Syllabus for English 201
Borough of Manhattan Community College

Course: **English 201 Composition II: Introduction to Literature**
Instructor: Andrew Gottlieb
Office: Room:
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Semester:
Credits: 3

**Course Description:**
In English 201 students will be introduced to three literary genres - short stories, poems, and a play. For each reading selection, there will be a series of questions and a writing assignment. Students are expected to complete no less than four essays. Three of these must be at least 4 pages. Students are also required to write a 6 page research project including citation from reliable sources. By the conclusion of English 201, students will be prepared for advance courses in literature and will have acquired the skills needed other analytically-based courses across the curriculum.

**Learning Outcomes**
Students completing English 201 will:

1. Write at least **four** well-developed, thesis-driven argument **essays**, using evidence from literary texts and other sources. Assessment will be based on evaluation of **three essays at least 4 pages** and **one research project at least 6 pages, a total of not less than 18 graded pages**. Essays will be graded in part on the documentation of sources and the proper use of MLA formats.

2. Write clear, grammatically correct, effective sentences in well-organized paragraphs. Assessment will be based on evaluation of three essays and a research project.

3. Acquire a critical appreciation of the nuances and complexities of a variety of literary texts. Assessment will be based on evaluation of three essays and a research project.

4. Define and apply literary terms to analyses of texts within several literary genres. Assessment will be based on evaluation of three essays and a research project.

5. Correctly use the conventions of MLA documentation and citation, including a “Works Cited” page. Assessment will be based on evaluation of three essays and a research project.

6. Frame research questions; plan research strategies; find and evaluate sources using the BMCC Library and the BMCC Library Website; and present the results of research. Assessment will be based on evaluation of a research project at least six pages. This essay will be graded in part on the documentation of sources and the proper use of MLA formats.
General Education Outcomes:

Communication Skills: Students will be able to express their thoughts in speech and in writing. They will also be able to read critically and articulate thesis-driven arguments in well-organized essays. Assessment will be based on evaluation of four essays, including a research project, a total of not less than 18 graded pages, as well as participation in class discussions and collaborative essays.

Values: Students will be able to think and express themselves logically and a well-organized fashion. Assessment will be based on evaluation of four essays, including a research project, a total of not less than 18 graded pages.

Course Requirements:
1. Students are required to write a minimum of four essays, for a total of not less than 18 pages. The first three papers must be at least 4 pages. The fourth essay is a research paper which must be at least 6 pages. This can be a development from one of the earlier papers and should incorporate considerable research documented according to MLA formats.
2. Students are required to come to every class on time and to stay until the end of class. Coming late or leaving early is unacceptable. See the College Attendance Policy below.
3. Students are required to do all the reading assignments and to bring the reading material to class every day.
4. Students are required to hand essays in on time.
5. Students are required to fulfill the required specifications for the writing assignments.

College Attendance Policy:
At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not four days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the options to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula for all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement:
Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words or artistic, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotation, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC’s website, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).
Number of Writing Assignments for English 201
Andrew Gottlieb

STUDENTS IN ENGLISH 201 ARE REQUIRED TO WRITE A

TOTAL

OF

4

PAPERS INCLUDING
A RESEARCH PROJECT.

THE FIRST THREE PAPERS ARE

4 DOUBLE-SPACE PAGES.

THE FOURTH PAPER (A RESEARCH PROJECT) IS

6 DOUBLE-SPACE PAGES.

PAPERS MUST SATISFY ALL OF THE SPECIFICATIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE TO RECEIVE CREDIT.
The Required Text, Online Handouts, and Materials:

1. The writing assignments and most of the reading material is available in the online handouts which can be accessed at andrewd222.wordpress.com. For each day that a student fails to bring in the online handouts, one point will be subtracted from their final grade.

2. Copy and paste the following into Google to order online:
   
   
   On Amazon, the book can be purchased at a cost ranging from $6.50 to $11.07
   
   Make sure to get the translation by Robert Fagles. Every translation is different and you will get confused when we read the play aloud if you have a different translation.
   
   This text has commentary by Bernhard Knox which we will be discussing in class and which can be useful for writing your papers. There is also another play in this edition called Antigone which we will discuss at the end of the semester.
   
