

**Wheeling Jesuit University | Department of English**  
**ENGL 115W-02 | Explorations in Literature (3 cr)**  
**Spring 2019 | MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am**  
**Acker Science Center 312**

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### **[Catalog Description] ENGL 115W: Explorations in Literature (3 crs)**

Students will read works from several different literary genres that examine selected topics within literary studies. Using fundamental tools of literary analysis, students will produce a variety of writing assignments. **Prerequisite: COMP 105**

### **Required Textbooks**<sup>1</sup>

1. Barnet, Sylvan, et. al., eds. *Literature for Composition: An Introduction to Literature*. 11<sup>th</sup> edition.  
**ISBN: 978-0134678702**

### **Student Learning Objectives**

ENGL 115W centers on both introducing students to literature as a discipline and improving writing and critical thinking skills. Students should be able to:

1. Review the defining literary characteristics of the three literature genres (*Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding*);
2. Define plagiarism and recognize its significance in an academic community as well as the consequences of plagiarizing (*Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding*);
3. Demonstrate the use of effective diction, sentence variety, logical organization, coherent transitions, and standard grammar, punctuation, and MLA format in the writing of several short essays (*Bloom's Taxonomy: Applying*);
4. Revise at least one essay, integrating the feedback and suggestions provided on an earlier draft and pre-writing assignments (*Bloom's Taxonomy: Evaluating*);
5. Construct an appropriate thematic interpretation of a literary text through literary analysis (*Bloom's Taxonomy: Evaluating*).

### **Course Expectations**

**Attendance:** *This class is interactive*, so in order to do well you must be present at class meetings.

Moreover, you should arrive to class on time and remain in the classroom for the duration of the class.<sup>2</sup> As stated in the WJU Course Catalog, "Prompt and regular attendance at all the classes [. . .] and other activities that are part of a course is expected of every student. Failure to attend a class [. . .] for any reason is counted as an absence; University policy does not differentiate 'excused' from 'unexcused' absences." (47).

<sup>1</sup> There may be times during this class, when writing exams or an in-class term paper, that students may access a course text while writing. If so, the text must be the approved, hard-copy edition; there will be no access to electronic readers during exam- or essay-writing sessions, and there will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

<sup>2</sup> If you need to use the restroom or get a drink, please do so prior to the start of class.

The WJU Course Catalog also states: “First-year and all students on academic probation are permitted no more than six absences in 3-credit courses that meet three times a week” (47). If you fit into either of these two categories and you miss more than six classes, **for any reason**, you will receive the grade of FA (Failure due to Absence).

*Note on Attendance:* I expect that you will attend every class period. Habitual absence will negatively affect your course grade. Habitual lateness and/or early departure will negatively affect your course grade. I define lateness as entering the classroom after I have concluded taking role. Falling asleep in my class and/or are using your cellular phone **in any capacity** during the class period will negatively affect your course grade.

*Individual Participation:* Attend class **prepared** to ask and answer questions; remain alert; take notes; and *participate actively* in daily discussions about assigned readings and in-class activities (including group work). I will take into account class participation in borderline grade situations. (*This happens more than you may realize.*) An important part of this course will be your own shared responses to the works we read and discuss.

Unless you have spoken to me WELL in advance and I have approved of alternate arrangements, an absence for whatever reason in no way excuses you from work due during that class period or the following class period. **You** are responsible for obtaining any notes, handouts, and other course materials if/when you miss class.

**Assignments:** Complete all reading and writing assignments **prior to class** (*with the exception of in-class writing assignments*). Always bring the assigned reading, a notebook, and a writing utensil with you to class. Submit/complete all assignments on time. Follow directions carefully for each assignment.<sup>3</sup>

**Respect:** Be respectful both of your professor and of your fellow students. This includes the manner in which you address others, your participation in class discussions, and your general attitude toward the course. More specifically, students should arrive to class on time, remain attentive, respect the classroom dynamic re: participation, and refrain from accessing and/or using cellular phones and/or other electronic devices.

**Email:** An official WJU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this WJU email address. In your emails, include a salutation, maintain a professional and respectful tone, use appropriate diction, and sign your name.

