

CCU INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE
MISS NORIAN BROWN
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PREREQUISITES

- minimum of a 3.0 GPA for previous 2 semesters
- minimum of 90% A- average over both semesters of 11th-Grade English **OR**
- minimum of 80% B- average over both semesters of AP English Language

COURSE DESCRIPTION

CCU Introduction to Literature is a dual college credit course that will engage students in the reading and critical analysis of literature, including novels, short stories, poems, dramas, and essays. Through close reading, students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. As students read, they will consider a work's structure, style, and themes as well as such smaller-scale literary elements such as the use of figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone.

Students will be held accountable for grammar usage throughout the course in essays and major projects.

Students will study vocabulary formally using a textbook as well as informally in conjunction with reading assignments and projects.

READING

The reading in CCU Introduction to Literature is wide and deep. Students will read works from several genres and periods—from the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries. While studying each work, students will read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. In short, students will read, interpret, and evaluate literature from a social, historical, and biblical perspective.

WRITING

Writing is an integral part of the CCU Introduction to Literature course. Writing assignments will focus on the critical analysis of literature and will ask students to write to understand, to explain, and to evaluate literature. Well-constructed creative writing will help students see from the inside how literature is written. The goal of these assignments is to increase the students' ability to explain clearly, cogently, and elegantly what they understand about literary works and why they interpret them as they do. Students will be given an opportunity to revise their essays after peer edits or after student/teacher conferences. Emphasis is placed on helping students develop stylistic maturity, which is characterized by the following:

- a wide-ranging vocabulary used with denotative accuracy and connotative resourcefulness;
- a variety of sentence structures, including appropriate use of subordinate and coordinate constructions;
- a logical organization, enhanced by specific techniques of coherence such as repetition, transitions, and emphasis;
- a balance of generalization with specific illustrative detail; and

- an effective use of rhetoric, including controlling tone, maintaining a consistent voice, and achieving emphasis through parallelism and antithesis.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- three-ring binder (at least 4")
- lined paper (college-ruled, 8½"x11")
- access to computer, internet, and printer
- pencils/pens/highlighters
- erasers
- reliable dictionary
- dictionary of synonyms and antonyms (not a thesaurus)
- 3"x5" and 4"x6" index cards
- current public library card

TESTS AND QUIZZES

Students will take one midterm halfway through each semester and a final exam at the end of each semester, which will be cumulative of the semester.

- Midterms are worth 150 points (the equivalent of three essays).
- Final exams are worth 15-20% of the student's final grade.

Quizzes may or may not be preannounced and may take up to 10-20 minutes to complete.

- Reading quizzes will cover a small amount of material.
- In-class essay quizzes will be preannounced.
- Vocabulary quizzes will be every Friday.

PROJECTS

Students will have regular writing assignments, essays, and projects, which must be typed in MLA format unless otherwise noted.

Students will read assigned short stories and novels in class and independently.

Students will have two long-term projects during the course:

- First semester—a literary research paper.
- Second semester—a poetry research paper.

For all major writing assignments, students will print a hard copy as well as upload a copy to Turnitin.com.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS

Material covered in class is sometimes difficult to make up; thus, attendance is mandatory. If the student is aware of a forthcoming absence, notice to the teacher will be given and assignments will be turned in ahead of time for full credit. If a student is absent, he should turn in assignments the day he returns to school or within as many days as he was absent (if more than one day). (These absent assignments do not include previously assigned essays and projects. Essays and projects are due on the assigned dates. Ten points will be deducted for late essays and projects for each day late.)

HOMWORK

Students should expect to receive homework assignments each day. Homework assignments will be due the following school day unless otherwise noted.

Students must turn in homework at the beginning of each class period. Late homework assignments will NOT be accepted.

Students may email homework assignment as attached files *as a last resort*. Homework assignment must be sent before class begins.

COMMUNICATION

Grades are updated at least once per week. Students should check grades regularly.

Email is the preferred form of communication. There will be a response to emails within twenty hours. Students should also check their personal email inbox regularly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students may study together and discuss topics or concepts covered. Any assignment turned in must be the individual student's original work.

Plagiarism is prohibited. According to the *American Heritage Dictionary*, plagiarizing is "the copying of another person's ideas, text, or other creative work, and presenting it as one's own."

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will automatically receive a zero on the assignment. Both students will receive demerits, which may result in disciplinary probation or expulsion.

Students who copy from online resources without proper attribution (or plagiarize) will automatically receive a zero on the assignment and will receive demerits.

Any students exhibiting collaborative behavior during a test or a quiz will receive a zero on the test or on the quiz and will also receive demerits.

TEXTS

Cather, Willa. *My Antonia*
Myer, Michael. *Literature to Go*. Third edition.
Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*
Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*
Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*
James, Henry. *Daisy Miller*
Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*
Wharton, Edith. *Ethan Frome*
Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*