

ENGL 120 V14 – Writing in Context II

Spring 2024

Department of English

INSTRUCTOR	Professor Nalencz
CLASS MEETING DAY AND TIMES	TR 2:30-3:55
CLASS LOCATION	FH 412
OFFICE LOCATION	Humanities Hall A321
PHONE	718-405-3311
E-MAIL	leonard.nalencz@mountsaintvincent.edu
OFFICE HOURS	Monday and Wednesday 4:00-5:30 pm (virtual) or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Second course in a two-semester sequence, designed to develop college-level reading, critical thinking, writing, information literacy, and research skills. Students complete speaking and writing tasks of increasing difficulty, including a formal research paper in response to literary texts, to gain facility in formulating, supporting, and revising their ideas. Not for English major credit. (3 credits)

PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES, AND CROSS-LISTING:

Prerequisite: the successful completion of ENGL 110 (with a grade of C or higher)

TEXTS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

Literature: A Portable Anthology, Fifth Edition, edited Janet Gardner, et al.
ISBN: 978-1-319-21503-3

Also: Bring a notebook every day for notetaking and in-class writing, and a folder with pockets in which to keep drafts and papers organized.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

Course Outcome	Course Assessment	Alignment with College and/or Department Learning Outcomes
1. complete writing tasks of greater complexity of thought and expression in response to literary texts than in Writing in Context I	1. evaluation of drafts and scaffolded writing assignments including a research paper	1. written communication; analysis; DLO #4
2. develop a coherent argument that includes a thesis and support as in WIC I, but with a greater level of competency	2. evaluation of drafts based on instructor's feedback	2. written communication; DLO #4
3. show greater evidence of the skills needed for writing and editing compositions with clarity, correctness, and precision	3. evaluation of drafts; grammar and sentence-construction exercises; quizzes	3. critical thinking; DLO #4
4. research, document, and synthesize information for the purpose of writing a cogent, cohesive, and interesting thesis-based research essay	4. evaluation of written work according to rubrics	4. information literacy; DLO #6
5. master accessing necessary information from computer databases available for basic scholarly research	5. research paper	5. technological competency; DLO #5

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6. through the writing of argument essays and the interaction with literary texts, begin the development of a personal ethical framework	6. class discussions; papers	6. ethics and values
7. through the interaction with literary texts, their own writing and that of their peers, develop an appreciation for the complementary nature of diversity of backgrounds, common humanity, and the dignity of each person	7. class discussions; papers	7. common humanity

GRADING POLICIES:

Grading is based on the quality of drafts, written assignments, in-class writing assignments, quizzes (announced or unannounced), exercises, the frequency and quality of participation in class, degree of improvement, and attendance. Participation includes participating in class discussions showing evidence that you have read and carefully considered the assigned material, and as writers/responders in small groups. Once again, a grade of C or better is required to pass this course.

Unless you have arranged for an extension in advance of the due date, all late papers will be downgraded one third of a letter grade for each day past the due date.

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College Grades	Quality Points	% of Total Points in Course
A	4	93 to 100
A-	3.67	90 to 92
B+	3.33	87 to 89
B	3	83 to 86
B-	2.67	80 to 82
C+	2.33	77 to 79
C	2	73 to 76
C-	1.67	70 to 72
D+	1.33	67 to 69
D	1	60 to 66
F	0	0 to 59

Grade Distribution:

3 essays + drafts (20% each)	60%
Research Paper	25%
Class participation/ quizzes	5%
Final Exam / Class presentations	10%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Assignment	Writing
1/30	Introduction; Natasha Trethewey, "History Lesson" (661), Seamus Heaney, "Digging" (718)	What are secondary sources?
2/1	Jimmy Santiago Baca, "Family Ties" (745-6), Kathy Fish, "Collective Nouns for Humans in the Wild" (770)	
2/6	Shakespeare, <i>Othello</i> Act 1.1-1.2	
2/8	<i>Othello</i> Act 1.3	In class writing.
2/13	<i>Othello</i> Act 2	
2/15	<i>Othello</i> Act 3	
2/20	<i>Othello</i> Act 4	
2/22	<i>Othello</i> Act 5	Draft of first essay due in class
2/27	Glaspell, <i>Trifles</i> (1033-1044)	First Essay Due on Canvas!
2/29	Glaspell, <i>Trifles</i> (1033-1044)	
3/5	Wilson, <i>Fences</i> (1121-1134)	
3/7	Wilson, <i>Fences</i> (1135-1150)	
3/12	Wilson, <i>Fences</i> (1151-1164)	Draft of second essay due in class.
3/14	Wilson, <i>Fences</i> (1165-1179)	
3/19	Nottage, <i>Sweat</i> (1233-1247)	Second Essay Due on Canvas!
3/21	Nottage, <i>Sweat</i> (1248-1262)	In class writing
4/2	Nottage, <i>Sweat</i> (1263-1277)	In class writing
4/4	Nottage, <i>Sweat</i> (1277-1291)	
4/9	Nottage, <i>Sweat</i> (1292-1302)	
4/11	Victor Hernández Cruz, "Problems with Hurricanes" (737-8), Maggie Smith, "Good Bones" (807), Layli Long Soldier, "38" (824-826)	
4/16	Research Essay: Topic Writing About Plays: (98-105)	Bibliography, first source: 2 paragraph summary due in hard copy in class