**NO LAPTOPS:** This class is a technology-free zone, which means that **laptops, I-Pads, Nooks, I-phones or any other form of technology beyond a notebook, a pen, and the text are prohibited**. While they may be brought into the classroom with the best of intentions – i.e. to take notes – they invariably serve as a distraction not only to the owner but also to other students in the general vicinity.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> If a student fails to attend class on the date of a major assignment, that student will automatically incur a penalty/grade deduction. It is at the discretion of the professor—based on the circumstances—to determine the appropriate penalty/grade deduction.

<sup>4</sup> A student who falls under ADA policy is the only exception to this rule. If you *do* fall under ADA policy, verification of the disability and compliance with all other pertinent University policies will be required.

## TWO IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS ON CELLULAR PHONES:

1. Out of respect for your instructor and fellow students, turn your cellular phone (and all electronic devices) **off**—not on “silent” or “vibrate”—for the duration of the class. Moreover, I expect you to put your phone away in your backpack/purse—not on your desk, in your lap, on the floor, etc.—for the duration of the class.
2. Students are prohibited from accessing cellular phones, smart watches, and other electronic devices **FOR ANY PURPOSE** during an exam, in-class essay, or other formal in-class assignment. If a student is caught accessing any of the aforementioned devices during the specified time—regardless of intention or purpose—the professor will confiscate the exam, dismiss the student from the class for the remainder of the period, **and assign the grade of “0” to the assignment in question**. This is a department policy, and there will be NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Last Date to Drop the Course:** The last day of the Add/Drop Period for this semester is Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of a W is Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## Evaluation Methods

**NOTE #1:** All (typed) submitted work must adhere to the citation guidelines set forth by MLA (8<sup>th</sup> edition). They must be typed in 12-pt. Times New Roman font, double spaced, and stapled. Papers must have 1” margins, and each page should be numbered: insert a header with your last name and page number in the upper right corner of every page, including the first. Points will be deducted from papers not meeting these requirements. If you have questions or are unfamiliar with MLA format, please review Chapter 46 in your required textbook, see me, or visit the Academic Resource Center.

**NOTE #2:** Although formal assignments should typically be single-sided, you are permitted to print ALL typed assignments in this class—formative and summative—**double-sided** (to save the trees!).

## Grading Scale

100%-93%	A	86%-83%	B	76%-73%	C	66%-60%	D
92%-90%	A-	82%-80%	B-	72%-70%	C-	59% & below	F
89%-87%	B+	79%-77%	C+	69%-67%	D+		

## Literary Terms Tests: 30%

- 10% Fiction
- 10% Poetry
- 10% Drama

## In-Class Writing Assignment: 10%

You will complete one in-class writing assignment on a text that has not been discussed in the course (chosen by Yours Truly). Your in-class writing assignment will be a coherently organized, evidence-based, and critically sophisticated essay that analyzes a literary element (also chosen by Yours Truly) to support a meaningful interpretation of the text. You will be permitted to access the text in order to complete this essay. I will provide you with more detailed guidelines on how to structure a literary essay prior to the assignment deadline.

## Poetry Reflection Essay: 5%

You will complete one in-class reflection assignment on a poem that has not been discussed in the course (chosen by Yours Truly). Your reflection must be organized, thoughtful, and grammatically correct. You

will be permitted to access the poem in order to complete this assignment. I will provide you with more detailed guidelines prior to the assignment deadline.

### **Drama Review: 10%**

You must write a drama review after attending any performance of the musical *Man of La Mancha*, in Troy Theater, book by Dale Wasserman, lyrics by Joe Darion, and music by Mitch Leigh. It is a loose adaptation of the novel *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes but it is not meant to be a faithful rendition of the novel. The play, performed by the WJU Theater Guild, will run **April 04, 05, 06 at 8:00 PM and April 07 at 2:00 PM**. I will provide you with more detailed guidelines on how to structure your drama review prior to the assignment deadline.

