 **Date:** Nov. 2015

Course Name and Number:

**English Literature**

 37-091-01

**Year of Studies:** 2015-2016 **Semester:** Spring  **Hours/credits:** 3

**Course Description** In this course, we will read and discuss literary works in the main genre of the short story, one short novel, and a play.  Please allot sufficient time outside of class to do the reading and essays, attend class to discuss the material and write and hand in the responses.

**Course Objectives**

* To develop analytical skills and critical thinking through reading, discussion, and written assignments.
* To broaden a student’s reading experience.
* To deepen a student’s awareness of the universal human concerns that are the basis for literary works.
* To stimulate a greater appreciation of language as an artistic medium and of the aesthetic principles that shape literary works.
* To understand literature as an expression of human values within an historical and social context.

The main objective of this course is to foster a critical appreciation of literature through the close examination of texts. In addition, this course will focus on critical thinking and writing through interpretation, evaluation, comparison, and analyzation of ideas expressed in the literature. Through close examination of texts, discussion of those texts, and short writing assignments, you will develop your abilities as a **critical thinker.**

Writing is a key element in developing critical thinking skills. Because of this close connection between writing and critical thinking you will be asked to write one to three pages per week. Much of this will be informal writing in response to weekly readings expressing your own critical thoughts.

Course Materials: You will need a computer with internet access and a printer for this course. There are several computer labs available on campus. Bring a pen or pencil, paper, and the text we are studying to class each meeting.

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| **Date** | **Text** | **Class** | **Submission** |
| 11.2.16 | Introduction. Isaac Bashevis Singer, “The Fool’s Paradise” | Intro to literature, literary analysis: requirements of academic writing  | In-class ½ page response to Singer’s short story |
| 18.2.16 | James Joyce, “Araby” | Elements of a story | Responses to Joyce |
| 25.2.16 | Washington Irving, “Adventures of a German Student”  | Setting | Joyce essay due; class activity on Irving |
| 3.3.16 | Eudora Welty, “A Worn Path” | Character; Theme | Class response to Welty; Irving essay due |
| 10.3.16 | Jack London, “To Build a Fire”  | Images; Symbolism | Welty essay due; response to London |
|  | Edgar Allen Poe, “The Masque of the Red Death” | Symbolism | London essay due; Poe class activity |
| 24.3.16 | PURIM vacation  |  |  |
| 31.3.16 | Ernest Hemingway, “Indian Camp” | Theme; Character | Poe essay due; Class activity on Hemingway  |
| 7.4.16 | Writing workshop | Revising your own and classmates’ essays | Bring in drafts of Hemingway or other essays |
| 10.4.16-1.5.16 | Pessach vacation |  |  |
| 5.5.16  | Golan trip |  |  |
| 12.5.16 | Yom Ha’atzmaut |  |  |
| 19.5.16 | Elie Wiesel, *Night* |   | Response to first ½ of Wiesel |
| 26.5.16 |  |  | Concluding Wiesel |
| 2.6.16 | Oscar Wilde, “The Importance of Being Earnest” |  Interpreting drama | In-class dramatization |
| 9.6.16 | Summing up |  | Class evaluation; last day to submit 4 final essays |

***Grade***

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| Essays (best 4) | **80** |
| Reader response (10) | **20** |
| **Total Points** | **100** |

***Course Requirements***

**Readings**: You must keep up with the assigned readings.

Participation: Your active participation in this course is very important. Participation includes: taking part in class discussion and group activities, completing in-class writing and taking part in class discussions. I want to hear your thoughts about what you’ve read. This, of course, means that you will need to *READ*. Please come prepared by having read the material.

**Reader Responses**: You will write a short response to the weekly reading assignment for each class period (one page, approx. 200 words written in class). These will be collected. You’ll be asked to address some specific aspect of the reading, such as plot, character, conflict, etc.

**Essays:** You will write at least four (4) essays this semester in addition to the informal written responses. Each essay will be between 500 to 750 words in length.

**Writing resources**

 *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*

Diane Hacker, *A* *Writer's Reference with Writing About Literature*

Edgar V. Roberts*, Writing Themes About Literature*

 Literature essays: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/618/01/>; <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/EngPape>r/

 Grammar, Syntax, Style: <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/index.html>;