

**ENGL 243**  
**Contemporary Literature**  
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

**Description**

**ENGL 243 – Contemporary Literature:** is a course that explores selected works of contemporary 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 contemporary life.

**Pre-requisites:** Successful completion of English 101 with a C or better

**Overall Course Objectives**

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

1. analyze selected examples of important contemporary literature;
2. discuss different literary genres and periods as they have been traditionally defined, and the ways in which these definitions have been challenged;
3. identify the main trends, issues, and motifs in contemporary literature;
4. analyze recurring themes and stylistic characteristics reflected in contemporary literature;
5. engage in critical discussion about questions and problems related to the texts;
6. apply relevant critical approaches and theories to works of contemporary literature;
7. examine changing societal values and mores of the literary genre as they relate to the moral and ethical decisions of individuals;
8. assess the ways in which the selected literature contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context;
9. analyze the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature;
10. analyze the impact of social and cultural forces upon contemporary literature;
11. examine the needs and problems of various national groups as expressed in contemporary literature;
12. write a well-informed, logical literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support;
13. find, evaluate, use, and cite appropriate academic sources in essays according to the assigned formatting and style guide;
14. utilize digital resources for exploring humanities as appropriate to the academic environment; and
15. compose stylistically correct assignments using appropriate technology.

**Major Topics**

- I. Canonical and non-canonical contemporary texts
- II. Selected literary criticism
- III. Film studies of the selected texts

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- IV. Genre studies
- V. Biography and autobiography
- VI. Cultural contexts:
  - a. Race, class, and gender in individual texts
  - b. Literary production and canon formation
- VII. Inter- and intra-textual connections
- VIII. Literary analysis

### **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- participation in weekly discussions in-class and/or online
- literary analysis essay(s) with appropriate academic sources, of at least 2500 words, one of which assesses 5 of the 7 General Education Outcomes and accounts for 10% of the overall course grade
- one exam with an essay component
- collaboration with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.

Written assignments and research projects: Students will utilize learning management systems and other technology as appropriate to the academic environment.

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Arts and Humanities. One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes.

Date Revised: 1/16/2024

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.