

ENG210: Foundations of Literary Study I (section 731)

Summer Session One 2013 (5/13 – 6/27) – online at <http://d2l.msu.edu/>
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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm (and by appointment)

Course Description

Michigan State University officially describes ENG210 as a “[w]riting-intensive course in close reading, with substantial attention to poetry, drama, and narrative prose, drawing broadly on texts taken from more than one century and more than one national literature.” More generally, ENG210 functions as an introduction to the field of literary study. It familiarizes students majoring or minoring in fields of English with the reading methodology, critical vocabulary, and writing skills necessary for more advanced courses in literary study.

Course Objectives

- 1) Use the extended comparative study of poems, plays, and narratives as a launching pad to become critical interpreters of a wide range of literature.
- 2) Develop an understanding of the methodology of close reading—the key set of skills associated with literary studies—and utilize this process in order to argue for particular interpretations of texts.
- 3) Become familiar with the essential features of writing literary criticism while analyzing a variety of genres, historical periods, and national traditions.
- 4) Leave ENG210 ready to thrive in more specialized English courses and professionally in the field of literary study.

Required Texts (texts are required in these particular editions—exceptions noted below)

Vendler, Helen, ed. *Poems, Poets, Poetry: An Introduction and Anthology*. Third Edition. Boston: Bedford St. Martin’s, 2010. ISBN: 9780312463199

Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth*. Ed. Nicholas Brooke. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. ISBN: 9780199535835

Williams, Tennessee. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. New York: New Directions, 2004. 9780811216012

Austen, Jane. *Emma*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview, 2004. ISBN: 9781551113210

Ware, Chris. *Building Stories*. New York: Pantheon, 2012. ISBN: 9780375424335

Harmon, William. *A Handbook to Literature*. 12th ed. New Jersey: Longman, 2011. 9780205024018 ***10th or 11th editions also acceptable for this text

Final Grade Calculation

Final grades will be calculated by the following distribution:

Poetry Analysis	10 %
Dramatic Adaptation	15 %
Extended Argumentative Essay	20 %
Participation/Engagement	25 %
Close Readings	10 %
Critical Vocabulary Exam	10 %
Critical Analysis Essay Exam	10 %

Grading of Course Performance

All work will be graded on Michigan State University's standard numerical 4-point scale. The requirements, expectations, and grading criteria for a particular assignment or exam will be described in its own assignment sheet. Assignments may be summarized as follows:

Poetry Analysis: a brief (1,000 word) detailed examination of a single short poem demonstrating interpretive skill set, analytical faculty, and close reading proficiency; this assignment will go through a process of mandatory revision over the semester (the revised grade will supplant all previous scores)

Dramatic Adaptation: a creative thematic recasting (1,000 word or equivalent) of one dramatic scene using digital tools

Extended Argumentative Essay: a sustained and compelling argument (1,600 words) about a narrow aspect of *Building Stories* that demonstrates writing ability, close reading proficiency, and the usage of textual evidence

Participation/Engagement: Students are required to participate throughout the semester on a regular basis in ENG210. Because ENG210 is fully online, participation in course discussion becomes essential to the intellectual inquiry of the course. ENG210 is not a course in which students can work at their own pace; rather, students will build their literary skill sets at roughly the same times throughout the semester, thus facilitating meaningful interaction and discussion. Students are required to participate in the following ways:

- 1) Post and regularly engage in "Off the Cuff" forum, which contains informal responses to the literature
- 2) Respond to each close reading posted in your assigned Reading Community (250 words)
- 3) Participate in weekly Friday video chats with instructor and your Reading Community

Participation will be assessed midway through the course and at the end of the semester on the 4-point scale. Additionally, students may ask for an assessment of their participation/engagement score at any point during the semester.

Close Reading: brief (300-500 word) and methodologically complex analysis of one passage from one assigned text each week

Critical Vocabulary Exam: final exam (one hour) in which students demonstrate proficiency and familiarity with key literary studies terminology

Critical Analysis Essay Exam: final exam (one hour) in which students demonstrate writing and close reading skills by crafting a timed essay on a poem

*Note: Late work will not be accepted under any circumstance. Due dates are posted at the beginning of the semester, and students are therefore expected to plan their schedules in order to fully complete assignments on time. Students must complete the Poetry Analysis, Dramatic Adaptation, Extended Argumentative Essay, Critical Vocabulary Exam, and Critical Analysis Essay Exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Online Engagement and Civility

All students are expected to conduct themselves in the online environment with the same professionalism as in the classroom. Most importantly, all online interaction should be respectful of others' opinions and views. Moreover, students are expected to demonstrate engagement throughout the semester: this includes submitting work multiple times per week and maintaining active participation in the online discussion.