### **Reading Quizzes: 15%**

- You are expected to complete all **announced and unannounced** reading quizzes.
- A student can make up a quiz **only** if he/she: (1) misses class while officially representing Wheeling Jesuit University (for athletic or academic reasons); (2) provides me with written documentation from a WJU authority **prior** to the absence; **AND** (3) has made **prior** arrangements with me to make up the quiz.<sup>5</sup>
- **You may not make up a quiz for oversleeping or missing class without prior notice**, nor may you make up a quiz if you have already participated in a class discussion of the work.
- Students are **not permitted** to show up, take the quiz, and leave. Students must be present for **the entire class period** in order to receive credit for a quiz given that day.
- At the end of the semester, I will drop the lowest **two** reading quiz grades (including a zero<sup>6</sup>) before factoring your final grade.
- If students are late to class, I will not repeat any questions (for any student) that have been dictated prior to the last student's arrival.
- Cheating on a reading quiz will result in the grade of zero for that quiz.

### **“Process” Assignments: 10%**

This category includes any “process”-centered assignments completed in ENGL 115w. Throughout the semester, students will write with a focus on **process** rather than **product** and engage in the process of drafting in order to constantly improve both writing and critical thinking skills. “Process” assignments listed on the course assignment schedule that fall into this category include (but are not limited to):

1. In-class essay template;
2. Typed thesis statement for final paper;
3. Detailed sentence outline for final paper;
4. 1-pg. reflection assignment (due with revised final essay).

### **Revised Final Essay: 20%**

As the final course assignment in ENGL 115w, students will compose a coherently organized, evidence-based, and critically sophisticated comparison-contrast essay. For this assignment, students will compare/contrast the same text used in the aforementioned in-class essay assignment and another short story that we have discussed in class. The essay must be typed and in MLA Format. I will provide further details on the assignment later in the semester.

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<sup>5</sup> If there are extenuating circumstances, it is at the discretion of the professor—based on those circumstances and the student's accountability—to determine the appropriate course of action re: a missed quiz.

<sup>6</sup> Exception: If you receive a zero due to cheating, that grade will not be dropped. Your next lowest quiz grade will be dropped instead.

## Turnitin.com

This course will be using the program Turnitin.com, which is now integrated into Blackboard.

Turnitin.com is an educational website and database that promotes the appropriate use of intellectual property. The content of students' papers submitted to Turnitin.com receives a thorough comparison to the program's database of previously submitted papers, Internet sites, and published material. Wheeling Jesuit University is sponsoring this program for our faculty and students to foster academic integrity.

## ENGL 115w Policy for Late Work

### **Smaller Assignments**

For smaller assignments—such as materials for peer workshops—***no late work will be accepted***. You must arrive to class with all smaller assignments completed in order to receive credit. If you arrive to class on the due date without your assignment, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

### **Formal Assignments**

For formal assignments, you must submit an electronic copy of the paper to TurnItIn.com (via Blackboard) and a paper copy in person to me by the start of class on the due date. *You have not completed the assignment until you have submitted an electronic copy to Turnitin.com and a paper copy in person to me.* If the paper is submitted after the start of class on the due date, your grade will be reduced by 5%. If the paper is submitted the following day, your final grade will be reduced by 10%. If the paper is submitted two days late, your final grade will be reduced by 20%. If the paper is submitted three or more days late, I will not accept it. For formal essays, you will earn a zero on the assignment.

## Blackboard

We will be using Blackboard during this course: <https://wju.blackboard.com/>. I will post pertinent course documents, announcements, and other helpful information on the site. Please visit Bb regularly before each class period. I will also use both the Grade Center feature and the Attendance feature on Blackboard throughout the semester. Consequently, each student may track his/her progress and attendance record at any point during the semester by accessing both individual grades and a “running total” of course points via the Grade Center.

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity means giving credit where credit is due in an academic setting. A violation of academic integrity at Wheeling Jesuit University can fall under one of two categories:

1. It is unethical to present as your own work the ideas, representations, or work of another.
2. It is unethical to permit someone else to present your ideas, representations, or work as his/her own intellectual property.

All of the work submitted by you must be your own work product. Consequently, students must refrain from consulting sources that discuss the literary texts assigned for this course. All critical articles, resource guides, and **plot summaries** are off-limits. **Students will need to rely on their own abilities**; they should not use the insights of others as a substitute for their own analysis. The point of this class is for students, through discussion with their classmates, to address key issues and themes in the study of various forms of literature through progressive steps of interpretation.

