

Anoka Ramsey Community College – Coon Rapids Campus
English 2202: Introduction to Literature
Summer Session 2001 / Section 95
Tuesdays & Thursdays / 6:30-9:50 p.m. / Humanities 122

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Required Text:

Charters, Ann, and Samuel Charters. Literature and Its Writers: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama. Compact 2nd ed. Boston: Bedford-St. Martin's, 2001.

Recommended Materials:

- A college dictionary
- A college English handbook (e.g. *The New Century Handbook, Quick Access*)
- A reading and class notebook

Overview:

This course develops the college-level study of literature. We will engage a wide range of writing including poetry, short fiction, and drama. We hope you will enjoy what we read as well as the process of interpreting the significance of this literature to us. We've chosen these words carefully because we intend our considering of these texts to be exploratory, an ongoing interaction with the ideas we discover.

Discussion, then, will be an integral part of this course and is one of our favorite aspects of studying literature. It is indeed a luxury of formal education. Similarly, the writing we will do is more than just an arbitrary means of evaluating your performance. It is another form of interaction with the texts and part of the process of discovery. Our writing should help reveal more fully the subject at hand while improving our ability to express thoughts effectively.

Learner Outcomes:

By the time you have successfully completed this course, you should be able to:

- Read, discuss, and interpret excellent literature.
- Expand your literary repertoire by reading and responding (in class discussions and written assignments) to selected works of poetry, fiction, and drama.
- Describe and use process-oriented reading and writing models—i.e. treat reading and writing about literature texts as cognitive acts deeply influenced by personal experience, literary experience, and broader cultural forces.
- Use literary terminology to describe the technical elements of poetry, fiction, and drama.
- Select and apply a critical approach to interpret, analyze, and evaluate selected works of poetry, fiction, and drama.
- Present—through activities such as group discussion, reading logs or journals, response papers, and reviews—your personal interpretation of selected works of poetry, fiction, and drama.

Grades Will Be Based On:

- **Regular Attendance and Active Participation:** This is a group-oriented, interactive class. Since literature is inherently social, our class time will reflect this. Our analysis of the course texts will be based primarily on large and small group discussions, not lecture. Thus, you must be present and prepared to contribute.

Participation includes active listening, note taking, and sharing your ideas, opinions, and questions with the rest of us. Both the quantity and quality of your participation will be considered. Group work, including presentations, and in-class writing will also be a part of this category.

We will take attendance each period (or portion thereof). Absences will affect your final grade for the course. If you miss more than three class meetings, we will recommend that you withdraw from the class. It is also unnecessary to explain absences to us; they are neither excused nor unexcused.

- **Reading-Motivation Quizzes:** Each night, there will be a 10-point, short-answer, objective quiz on the reading material assigned for that class session. These quizzes cannot be made up if you are late or absent.
- **Formal Papers/Essays:** While critical essays can be challenging, they are, perhaps, the most concentrated and rewarding form of literary inquiry. Look for the topics of these two (2) papers in our in-class writing, class discussions, and assigned research. They should begin as questions or points of curiosity and evolve into the finely tuned results of close reading and careful analysis driven by thoughtful engagement with the subject. One paper will be due on **Thursday, July 19**, at the end of the poetry unit; the second paper will be due on **Thursday, August 2**, at the end of the short fiction unit.
- **Essay Exam:** There will be an in-class essay exam on **Tuesday, August 14**, at the end of the drama unit. You will be allowed to use your class notes but not your text.

Other Considerations:

- Always remember that developing ourselves and our own ideas is of the utmost importance here. **Plagiarism** not only defeats the purpose of academic study, but also is a great disrespect to the efforts of any individual, including yourself. We define plagiarism as the (dishonest) act of presenting the words or thoughts of another writer as if they were your own. It is your responsibility to demonstrate that any work you turn in for a grade is indeed your own work. Therefore, in addition to citing the sources you consult, you also need to reproduce the development of your ideas on paper. **Save all the work you do for this class**, including brainstorming lists, preliminary jottings, sudden inspirations, and all drafts of all work to be turned in. Print a hard copy of each draft or rename and save them separately to be submitted if necessary. A paper containing a plagiarized submission will automatically receive an **"F."** Since plagiarism and any other form of cheating is a violation of the Anoka Ramsey Community College Code of Student Conduct, we will immediately involve an academic dean in the case.
- All collected work is due **at the beginning of the designated class period**. Unless you make a prior arrangement with us, any work turned in after this time will be considered late and its final grade will be reduced **one letter**. No papers or other assignments will be accepted more than one week past the original due date.
- **All requirements must be completed to receive a passing grade for the course.**
- As an enrollee in this class, you are responsible for all information and conditions contained in this syllabus and any announcements or changes we make during class meetings.