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4/18	Writing a Literary Research Paper (105-118, 134-138)	Second source: 2 paragraph summary
4/23	Class Presentations	Third source: 2 paragraph summary
4/25	Class Presentations	Third Essay: Annotated Bibliography due.
4/30	Class Presentations	Final research paper: draft due in class
5/2	Class Presentations	Essay #4 Research Paper FINAL due on Canvas.

In keeping with College Policy, the Final Exam will be scheduled during the Final Week (May 9-13).

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to familiarize themselves and comply with all College policies and procedures, including but not limited to the College policies on Academic Honesty and Student Conduct as described here <http://www.mountsaintvincent.edu/5162.htm> as well as all College policies and procedures described in the Student Handbook and (for undergraduates) the Undergraduate Catalogue (for undergraduate students), or for graduate students, the Graduate Catalogue.

Any writing assignment that is plagiarized or submitted without an appropriate draft (if required) will automatically fail. A plagiarized research paper will result in failure of the course, and will be reported to the Dean of the Undergraduate College.

Academic Support Services

The College of Mount Saint Vincent offers a range of academic support services which might be helpful to students in this course; these services are described at <http://www.mountsaintvincent.edu/385.htm>.

Attendance

Students are required to attend all classroom, laboratory, and clinical sessions. Students are expected to arrive at classes on time. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they will miss class and it is the responsibility of the student to make up all work if absent from class. For prolonged absences, the student must notify the Office of Academic Advisement.

If a student is not in class due to illness or quarantine, he or she will be required to attend the class via Canvas conference. Each student must contact me individually before class and clearly state the reason that he or she requires a link to class. The link will only be given to students who are ill or quarantining. Students who are traveling or who overslept or who are having car trouble, etc., are not eligible to receive the Canvas link to class.

Any student missing the equivalent of more than two weeks of classes (5 absences) will fail the course. Three latenesses = one absence.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the College's Office of Disabilities Services. Students who are eligible to receive reasonable accommodations at the College of Mount Saint Vincent must register with the Office of Disabilities Service. Students must complete a "Request for Reasonable Accommodation" form and submit supporting documentation. Eligibility is determined under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act 2008 (ADA). Students are responsible for self-identifying and seeking services with the Office of Disabilities Services. A reasonable accommodation is defined as a service that does not fundamentally alter the programs, course design, living space, and activities provided to other students. In addition, the accommodation may not pose a financial or administrative burden to the college. A reasonable accommodation request can be initiated at any time during the student's academic enrollment at the College. However, accommodations are not retroactive. The application and decision process varies; therefore, students are encouraged to begin the process at least 4 weeks in advance of the date they are requesting to start their accommodations. To receive more information on eligibility and services, contact the College's Office of Disabilities Services located at the Seton Library, room 210.

Essay Format

Essays must be typed, in 12-point Times New Roman font with one inch margins, and double-spaced. Include your name, course (English 120 MA1), the assignment number, date due, my name, and a title (but no title page). All papers (unless otherwise noted) must follow the MLA format. I will not grade essays that do not adhere to these guidelines.

*Unless you have arranged for an extension in advance of the due date, **all late papers will be downgraded one letter grade for each day past the due date.**

Note: Get into the habit of emailing yourself copies of your essays and/or saving them onto flash drives *as you work on them*. If you email yourself copies of your essays, be sure to label them *clearly* in the subject of the email so that you can find them easily.

Classroom Etiquette

Please turn off cell phones and put them away while you are in class. Everyone's full attention is required at all times during class periods.

You may **not** use laptops or other electronic devices during class unless you have a letter from the administration. Print any documents (like rough drafts of your essay) before class.

You may bring a beverage to class, but please be mindful that this is a public space: avoid food that is excessively noisy or disruptive.

Presentations.

These will be a **required presentation** on your final/research essay and the secondary sources you are compiling as you prepare to write.