Students are advised that WJU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course (see [www.wju.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.wju.edu/studenthandbook)). Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of the Academic Vice-President. The sanctions that may be imposed upon finding that a violation of academic integrity has occurred range from a reduction in grade on the assignment to dismissal from Wheeling Jesuit University without expectation of re-admission. If you are ever unsure about whether you have properly credited a source, please contact me before submitting the assignment.

You are required to read the "Academic Integrity and Dishonesty Policy" section of the student handbook for further details on the academic integrity policy and the consequences of violating this policy at WJU: [http://www.wju.edu/about/hr/policies/cl\\_academicdishonesty.asp](http://www.wju.edu/about/hr/policies/cl_academicdishonesty.asp). You are also required to read the "Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures" document on Blackboard. During the first week of the course, you will be asked to submit a written statement via Blackboard, which indicates your comprehension and acceptance of the academic integrity policies in this course. ***NOTE: I will not grade any of your work in this class until you have submitted your written statement.***

### **Disability Services**

Wheeling Jesuit University offers students with documented disabilities individual accommodations on a case-by case basis with confidentiality in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

In order to receive academic or physical accommodations, students with disabilities must provide current (within three years) and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of the disability and communicate their needs to the Disability Services Director, located in Ignatius Hall Room G24 (phone number: 304-243-4484). Students are required to meet with the director to develop accommodation plans that they will present to their course instructors at the beginning of each semester. Students with disabilities that require specific housing accommodations must contact both the Director of Residence Life and the Disability Services Director.

Ultimately, all students with disabilities are responsible for their own academic achievement. They must attend classes, complete course assignments, and fulfill all university requirements for their chosen field of study. It is up to students with disabilities to seek out available assistance on campus and to utilize individualized accommodations that promote academic success.

It is your responsibility to make known to me any disability for which you are requesting accommodation. Verification of the disability and compliance with all other pertinent University policies will be required. Unless you fall under the ADA policy, no additional accommodations will be made for in-class work, including quizzes, tests, and in-class writing assignments.

### **The Academic Resource Center:**

The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is a totally free academic-support service available to all enrolled Wheeling Jesuit University students and staffed almost exclusively by WJU students recommended for employment by WJU faculty. The ARC is located in Bishop Hodges Library and is open five days a week (Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m.; Mondays-Thursdays 1:00-9:00 p.m.). Please visit the ARC's website (readily accessible on the Cardinal homepage under "Quick Links" or as the first listing under "Student Services") to learn about the ARC's services (emphasizing writing, math, and the sciences) and to schedule appointments.

## **Title IX Statement:**

Wheeling Jesuit University seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about your options at WJU, please go to <http://wju.edu/titleix/>.



## **ENGL 115W Tentative Schedule of Assignments<sup>7</sup>** **Dr. Phillips | Spring 2019**

Most reading assignments listed below come from *Literature for Composition: An Introduction to Literature*  
**The last day of the Add/Drop Period for this semester is Friday, January 11th, 2019. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of a W is Tuesday, March 26th, 2019.**

Monday, January 7, 2019	Introduction to Course
Wednesday, January 9, 2019	Chapter 2: "How to Engage in Critical Thinking about Literature: A Crash Course" (11-23)
Friday, January 11, 2019	<b>Unit 1: Fiction</b> Chapter 12: "Reading and Writing about Stories" (440-50) <b>Matching Terms Quiz #1</b>
Monday, January 14, 2019	William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" (451-56)
Wednesday January 16, 2019	William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" Day Two
Friday, January 18, 2019	Kate Chopin's "The Storm" (87-91)
Monday, January 21, 2019	Kate Chopin's "The Storm" Day Two
Wednesday, January 23, 2019	Ambrose Bierce's "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" (146-52)
Friday, January 25, 2019	Ambrose Bierce's "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" Day Two Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" (484-95)
Monday, January 28, 2019	Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried" Day Two
Wednesday, January 30, 2019	Alice Walker's "Everyday Use" (1010-15)
Friday, February 1, 2019	Alice Walker's "Everyday Use" Day Two Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado" (236-240)
Monday, February 4, 2019	Edgar Allan Poe's "The Cask of Amontillado" Day Two
Wednesday, February 6, 2019	Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" (1299-1307)
Friday, February 8, 2019	Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Young Goodman Brown" Day Two
Monday, February 11, 2019	Literary Terms Test/Content Review In-Class Essay Template Overview
Wednesday, February 13, 2019	Literary Terms Test #1
Friday, February 15, 2019	<b>Unit 2: Poetry</b>

<sup>7</sup> Schedule subject to change. The reading and writing assignments are to be completed **prior to class on the date listed** in the left-hand column.

