English 1102: English Composition II, Spring 2011

Section 20, CRN 20327: MW 3:30-4:45 Arts & Sciences 140

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| Office Hours: | It’s not soccer, it’s football. |

**Course Description**

The [undergraduate course catalog](http://catalog.gcsu.edu/ugrad/4267.htm#o4726) describes English 1102 as "a composition course that develops writing skills beyond the levels of proficiency required by ENGL 1101, emphasizes interpretation and evaluation of texts, and incorporates a variety of more advanced research methods."

This course's [Academic Assessment page](http://rome.gcsu.edu:8090/4DCGI/SACS/CourseDetail/ENGL1102) describes our topics:

* Basic introductions to various types of literature, including poetry, drama, fiction, and/or film.
* Strategies for college-level writing about literary texts, including vocabulary, grammar, style, purpose and audience.
* Basic research methods for college-level work.
* Analysis of texts orally (class discussion) and in writing.

as well as course outcomes:

* To reinforce principles of writing acquired in ENGL 1101;
* To reinforce the principles and strategies of argumentation and analysis acquired in ENGL 1101.
* To understand complexities of culture in order to write or speak about them.
* To create forceful and effective written argument in the academic environment.
* To reinforce principles of academic research and how to synthesize research in writing so that the insights and documentation are logical and clear.
* To gain insight into various ways of interpreting texts and presenting insights about them in writing.

All students, regardless of their degree program, must earn a grade of C or better in English 1102, as it, along with English 1101, fulfills the Area A. Essential Skills requirement in the Core Curriculum.

**Course Materials**

*required* ([GCSU Bookstore](http://www.gcsu.bkstr.com) or [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/9WI39E10I1KP?reveal=all&filter=all&sort=date-added&layout=standard&x=8&y=6))

*Exploring Literature, 4th ed.* (ed. Madden, Frank)

*Dien Cai Dau* (Komunyakaa, Yusef)

*The Road* (McCarthy, Cormac)

**Assignments and Grade Distribution**

Daily Reading Response Journal, 10%

For each class, you will come prepared with a list of the three most important sentences (or possibly the three most important lines for poems) from each work, followed by a short paragraph-long justification of your choices. I will collect journals twice during the semester, and average the two scores.

Paper 1: Close Reading, 20%

The 4-page close reading will rigorously analyze a poem of at least 15 lines. On the final due date, you will also conduct a reading of your chosen poem.

Paper 2: Idea & Theme 20%

4-6 page paper that explores a prominent idea/theme in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*.

Paper 3: Soundtrack 20%

Create your own score for Hamlet.

Paper 4: research, 30%

The 6-8 page research paper will research and interpret an issue in a work of literature.

Note: In addition to lateness, lack of quality, coherence, or convincing argument, these are the other, more technical ways your paper grades can suffer:

* + 1. Length. For every page short, I will deduct a full ten points from the paper. If you hand in a 4-page paper for a 4-6 page assignment, for example, I expect the text to reach near the bottom of that fourth page.
    2. Not handing in drafts. For your first two papers, I’m requiring a Rough Draft and a Final Draft. Handing in only one draft will result in an automatic 20-point deduction.
    3. Improper formatting. See “MLA Style” below.

**Grade Scale**

90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), 60-69 (D), 0-59 (F)

**Course Policies**

*Class Preparation and Participation*

I expect you to come to class having read, annotated, and reviewed the assigned reading (see above, below). We're going to be working with challenging texts; therefore, we'll all benefit from sharing our ideas and questions. Consider this your only warning: if you are caught using your cell phone or sleeping while in my class, **you will be marked absent for the day.** No questions asked, no exceptions.

*Office Hours and Professor Email*

I encourage you to stop by during my office hours to discuss any aspect of the course, literature, or life. I'm happy to answer minor questions such as due dates over email, but I prefer face-to-face conversations for more substantive topics like paper content and/or research.

*MLA Style*

Formal assignments should adhere to the Modern Language Association (MLA) style. You should probably own an MLA style guide of some sort; if not, there are a few in the library, as well as several online sources. Double-check your papers for formatting/grammar errors and typos (spelling/grammar check doesn’t always catch everything) before turning them in. **All papers should be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins.**

*Attendance*

There will be a one letter final grade deduction for every absence beyond two days. Therefore, **missing six class periods will result in automatic failure of the course**. I suggest you use your two days both cautiously and wisely. Excuses like work, family, and scheduled doctor's appointments will be **declined.** The only acceptable excuses are death in one's immediate family and one's own medical emergency. If you participate in an extracurricular activity that you anticipate will cause you to miss class, I suggest you switch sections now.

*Late Assignments*

There will be a one letter assignment grade deduction per day (*not* class period) for any assignment that is turned in late. I sparingly give short extensions if you request one for a valid need; however, you must make the request at **least one day before the assignment is due**. I repeat: if you ask for an extension on the due date, before, during, or after class, it will NOT be granted.