Reading Communities

At the beginning of the semester, students will be placed in small Reading Communities. These communities will interact throughout the semester multiple times per week. Reading Communities should actively engage internally on the “Off the Cuff” forum, as well as by responding to close readings each week. Moreover, Reading Communities are required to participate in a synchronous online video discussion each Friday for one hour. The specific times and groups for this discussion will be assigned at the beginning of the semester. For each missed session, a student will lose .3 from the final score of the course.

Office Hours/Email Communication

Office hours will be held between 12:00 pm and 2:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays in C739 Wells Hall. Please feel free to stop by anytime with questions, concerns, or course-related topics for discussion. Students can also set up a video chat or phone appointment with the instructor. If you would like to meet at another time, please contact the instructor via email (grancha@msu.edu) in order to set up an appointment.

Online office hours will also be held during this same time period on the Desire2Learn chat system. Students can also contact the instructor through email during this time and expect a timely response.

Students should feel free to email the instructor at other times with any questions or concerns they may have. The instructor checks his email inbox every weekday at 6 pm. In order to receive an answer on a particular day, students must email the instructor before this time; failure to do so may result in a response not being received from the instructor until the following weekday.

Students can contact the instructor by phone in cases of emergency at (906) 360-3604.

Submission of Work

All documents should be submitted as stipulated in the individual assignment sheets. All submitted work should be in .doc format; if you do not have Microsoft Word, you can download Open Office (www.openoffice.org), a free program that will provide the same functionality of Word. Please name your files with your last name followed by the assignment (for instance, Jones-PoetryAnalysis.doc). Your work will be returned (typically within a week) to you using the comment feature in Word with a long note explaining the breakdown of your grade.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in ENG210. In a literature course, students may be especially susceptible to plagiarizing the work of others; this action, however, is unacceptable and will be handled according to the disciplinary guidelines of Michigan State University (cases of plagiarism may lead to failure of the assignment or course, and proven cases of plagiarism could result in expulsion from the university). If you have any question about which acts constitute plagiarism, please ask the instructor for help or clarification before submitting an assignment.

Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities documented through the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities will be provided all accommodations necessary for success in ENG210.

Course Schedule

Students are expected to complete the listed readings before the designated date. Assignments should be submitted on Desire2Learn before 5 pm on the due date.

- W 15 May Introduction to Course; Distribution of Syllabus; **Ungraded Student Survey should be completed by 12 pm on Friday**

Module I: Close Reading and Poetry

- F 17 May First Synchronous Online Discussion, 1 pm; Vendler (xxxix-xliii, 653-679, 323-340); **Reading Communities Designated; Student Introductions should be completed as soon as possible**
- M 20 May Vendler (3-152), paying particular attention to Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" (93), Raleigh's "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" (94), Herrick's "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time" (101), Rich's "Necessities of Life" (112), and Plath's "Metaphors" (128); First Close Reading due
- W 22 May First Close Reading Responses due
- F 24 May Synchronous Online Discussion; Group Close Reading Recording
- T 28 May Vendler (153-320), paying particular attention to Cullen's "Heritage" (207), Hughes' "High to Low" (223), Alexie's "On the Amtrak from Boston to New York City" (249), Coleridge's "Kubla Khan" (256), and Wheatley's "On Being Brought from Africa to America" (298); Second Close Reading due
- W 29 May Close Reading Responses due; Responses to Group Close Readings Due (250 words)
- F 31 May Synchronous Online Discussion; **Poetry Analysis (submitted before 5 pm)**

Module II: Renaissance and Contemporary Tragedy in Theatre

- M 3 June Shakespeare, *Macbeth*; Close Reading due
- W 5 June Close Reading due
- F 7 June Synchronous Online Discussion
- M 10 June Williams, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; Close Reading due
- W 12 June Close Reading Responses due
- F 14 June Synchronous Online Discussion; **Poetry Analysis Revision (submitted before 5 pm)**

Module III: Rethinking Fictional Narratives

- M 17 June Austen, *Emma*; Close Reading due
- W 19 June Close Reading Responses; **Dramatic Adaptation (submitted before 5 pm)**
- F 21 June Synchronous Online Discussion
- M 24 June Ware, *Building Stories*; Close Reading on student-selected text from eliterature.org due
- W 26 June Synchronous Online Discussion
- R 27 June **Critical Vocabulary Exam (submitted before 5 pm); Critical Analysis Essay Exam (submitted before 5 pm); Original Argumentative Essay (submitted before 5 pm)**