

**ESSEX COUNTY COLLEGE**  
**Humanities Division**  
**ENG 205 – The Western Literary Tradition**  
**Course Outline**

**Course Number & Name:** ENG 205 The Western Literary Tradition

**Credit Hours:** 3.0      **Contact Hours:** 3.0      **Lecture:** 3.0      **Lab:** N/A      **Other:** N/A

**Prerequisites:** Grade of “C” or better in ENG 102

**Co-requisites:** None

**Concurrent Courses:** None

**Course Outline Revision Date:** Fall 2010

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**Course Description:** The literary tradition of the western world is examined from its ancient roots through its culmination in the European Renaissance. Students will do an intensive study of selected literary masterpieces.

**General Education Goals:** The aggregate of the core courses required for any major at ECC have the following goals:

1. **Written and Oral Communication:** Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.
2. **Quantitative Knowledge and Skills:** Students will use appropriate mathematical and statistical concepts and operations to interpret data and to solve problems.
3. **Scientific Knowledge and Reasoning:** Students will use the scientific method of inquiry through the acquisition of scientific knowledge.
4. **Technological Competency/Information Literacy:** Students will use computer systems or other appropriate forms of technology to achieve educational and personal goals.
5. **Society and Human Behavior:** Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.
6. **Humanistic Perspective:** Students will analyze works in the field of art, music, or theater; literature; and philosophy and/or religious studies; and will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.
7. **Historical Perspective:** Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western, or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.
8. **Global and Cultural Awareness of Diversity:** Students will understand the importance of global perspective and culturally diverse peoples.
9. **Ethics:** Students will understand ethical issues and situations.

**Course Goals:** Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. discuss the universality and diversity of cultural values of the western world as expressed in its literature; (GEG 8)
2. apply critical and analytical approaches to the study of literature; (GEG 6) and
3. write critical and analytical essays about literary works. (GEG 1, GEG 4, GEG 6, and GEG 9)

**Measurable Course Performance Objectives (MPOs):** Upon successful completion of this course, students should specifically be able to do the following:

1. Discuss the universality and diversity of cultural values of the western world as expressed in its literature:
  - 1.1 *identify and describe specific themes that identify the universality and the diversity of literary thought; and*
  - 1.2 *explain these universal and diverse themes as reflected in the specific literary work*
2. Apply critical and analytical approaches to the study of literature:
  - 2.1 *define basic terms and concepts used in literary discussion;*
  - 2.2 *analyze and describe how these terms and concepts operate in each work studied; and*
  - 2.3 *use these terms and concepts as the basis for literary analysis*
3. Write critical and analytical essays about literary works:
  - 3.1 *write several short critical and analytical essays about selected works studied;*
  - 3.2 *use appropriate citations from the source work to support the development of the thesis idea in the critical essay;*
  - 3.3 *write a longer documented literary research paper about a work relevant to the course;*
  - 3.4 *use appropriate citations from the source work to support the development of the thesis in the documented literary research paper;*
  - 3.5 *use the library and other resources to find relevant, scholarly secondary source material in support of the thesis in the documented literary research paper;*
  - 3.6 *write in one's own voice in the essay while properly incorporating primary and secondary material; and*
  - 3.7 *prepare the documented literary research paper in standard MLA format*

**Methods of Instruction:** Instruction will consist of lecture, discussion, and the development of a series of extended compositions analyzing pieces of literature, including a documented literary research paper.

**Outcomes Assessment:** Checklist rubrics are used to evaluate sampled student critical essays analyzing literature for the presence of the measurable objectives. A survey to be administered following essays evaluates student preparation for writing analysis of literature. Checklist rubrics are used to evaluate the various elements of the documented literary research paper. And a survey that is blueprinted to learning objectives is administered during the twelfth week.

**Course Requirements:** All students are required to:

1. Complete the intensive reading of six literary masterpieces (at least one from each category). The selection should include a balance of literary genres.
2. Write critical essays and a documented literary research paper to total at least three thousand words. The documented literary research paper should be written according to current MLA format.
3. Read shorter works, such as poetry, as assigned by the instructor.
4. Read all other assigned material.
5. Participate in class discussions.

**Methods of Evaluation:** Final course grades will be computed as follows:

<b>Grading Components</b>	<b>% of final course grade</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3 or more Critical Essays Analyzing Pieces of Literature</b> (to be assigned by the instructor) The critical essays will show evidence of the extent to which students meet course objectives including, but not limited to, developing an analytical argument appropriate to the assignment given, demonstrating the ability to manage paragraph and essay structure, and showing evidence of editing and revision.</li></ul>	<b>50 – 80%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Documented Literary Research Paper</b> (to be assigned by the instructor) The documented literary research paper will show evidence of the extent to which students meet course objectives including, but not limited to, developing an analytical argument appropriate to the assignment, demonstrating the ability to manage paragraph and essay structure, citing primary and secondary research sources, developing a “Works Cited page,” and showing evidence of editing and revision. In addition, the student will utilize primary and secondary research sources in order to develop and support their thesis, while clearly maintaining their own voice in the dialogue.</li></ul>	<b>20 – 50%</b>

NOTE: The instructor will provide specific weights, which lie in the above-given ranges, for each of the grading components at the beginning of the semester.

**Academic Integrity:** Dishonesty disrupts the search for truth that is inherent in the learning process and so devalues the purpose and the mission of the College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- plagiarism – the failure to acknowledge another writer’s words or ideas or to give proper credit to sources of information;
- cheating – knowingly obtaining or giving unauthorized information on any test/exam or any other academic assignment;
- interference – any interruption of the academic process that prevents others from the proper engagement in learning or teaching; and
- fraud – any act or instance of willful deceit or trickery.

Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with by imposing appropriate sanctions. Sanctions for acts of academic dishonesty could include the resubmission of an assignment, failure of the test/exam, failure in the course, probation, suspension from the College, and even expulsion from the College.

**Student Code of Conduct:** All students are expected to conduct themselves as responsible and considerate adults who respect the rights of others. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. All students are also expected to attend and be on time all class meetings. No cell phones or similar electronic devices are permitted in class. Please refer to the Essex County College student handbook, *Lifeline*, for more specific information about the College’s Code of Conduct and attendance requirements.

**Course Content Outline:** based on the text (required for adjunct instructors/optional for full-time faculty) by Lawall, Sarah, ed. *The Norton Anthology of Western Literature*. Vol. 1. 8th ed. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2006. ISBN #: 0-393-92572-2

<b>Class Meeting (80 minutes)</b>	<b>Topics to be Covered/Class Activities</b>
1	Course Introduction/Review of Class Syllabus
2	Elements of Literature; Writing an Essay Analyzing Literature
3 – 5	Relevant Texts from <i>Norton Anthology</i> (selection from the Ancient World, for example <i>The Epic of Gilgamesh</i> or selections from the Bible)
6	<b>First Critical Essay Analyzing Literature</b>
7 – 11	Relevant Texts from <i>Norton Anthology</i> (selection from Ancient Greece or Rome)
12 – 13	<b>Second Critical Essay Analyzing Literature</b>
14	Assign Documented Literary Research Paper
15 – 22	Relevant Literary Texts from <i>Norton Anthology</i> (selection from the Middle Ages)
23	<b>Documented Literary Research Paper due</b>
24 – 27	Relevant Literary Texts from <i>Norton Anthology</i> (selection from the Renaissance, Shakespeare or Cervantes are suggested)
28 – 30	<b>Third Critical Essay Analyzing Literature</b>