above 
will not receive replies from me.

Course Schedule and Instructor Availability: The course website will be available after 5 AM 
on the first day of class. Please do not email me for early access to the course.

You will need to log in and finish the first assignment (a Discussion Board posting) before 11 
PM on Monday of Week 1, so I will not drop you from the class. (This is the same rule as the 
“first day no show” for F2F classes. It means: If a student does not show up for his/her first day 
class, he/she will be dropped by the Instructor.) The first assignment is relatively easy to 
do. If 
you complete your first assignment on time, I know that you have logged in and know how to use 
the basics of BB.

Normally, if you email me, during weekdays, Monday through Thursday, you can expect to 
receive a reply or an acknowledgement of your email from me within 24-45 hours.

However, emails to me should be extremely rare, because all course-related activities or 
questions are conducted on the course website, NOT via email.

After You Log in on the First Day of the Class:

Please perform the following three tasks, which should take you no longer than 30 minutes:
1) Go to Tools, click on Personal Information, to change your email address and password. 
The default email for all BB users is: student@canyon. So, you will need to change your 
email address to the one you check at least 4 times a week. If you do not change your email 
address right away, you will miss an email from me sent during the first week of class; 
(Please note: for this class, you will need a my.canyons email address that is yours only, 
not shared with someone else, such as your family members. This requirement is to ensure 
that the Education Code about student privacy is properly followed.)

2) Print out the course syllabus and study it carefully. You have reading and writing
assignments due as soon as Monday of the first week; and

3) Before 11 PM on Wednesday, the first day of class, post a 350-word writing on Discussion Board. See instructions on Assignment Schedule and Discussion Board for details.

**Required Texts: Students are required to buy the textbooks for the class. NO exceptions!**

There are required textbooks. The COC bookstore has them available for you to purchase. Please be sure that you have your textbooks in hand prior to the first day of class. You will have writing assignments based on the reading the first week of class. **Not having the book is not considered a legitimate reason to submit the late work.** Please make sure that you have the right book, with the right ISBN number, so you can do the required assignments.

**Course Requirements:**

- **Reliable Internet Access:** Because this is an online class, no homework will be excused due to unreliable internet access. If your internet has gone down for more than a day, you will need to complete your homework on campus, at a library, internet café, or a friend’s house.

- **Your Own Email Address:** To ensure that the Educational Code regarding student privacy is followed, you will need an email address that is yours, and yours only. I cannot share your course information or grades with anyone else, unless I have written legal documents to allow me to do so. Regardless of your age, when you are enrolled in a college class, you are treated/considered as an adult who is responsible for your own grades. Since I rely almost exclusively on online communications, such as email, to communicate with you when it comes to your grades and class performance, I will only do so if you have your own my.canyons email address that is not shared with others.

- **MS Word Processing Capacities Required:** All course documents are written in Microsoft Word, which is currently the most popular and accessible word processing program. **This class assumes that students can open the course documents composed in MS Word and that students will submit essays that can be opened in MS Word.** This does not mean the student has to buy MS Word if he/she does not have it; it means that, if the student do not use MS Word, **it is the student’s responsibility to save the document in either .doc, or .docx and to make sure that I will have no problem opening his/her documents in MS Word.** When I open the essay, **the format needs to remain intact as required.** In other words, it is the student’s responsibility to make sure that I can open and comment on his/her essays, and when I return the essay with comments and a grade, the student can read them with no difficulty.

- **Turnitin.com** All writings due in this class, formal essays and some Discussion Board postings, will need to be submitted to turnitin.com before they will be read/graded. No turnitin submissions, no grades.

- **Discussion Board (DB) Postings and Quizzes:** 3-4 fresh postings and approximately 6 replies per week
are expected. Occasionally, there may be some quizzes. All these will take place on Blackboard. Normally, each posting asks for a minimum of 350 words in length; some will be longer. So, do expect to write about 1,250 words per week on the Discussion Board, in addition to formal papers. This may include small group discussions. All postings are due on turnitin and DB before 11:00 PM on the due dates.

• Four Formal Essays: You will write a total of 4 formal, critical essays, with a minimum of 6,000 words to fulfill the transfer requirement. The class will end with a final reflection essay. Please see the syllabus and handouts for detail. The first three essays will require at least one draft.

Welcome to 102: I am looking forward to having you in this class. It is going to be a lot of work, especially when intensive reading and writing is expected for such a class; if you are unwilling or unable to invest at least 25 hours into this class, you should consider taking 102 from another instructor. Nevertheless, if you decide to take 102 with me this fall semester, I do believe that you will find your time and efforts well-spent and that you have learned much from the course on how to read critically, write intelligently, and analyze literature insightfully. Welcome Aboard!