

Department of English, Bethany Lutheran College

**ENGL 205 Introduction to Fiction**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor Information**

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(**Note!** My last name is **Kempfert** (with a ‘t’), but my email

address is **jkempfer@blc.edu** (without a ‘t’).

**Required Course Materials**

* Short readings will be uploaded to Moodle for free
* A copy of the novel *Grendel* by John Gardner is required (either physical or ebook)
* Two novels of your choosing (see the Novel Critique Assignment Sheet)
* Access to assigned digital media (YouTube, possibly Disney+). Physical media (DVD, BluRay, etc.) of the assigned materials is also acceptable. Whenever possible, links to media will be provided by instructor.[[1]](#footnote-2)
* Access to Disney’s *Coco* (2017)[[2]](#footnote-3)
* Google Documents

**Overview**

ENGL 205 introduces literary terminology most commonly used in discussing and writing short stories and novels. Emphasis is placed on relationships between authors’ lives and their fiction, as well as individual works of fiction that have influenced other authors’ fiction. In addition, cultural literacy is addressed with a focus on the research of literary allusions.

**Objectives**

The goal of ENGL 205 is to encourage students to:

* Adjust their use of written language and their writing processes to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences for different purposes;
* Write in a variety of modes for reflection, writing-to-learn, various audiences, and presenting research in a creative format (BLC ENG OBJ);
* Apply correct MLA formatting guidelines to projects (BLC ENG OBJ);
* Demonstrate basic cultural literacy pertaining to course content, including identifying correctly allusions of the times, excerpts from renowned works, and works written by key authors (BLC ENGL 205 CO1);
* Ask effective questions of a literary text, based on their own interaction with the text, including how the text is significant in relation to their own lives and the lives of others, and in relation to other texts (BLC ENGL 205 CO2);
* Exhibit a minimum competency of a foundational knowledge of literary terminology and use said terminology to analyze and evaluate works read (BLC ENGL 205 CO3);
* Develop an appreciation for literature so that as educated young people they will lead more full and satisfying lives (BLC ENG OBJ).

**Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

* Correctly identify allusions taken directly from literature selected for this course;
* Correctly identify excerpts from literature selected for this course;
* Correctly identify excerpts from works written by authors read in this course;
* Ask effective questions of the various texts selected from this course;
* Define literary terminology and then apply it to course texts for evaluating its usage by authors read in this course, both on paper and in discussions;
* Respond personally to literature in at least one way not previously experienced;
* Write persuasively, using literary terminology correctly;
* Write creatively in a manner used by one or more authors read in this course.

**Instructional Strategy**

This course is offered and formatted online. The course will utilize the structures of online instruction (discussion posts, online quizzes, readings, viewings, and submission of writings) incorporated into the structures of active, cooperative learning.

**Grading Criteria[[3]](#footnote-4)**

Discussion Forums 30%

Unit Performances & Assessments 40%

Novel Critiques 20%

Writing Exercises 10%

**Late work receives 0 pts. unless a student first discusses his or her situation with the professor. Excused late work (i.e., when discussed with the professor before the assignment is due) will not receive full credit; it will automatically get docked -10%.**

**Assessment**

* Perform peer critique on select writing assignments;
* Revise and submit writing assignments for instructor evaluation;
* Critically read and review a variety of fiction;
* Demonstrate familiarity with basic stylistic elements of all published texts that students are assigned through online activities and writing tasks;
* Participate in class discussions (posting format).

**Unit Breakdown**

***Unit 1: Fiction Structures in Short Stories***

* Read and discuss short stories to analyze story structures: figurative language, characterization, theme, setting, story form, POV, etc.
* Unit 1 Performance & Assessment
* Novel Critique #1
* Writing Exercises
* Peer Reviews

***Unit 2: Fiction Structures in Novels & Cinema***

* Read and discuss the novel *Grendel* by John Gardner
* Read and discuss the hero’s journey in TV shows, film, and possibly video games with the following components: analyze characterization, theme, setting, story form, point of view, etc.
* Unit 2 Performance & Assessment
* Novel Critique #2
* Peer Reviews

**Academic Integrity Policy**

In *Rules for Writing*, author Diana Hacker asserts that research “is a collaboration between you and your sources. To be fair and ethical, you must acknowledge your debt to the writers of these sources. If you don’t you are guilty of plagiarism, a serious academic offense.” Hacker also lists three different acts of plagiarism a writer can commit, including: “(1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words.” The only information you do not need to cite in academic work is “common knowledge,” or information readers can find easily in general sources because many people know it already (110).

In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else. Writers certainly may use another person’s words and ideas, but if these words and ideas are copied word for word they must have “quotations marks” and they must be cited immediately—before the end of the sentence – like this (Johnson 4). If words are paraphrased or summarized, cite the source by the paragraph’s end.

NOTE: If a student is found to have plagiarized, the professor reserves the right to fail him or her for the assignment and/or the course. Please be aware that some professors use TurnItIn.com and other resources to identify purchased papers and other forms of cheating.

**The above policy applies to all plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional.  
Even unintended plagiarism is subject to this policy.**  
**When in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, or if you have any questions, please email me!**

**BLC Memorial Library Staff**

From research to formatting citation guidelines, BLC students may seek assistance from the Memorial Library staff concerning a variety of topics. The staff is friendly and they welcome your digital requests!

Name and Title: Alyssa Inniger, Library Director / E Resources Ref

Office Location: ML 205

Office Phone: 507.344.7874

Email: alyssa.inniger@blc.edu

Name and Title: Jessica Zimmerman, Reference Librarian / Instruction

Office Location: ML 212

Office Phone: 507.344.7349

Email: Jessica.zimmerman@blc.edu

ML Services: <https://www.blc.edu/library-services>

**Late Work Policy**

‘Late work’ constitutes any assignment turned in after the assignment deadline on Moodle.

**Late work receives 0 pts. unless a student first discusses his or her situation with the professor. Late work will not receive full credit; it will automatically get docked -10%.**

It’s a good idea to keep in mind that all deadlines are electronic and are therefore inflexible. Try your best to get work done early. One never knows what might come up at the last minute. “To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.” While I understand that the only reliable thing about technology is its reliable capacity to fail at the worst possible time, **computer/operator error is never a valid excuse for late work**.

1. You will be given plenty of time to obtain materials. If links to digital material are not provided, students can also request items like TV shows and films through a local library. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. As of the writing of this syllabus (11-27-2019), *Coco* is available on Disney+, DVD, Blu-ray, digital rental, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Grading criteria is subject to change. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)