   You can buy the book on the Internet for a small price. I will provide everything else in the online handouts which you can download and print out at home or in one of the school’s computer labs.
   
   Students who do not buy and show the instructor the required text (see below) will lose two points from their final grade.

3. Stapler – an absolute must!
   All papers must be stapled to receive credit.

4. Pens

5. 8 ½ by 11 inch notebook.

Computer Labs:

The computer labs where you can print out the handouts and your papers as well are in the following locations:

Main Building:
Learning Resource Center
S510F, S510G, S510H, and N261

Fitterman Hall: Lower Lobby: LL03

Murray Hall: M1109
Specifications & due dates:

Papers must satisfy all of the specifications to receive credit. We will go over these before each paper is due. The due dates for all of the writing assignments are on the class website at andrewd222.wordpress.com

1. Each essay must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. **Papers that are not stapled will not be accepted.**

2. Each page of each essay must have typed page numbers in the upper right-hand corner. **Papers without typed page numbers in the upper right hand corner will not be accepted.**

3. Each essay must be typed. **Essays that are not typed will not be accepted.**

4. Font size must be 12.

5. Font style must be *Times New Roman*.

6. Each paragraph must be indented.

7. There must be no more than one double-space between paragraphs.

8. The name of the student, professor, course, and date must be flush left with a double-space between each. See example on the following page.

9. Each essay must be double-spaced.

10. For citations more than one sentences, use the following specifications. See example on page 6 of this syllabus.

    a. single-space
    b. font size 10
    c. left indent at 1 right indent at 5.5.

11. Quotation marks and the appropriate MLA citation for all quotes must be used. The absence of quotation marks where needed is **PLAGIARISM**. See example of internal punctuation on the following page. **WARNING:** Omission of quotation marks is grounds for an F for the paper and possibly for the final grade.

12. All sources used in the essay must be cited in a “Works Cited” page and be done according to MLA formats. See example on the page after the following page.
Formatting Your Paper:

First Page
This is an example of the top of the first page of a paper.
Use double-spaces. The title must be a double-space below the date and centered.

John Smith
Professor Abraham
English 201
May 7, 2009
Greek Tragedy

When citing a source in the text do as follows: “Oedipus in the play is a free agent” (Fagles, 149).
When paraphrasing do as follows: Fagles maintains that Oedipus has free will (Fagles, 149).

“In the very first year of our century Sigmund Freud in his Interpretation of Dreams offered a famous and influential interpretation of Oedipus the King:

Oedipus Rex is what is known as a tragedy of destiny. Its tragic effect is said to lie in the contrast between supreme will of the gods and the vain attempts of mankind to escape the evil that threatens them. The lesson which, it is said, the deeply moved spectator should learn from the tragedy is submission to the divine will and realization of his own impotence.

(Trans. James Strachey)

This passage is of course a landmark in the history of modern thought, and it is fascinating to observe that this idea, which, valid or not, has had enormous influence, stems from an attempt to answer a literary problem – why does the play have this overpowering effect on modern audiences?”
Works Cited


Class rules:

1. No Coming Late or Leaving Early:
   Students who come more than ten minutes late or leave early will be marked absent.

2. No Talking Out of Turn:
   Only one person can talk at one time. This means that private conversations are not allowed.

3. No Rude or Insulting Behavior:

4. No Electronic Devices:
   Students are not allowed to keep any electronic devices on their desks during class. This includes laptops, iPads, and cell phones. All notes and writing in class must be done on paper.

5. No Plagiarism: See BMCC policy on plagiarism on page 2 of this syllabus.

6. No Sleeping in Class:
   Sleeping in class is not permitted. If you are sick or too tired to stay awake, tell your teacher and politely ask to be excused.

   Failure to follow any of the rules may result in grade reduction, failure, or other disciplinary action.

Grading:

The final grade will be based on the following:

1. The average grade for the first three essays will count for 70% of the final grade.

2. The research project will count for 30% of the final grade.

Due Dates & Late Paper Protocols:

Due dates will be determined during the semester. These due date can be found with the rest of the material at andrewd222.wordpress.com Students must hand papers in by the due dates to receive credit. Extensions, however, are allowed in some cases. These extensions are administered according to the following LATE PAPER PROTOCOLS:

1. To be granted an extension for one week after the due date, students must have written no less than two pages of the assigned paper.