*Plagiarism*

Do not do it. The [Honor Code](http://www.gcsu.edu/studentlife/handbook/code.htm) defines plagiarism as "presenting as one's own work the words or ideas of an author or fellow student. Students should document quotes through quotation marks and footnotes or other accepted citation methods. Ignorance of these rules concerning plagiarism is not an excuse. When in doubt, students should seek clarification from the professor who made the assignment." [Section 3.01](http://info.gcsu.edu/intranet/handbooks/academic_affairs/aahandbook/301.html) of the Academic Affairs Handbook elaborates other examples of academic dishonesty and outlines disciplinary procedures and appeals for academic misconduct. As plagiarism is not tolerated at GCSU, any student found guilty of willful plagiarism will fail the assignment and the course.

***Failure of the Course***

There are three ways to fail the course: 1) failing to regularly attend class, 2) plagiarizing, 3) failing an assignment that is worth 20% or more of the course grade, be it from poor quality, lateness of submission, or a combination of poor quality and lateness. By contrast, students who regularly attend class, complete their work with academic integrity, and submit assignments on time will pass the course.

*Withdrawal*

The last day to add a course is January 12. The last day to drop a course without fee penalty is January 14. The last day to withdraw without academic penalty (unless previously assigned an F by professor for absences) is Monday, March 8.

*Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability*

If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility.  Disability Services, a unit of the GCSU Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GCSU programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements.  For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact [Disability Services](http://www.gcsu.edu/equity/disabilityservices.htm) located in Maxwell Student Union at 478-445-5931 or 478-445-4233.

*The Writing Center*

[The Writing Center](http://www.gcsu.edu/writingcenter/) is a free service available to all members of the university community. Consultants assist writers in the writing process, from conception and organization of compositions to revision to documentation of research. Located in Lanier Hall 209, the Center is open Monday through Friday. Call 445-3370 or email [writingcr@gcsu.edu](mailto:writingcr@gcsu.edu) for more information.

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be conducted during the semester.  In the event of a fire alarm signal, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit.  Learn the floor plan and exits of the A & S Building.  Do not use elevators.  Crawl on the floor if you encounter heavy smoke.  Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life.  Assemble for a head count on front lawn main campus.

*Grades*

All grades are non-negotiable; I will not tolerate campaigning.

**Course Schedule** (subject to change)

POETRY

1/10: Course & syllabus outline, expectations

1/12: Poetry introduction; how to read “closely;” Auden, “Musee des Beaux Arts,” (688) Devenish, “Icarus Again,” (689) Atwood, “You Fit Into Me,” (776), Doty “Shahid’s Couplet” (handout)

1/14: Shakespeare, “Sonnet 29,” (84) Donne, “Death, Be Not Proud,” (1205) Berryman, “Dream Song 14;” (handout). Last day to drop course w/out fee penalty.

1/17: **No class (MLK holiday)**

1/19: Thomas, “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night,” (1230) Doty, “Brilliance,” (1227) Hall, “The Wedding Couple” (782)

1/24: Komunyakaa, “Camouflaging the Chimera,”(3) “Starlight Scope Myopia,” (8) “A Greenness Taller Than Gods” (11)

1/26: Komunyakaa “Roll Call,” (15) “Sappers,” (24) “A Break From the Bush,” (27) “2527th Birthday of the Buddha” (18)

1/31: Komunyakaa, “Communique´” (30) “Toys in a Field,” (56) “Facing It” (63)

2/2: **No class (professor at conference)**

2/7: Paper 1 Rough Draft due; poetry readings

2/9: Peer review & in-class writing

FICTION

2/14: Paper 1 Final Draft due; Hemingway, “Hills Like White Elephants,” (732) O’Brien, “The Things They Carried” (1172)

2/16: Ellison, “Battle Royal” (459)

2/21: Joyce, “Eveline,” (194) “Araby” (445)

2/23: *The Road* (1-72)

2/28: *The Road* (73-204)

3/2: *The Road* (204-287)

3/7: Paper 2 Rough Draft Due; peer review; last day to drop course w/out academic penalty

3/9: In-class writing/revision

DRAMA

3/14: Paper 2 Final Draft Due; Mamet, *Oleanna* Acts I & II(1232)

3/16: Mamet, *Oleanna* Act III

3/21: **No class (Spring Break)**

3/23: **No class (Spring Break)**

3/28: Shakespeare, *Hamlet* Acts I-III

3/30: Shakespeare, *Hamlet* Acts IV & V

4/4: Paper 3 (Soundtracks) due, presentations

FILM

4/6: *The Hurt Locker*

4/11: *The Hurt Locker* (conclude & discuss)

4/13: *Valhalla Rising*; research paper handout

4/18: *Valhalla Rising* discussion

4/20: Research conferences (sign-up)

4/25: Library research day

4/27: Library research day

5/2: Research paper due by 5:00