	Chapter 15: "Reading and Writing about Poems" (766-85) <b>Matching Terms Quiz #2</b>
Monday, February 18, 2019	Robert Frost "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" (269-70) <b>[Hawthorne Templates Due]</b>
Wednesday, February 20, 2019	<b>Preparation for In-Class Essay</b> Chapter 6: "Close Reading: Paraphrase, Summary, and Explication" (165-191) Chapter 7: "Analysis: Inquiry, Interpretation, and Argument" (192-219) <b>Matching Terms Quiz #3</b>
Friday, February 22, 2019	John Updike's "Ex-Basketball Player" ( <b>Blackboard</b> )
Monday, February 25, 2019	William Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18" (342)
Wednesday, February 27, 2019	In-Class Essay
Friday, March 1, 2019	John Donne's "Holy Sonnet XIV" (189)
March 4 – March 8, 2019	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK!
Monday, March 11, 2019	Preparation for In-Class Poetry Reflection Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" (807 – 808)
Wednesday, March 13, 2019	Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" Day Two
Friday, March 15, 2019	Marge Piercy's "Barbie Doll" (981-82)
Monday, March 18, 2019	In-Class Poetry Reflection
Wednesday, March 20, 2019	Walt Whitman's "I Hear America Singing" (359) Langston Hughes' "I, Too [Sing America]" (359)
Friday, March 22, 2019	Literary Terms Test #2
Monday, March 25, 2019	Final Paper Assignment Discussion of In-Class Essays Preparation for Final Paper: Comparison-Contrast Chapter 1: "How to Write an Effective Essay about Literature: A Crash Course" Chapter 9: "Comparison and Synthesis" (317-48 [skim])
Wednesday, March 27, 2019	Detailed Sentence Outline Info & Discussion Discuss Drama Review Assignment Chapter 8: "Pushing Analysis Further: Reinterpreting and Revising" (251-96 [skim])
Friday, March 29, 2019	<b>Unit 3: Drama</b> Chapter 14: "Reading and Writing about Plays" (547-56) "A Note on Greek Tragedy" (614-15) <b>Matching Terms Quiz #4</b>
Monday, April 1, 2019	Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> (616-27 [read to "Exit Ismene, Antigone, and Guards])
Wednesday, April 3, 2019	Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i> (627-39)
April 4, 5, 6 at 8:00 PM and April 7 at 2:00 PM	Students are required to attend <i>Man of La Mancha</i> in Troy Theater!
Friday, April 5, 2019	Sophocles' <i>Antigone</i>

	Ibsen Background Information/Terms <b>Thesis Statement for Paper Due</b>
Monday, April 8, 2019	Henrik Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> , Act I (1340-60)
Wednesday, April 10, 2019	Henrik Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> , Act II (1360-75)
Friday, April 12, 2019	Henrik Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> , Act III (1375-89)
Monday, April 15, 2019	Finish Ibsen's <i>A Doll's House</i> MLA Format Appendix B: "The Basics of Manuscript Form" (1403-16) <b>Drama Review Due</b>
Wednesday, April 17, 2019	Discuss Final Reflection Assignment Detailed Sentence Outline Workshop <b>Detailed Sentence Outline Due</b>
April 19 - April 22, 2019	<b>NO CLASS: EASTER BREAK!</b>
Wednesday, April 24, 2019	Final Paper Discussion
Friday, April 26, 2019	Literary Terms Test #3
<b>Wednesday, 1 May</b>	<b>Final Paper and Reflection Assignment Due by 10:30 am in Dr. Phillips' office (ASC 314E)</b>