2. Papers handed in two weeks past the due date will be penalized by one half grade. An A paper that is two weeks late will be assigned an A-. A B+ paper that is two weeks late will be assigned a B and so on.

3. Papers cannot be handed in three or more weeks after the due date. Students who do not hand in a paper by the second week after the due date will be given no credit for the paper. No credit means zero which will be calculated into the final average for the semester.
It is better to hand in any paper however insufficient than no paper at all. Even a C+ is far better than a zero. A student who has three A’s and a C+ will still receive an A. Students who, by the end of the semester, have handed in only three of the four assigned papers will receive a significantly lower grade. The final grade is calculated according to the provisions laid out in the syllabus. Even a student who has three A’s and has handed in only three papers cannot receive a grade higher than a C-. Those who have three A’s but who do not hand in the Research Paper by the due date will receive a final grade of D. This is why handing in any paper is better than handing no paper at all.

Students who have not handed in less than three papers will receive a grade of F. Even if the two papers handed in have received A’s, the student will still fail the course.

It is important to remember that grades are calculated not only on the basis of quality but on quantity as well. Both the length of the papers and the number of papers have significant weight in the grading process.

Grading Penalties:

1. For each day that a student fails to bring in the online handouts, one point will be subtracted from their final grade. The instructor will direct the students to these handouts which can be found in the fiction section of the website at andrewd222.wordpress.com

2. Students who do not buy and show the instructor the required text (see below) will lose two points from their final grade.

A two point reduction results in a half grade penalty. For example, a student with a A average who incurs a two point penalty will receive a A-.

A four point penalty results in a whole grade penalty. For example, a student with an A average who incurs a two point penalty will receive a B.

The more penalties, the lower the grade. It is thus imperative that students print out and bring the four handouts to class and buy the required text.

Incomplete (INC):

1. To receive an INC, students must have a compelling reason. This can be a serious medical or family problem that prevents them from coming to class. In the case of a medical problem, a doctor's note is required for verification.

2. To receive an INC, students must have received three passing grades on at least three of four assignments.

3. Students must request an INC no later than one week prior to the last day of class to receive one.

4. Requests for an INC made later than this time will be denied.

5. If the teacher has not received a request for an INC, he will determine the final grade by averaging the grades of whatever papers the student has handed in.

6. There is no obligation on the part of a teacher to give an INC. This matter is entirely up to his or her discretion.
Failure (F) or (WU):

1. Students who hand in less than three papers will receive an F.

2. Students who miss more than four classes will receive an F or a WU

Official withdrawal (W):

The W grade signifies OFFICIAL WITHDRAWAL. Students who want to withdraw from the class should do so prior to the date specified in the Academic Calendar posted on the BMCC website. It is advisable for students to withdraw who have been excessively absent or have failed to hand in two assignments. It is better to drop a class than to receive a failing grade. Remember to withdraw before the withdrawal date specified in the Academic Calendar. Students who fail to withdraw before this date will receive a WU which has the same numerical value as an F.

Themes and Questions for English 201:

During the semester we will be exploring certain themes and questions relating to the works of literature. These can be contemplated not only in relation to literature but in relation to our own lives as well.

1. Suffering
   a. Why do we suffer?
   b. What are the sources of emotional pain?

2. Responsibility and Control
   a. To what extent are we responsible for our state of mind?
   b. Can we blame others for how we feel?
   c. How much control over our feelings do we have?
   d. Do we have free will?

3. Reality
   a. What is reality?
   b. Is there one reality for a given situation?
   c. Are there multiple realities in life?

4. Identity
   a. What defines me?
   b. How do I determine who I am?
   c. What is the meaning of identity?
   d. Is the identity I have the same others have for me? If not which is my true identity?
   e. Is it possible to have more than one self? Do I have a single self or multiple selves?
   f. How does my sense of self impact on the way I behave.
5. Irony
   a. Irony is a reversal of expectation. The outcome is the opposite of what we expect. It’s a twist. Mary wins the lottery and is now able to buy a jet plane, something she has always dreamed of doing. On her first trip, the plane crashes and she is killed. The joyful expectation resulting from winning the lottery is reversed.
   
b. Do you ever feel your life is ironic? How has it been ironic? Tell a story.