

Common Course Outline
ENGL 243
Contemporary Literature
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

ENGL 243–3 credits – Contemporary Literature explores selected works of contemporary Western literature from 1950 to the present. Students learn how contemporary writers in different cultural, political, and geographical contexts use language and literature to communicate and question their experiences and modern life.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 101 with a “C” or better.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. discuss and analyze selected examples of important contemporary Western literature;
2. identify the main trends, issues, and motifs in contemporary Western literature;
3. define stylistic characteristics, and analyze recurring themes reflected in contemporary Western literature;
4. engage in critical discussion about questions and problems related to the texts;
5. apply relevant critical approaches and theories to works of contemporary Western literature;
6. examine changing societal values and mores of the literary genre as they relate to the moral and ethical decisions of individuals;
7. assess the ways in which the selected literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context;
8. analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature;
9. analyze the impact of social and cultural forces upon contemporary Western literature;
10. examine the needs and problems of various national groups as expressed in contemporary Western literature;
11. write a well-informed literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support;
12. navigate scholarly databases, evaluate the available sources, and identify appropriate material;

13. incorporate appropriate academic sources into essays by summarizing, quoting, and paraphrasing ethically and correctly; and cite sources according to the assigned formatting and style guide;
14. utilize learning management systems (e.g. Blackboard) as appropriate to the academic environment; and
15. utilize appropriate technology to convey stylistically correct presentations.

Major Topics

- I. Canonical and non-canonical contemporary Western texts
- II. Selected literary criticism
- III. Film studies of the selected texts
- IV. Genre studies
- V. Biography and autobiography
- VI. Cultural contexts—issues of race, class and gender in individual texts and larger issues of literary production and canon formation.

Course Requirements

Grading procedures, exams, and writing assignments will be determined by the instructor. However, all students will:

1. Participate in class discussions and/or online exchanges through established chat rooms, discussion boards, list serves, or other instructor-determined platform.
2. Write at least two literary analysis essays with appropriate academic sources, for a total of not less than 2500 words, and take at least one exam with an essay component.
3. Collaborate with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.
4. Multiple assignments must infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives, and at least one assignment worth a minimum 10% of the total course grade must allow students to demonstrate *at least 5* of the following General Education Program outcomes: Written Communication; Critical Analysis and Reasoning; Technological Competence; Information Literacy; Scientific and Quantitative or Logical Reasoning; Local and Global Diversity; and Personal and Professional Ethics.

Other Course Information

Students will utilize learning management systems and other technology as appropriate to the academic environment.

This course is an approved General Education course in the Arts and Humanities category. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for General Education course criteria and outcomes.