

ENGL 245
Introduction to Literary Studies
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

ENGL 245 – Introduction to Literary Studies: introduces the core elements of literature and literary studies. The basic genres, conventions, and characteristics of literature are examined; special focus is given to investigating and interpreting literary texts at an introductory level. Contemporary literary theories and methodologies are introduced; students analyze some of the basic theoretical concepts underpinning the study of literature. Students also gain experience applying techniques used in literary analysis, including critical analysis, literary research, and close reading skills.

Pre-requisites: Completion of ENGL 102 with a C or better

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. identify major methods of literary analysis;
2. identify major schools of literary criticism;
3. employ contemporary literary terminology in assignments;
4. recognize the conventions and styles of major literary genres;
5. describe several major tenets of literary theory;
6. construct an argument about a literary text based on a specific literary theory;
7. explain some of the features and elements that are used in the field to separate literary texts from non-literary texts;
8. discuss the ways in which the relationships between context, reader, writer, and text can affect perceptions of the value and meaning of literature;
9. recognize some of the debates that occur in the field of literary study;
10. demonstrate the ways in which issues of race, gender, and class shape works of literature and the contexts for literary interpretation;
11. compare the ways in which the concept of a literary tradition has been defined and the ways in which such definitions have reflected and supported aesthetic and ethical values associated with diverse cultures;
12. illustrate the ways in which literature reflects and also contributes to its particular historical moment and cultural context;
13. engage in critical discussion about questions and problems related to literary texts and literary criticism;
14. write a well-informed, logical literary analysis using appropriate terminology and textual support; and
15. find, evaluate, use, and cite appropriate academic sources into essays according to the assigned formatting and style guide.

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

Major Topics

- I. Literary terminology
- II. Literary analysis
- III. The study of literature as a field
- IV. Perceived differences between literary and non-literary texts
- V. Literary genres
 - a. Conventional genres
 - b. Unconventional genres
- VI. Cultural contexts and major debates in the field of literary studies
 - a. Race, class, and gender in individual texts
 - b. Literary production and canon formation
 - c. Perceptions of readers, writers, and texts
 - d. Factors contributing to value and meaning of literature
- VII. Methods of literary criticism
 - a. Techniques and methodology
 - b. Major schools
 - c. Literary theory
- VIII. Literary criticism and research
 - a. Methods for source selection
 - b. Research application and literary analysis

Course Requirements

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

- participation in discussions in-class and/or online
- literary analysis essay(s) with appropriate academic sources, for a total of not less than 2500 words
- one exam with an essay component
- collaboration with peers on a project that will be presented to the class.

Date Revised: 2/4/2025

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