

# English 115-1

## Introduction to Language and Literature

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**CLASS:**

Spring 2014 (April 29-May 16)  
Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm  
Room: *TBA*  
Office Hours: *TBA*

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Dr J. Goossen  
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### DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to post-secondary studies in English by examining developments in literature and language in and over time. Students will study particular themes and compare different genres in and across a broad array of texts, placed in their historical contexts, which may range from the Renaissance to contemporary times. This course aims at developing sensitivity to genre, cultivating writing skills, and providing students with a set of literary terms and critical techniques as a foundation for further literary study.

A minimum of 30% of class time will be devoted to writing instruction. Because the course integrates writing instruction with the study of literature—writing through literature—the stated minimum will normally be exceeded. Graded written assignments, informal writing exercises, writing workshops, free-writing exercises, stylistic analysis, research skills, peer editing, multiple drafts, and ungraded writing will be undertaken. Students will be required to write at least two essays that will be marked and formally graded. During the course, students will write at least 3000 words.

*Spring Session:* The three-week / half day format of our course is distinct from most other modular courses at Ambrose. Its virtue, however, is to allow students to practice immediately the reading and writing skills taught in class and to receive regular and immediate instructor commentary on their development of those skills. This close integration of course lectures, readings, and assignments is crucial to acquiring the knowledge and skills taught by the course.

### OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to major literary genres, concepts, and terms
- To teach students literary analytical techniques with which to understand literature for their profit and delight
- To build competence in writing through the study of literature, giving close attention to mechanics, structure, argument, editing, and research techniques

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Hacker, Diana. *A Canadian Writer's Reference*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford St. Martin's, 2012.

Kennedy, X. J. and Dana Gioia. *Backpack Literature*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Pearson, 2012.

Lewis, Janet. *The Wife of Martin Guerre*. Athens, Ga.: Swallow, 1967, 2013.

Shakespeare, William. *Much Ado About Nothing*. Ed. Peter Holland. The Pelican Shakespeare. London: Penguin, 1999.

*Dictionary:* Students should own a good desk dictionary to support their writing and their entire course of studies. The mother of all dictionaries, the full *Oxford English Dictionary*, is available online via the Ambrose Library website and our course Moodle site.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATION

- All assignments are **due by the beginning of class** on the date specified. For each, a digital file must be uploaded to Moodle *and* a paper copy submitted in class.
- **All** assignments must be submitted to receive a passing final grade.
- **Extensions** may be granted on essay assignments in exceptional circumstances, but must be arranged in advance (or vouched for by medical, etc. documentation). **Late papers** will be marked down one refined letter grade per class day (Tues-Fri) late, and may not be graded in a timely manner.
- **Readings** must be completed **before** the class for which they are assigned.
- In addition to assigned readings, **you are responsible for the content of all lectures**. In other words, attend class.
- The most current version of this syllabus, texts discussed in class, and any supplementary handouts will always be available on **Moodle**. Any **changes** to the syllabus will be announced in class and noted in the online version.

### *Participation – 5%*

**Participation** is your visible engagement with the class and the readings: read the assigned texts before class, look alert in class, ask questions, share your thoughts, and visit my office when you need help. It goes without saying that this requires regular attendance: skip classes and your grade will suffer.

### *Literalization Exercises – 4 x 5% ea. = 20%*

To understand a poem, one must first identify its plain, literal meaning. You will write **five** sonnet literalizations; the last **four** will count toward your grade. Moreover, you may **rewrite** any one literalization and resubmit it. **Due as indicated** on course calendar; **optional rewrite due TBA**.

### *Essays – 10%, 20%, 25%*

Essays will allow you to develop your writing ability by practicing three different aspects of textual analysis: **explication (1000 words; 10%)**, **comparison (1500 words; 20%)**, and **research (1500 words; 25%)**. **Essay 1 thesis due TBA; Essays due TBA** respectively.

### *Final examination – 20%*

The exam will be comprehensive of the entire course. **Friday, May 16**.

*Further directions for these assignments will be given well before they are due.*

## CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

In order for each of us to get the most out of this class, please observe the following:

- Arrive on time. Attendance will be taken.
- Do not talk compulsively. Be self-aware and leave space for others' voices.
- Do not be silent. Speaking is a crucial aid to formulating your thoughts on a topic.
- No eating in class. Unslurped beverages are fine.
- Students may not use any device more technologically complex than a pen in our classroom. Beeping mobile phones will be confiscated.

## GRADING SCALE

| Letter Grade | Percentage | Description  |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| A+           | 96-100     | Excellent    |
| A            | 91-95      | Excellent    |
| A-           | 86-90      | Excellent    |
| B+           | 82-85      | Good         |
| B            | 75-81      | Good         |
| B-           | 72-74      | Good         |
| C+           | 68-71      | Satisfactory |
| C            | 63-67      | Satisfactory |
| C-           | 60-62      | Satisfactory |
| D+           | 56-59      | Poor         |
| D            | 50-55      | Minimum Pass |
| F            | 0-49       | Failure      |

### AMBROSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

#### Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension” from the Registrar’s Office. **Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline** (as listed in the Academic Calendar; online). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.

#### Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. **Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own.** Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. **Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college.** Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record. **In order to discourage plagiarism, papers submitted for this course will be subjected to an originality analysis by Turnitin software. For more information, see [http://turnitin.com/en\\_us/features/originalitycheck](http://turnitin.com/en_us/features/originalitycheck).**

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

**Course Schedule – EN 115-1 – Spring 2014**

***TBA***