

ENGLISH 300C: LITERARY PERSPECTIVES

Instructor: Dr. Daven M. Kari

Office Hours: MF 10:00-10:50 a.m., MW noon, F 12:00-1:20, Tu 3:00-5:00 (Feb. 23 onward), and by appointment

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Class Meeting Time: MW 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Required Text Books:

Gallagher, Susan V., and Roger Lundin. *Literature Through the Eyes of Faith*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1989.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *The Remains of the Day*. New York: Vintage Books, 1988.

Meyer, Michael. *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature*. 7th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006.

Recommended Text: Harmon, William, and Hugh Holman. *A Handbook to Literature*. 10th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2006.

Overview of Course:

English 300, Literary Perspectives, is designed to acquaint students with the basics of literary studies and help them develop analytical skills and a vocabulary for interpreting literature. The emphasis in this course will be primarily on enhancing skills that can be applied to all reading of literature. Knowledge of individual dramas, poems, stories, and a novel will be important primarily for the way these works illustrate literary concepts being emphasized in the assigned readings and classroom discussion.

Assignments:

Because the best part of learning comes through a careful interaction with the texts being studied, this course will involve several formats for learning and demonstrating competence, including lectures, two short papers, and exams. Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Attendance & Participation	10 %
Literature & Faith Exam	19 %
Exams	51 %
Papers, 2 x 10%	<u>20 %</u>
Total	100 %

Grades will be calculated on a 10% scale as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D =

60-69%; F = 59% or below.

Paper Assignments:

All students must complete two (2) papers, one treating a short story and one analyzing a poem, as described below. These papers are to be 3 ½-4 pages (1000-1400 words) long, and are to focus tightly on a key character, motif, or element of conflict or may concentrate on the physical and historical setting as a significant aspect of this work, for a story. When the paper treats poetry, it may treat a single poem, a set of poems, or a passage from a longer poem, and is also to be 3 ½ -4 pages (1000-1400 words) long, not counting the poem or passage being reviewed. *Stories and poems are to be selected from those assigned in the course, but other works may be chosen with the permission of the instructor.* These papers should use from 2 to 4 sources, in addition to the textbook, to substantiate your paper's position. These sources are to be literary critical sources connected directly with the work being discussed, and these sources are to be in addition to those in your text. You may use additional sources treating biblical, historical, or philosophical issues in brief, but these should not displace the central focus on the literary interpretation of the short story or poem. Present these sources in a bibliography in MLA format.

This brief paper should demonstrate the following qualities:

1. A thoughtful understanding of at least one significant dimension of the work or works.
2. A responsible use of several interpretive tools given in class, including, for example, characterization, plot, irony, imagery, word choice and tone.
3. Individualized insights representing your personal interaction with the work.
4. Proper use of the English language; good word choices, MLA style, and appropriate paragraphing.

N.B. The topics for these papers are to be cleared in advance by the instructor at least one week before the papers are due. These papers are due by the date specified. *Please include a box number for the return of your papers.*

These papers are to be typed on regular bond typing paper and in black ink. Use MLA documentation and format for these papers. Use 12-point fonts, preferably Times Roman, double-spaced, except for long quotations, which should be single-spaced. Paper clip papers (do not staple) and present them along with your rough drafts and notes in a pocket folder with your name on the cover.

For the student who achieves at least a C- on a paper, a rewrite will be allowed for the first paper and will be due one week from the time the graded paper is returned to the student. The student will be expected to tend to matters of content as well as those of mechanics and only substantial revisions will be considered for a higher grade.

Course Policies:

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For English 300 the following policies are necessary to keep the course running smoothly. Please read them carefully.

All assignments are due by the date listed. When you know in advance of an unavoidable absence, then turn in your work early. No late work will be accepted and no exams can be made up except in the case of an excused absence, one related to your own serious illness or the death of a member of your immediate family. Written evidence substantiating your excuse may be requested. Conflicts with your regular work schedule are *not* excused absences.

All students are expected to buy their own copies of the required texts and bring them to class on the days the reading is assigned. Attendance will in part be based on coming to class on time with the appropriate text. Readings must be completed before the class period for which they are assigned. Your class participation grade will be based largely on your ability to discuss the works in an intelligent and informed manner. You are responsible for introductory material as well as the specific works assigned. Attendance is vital; tardiness and absences will certainly lower your grade for the course, as will early departures from class. Furthermore, when students use class time to do homework, chat with classmates, play on computers, or text-message friends, these students will lose points affecting attendance credit and grades.

If a student misses more than 6 classes for any reason, the student will automatically fail himself or herself. Arriving late to class or leaving early will result in partial credit or loss of credit. A limited number of make-up options may be offered for unavoidable absences.

Schedule of Assignments:

January 14 (M)	Introduction
January 16 (W)	Read <i>Literature Through the Eyes of Faith</i> (hereafter cited as <i>LEF</i>), pp. xiii-xxvi, chs. 1-2
January 21 (M)	Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday—no classes
January 23 (W)	Read <i>LEF</i> , chs. 3-5; <i>Bedford Introduction to Literature</i> , pp. 1533-1540
January 28 (M)	Read <i>LEF</i> , chs. 6-8; <i>Bedford Introduction to Literature</i> , pp. 1540-1548
January 30 (W)	Read <i>LEF</i> , chs. 9-11; <i>Bedford Introduction to Literature</i> , pp. 1548-1556
February 4 (M)	Read <i>LEF</i> , chs. 12-13, Conclusion
February 6 (W)	Exam I on Christianity and literature
February 11 (M)	Reading Fiction—pp. 13-28 (Unless otherwise noted, all pages listed are in <i>The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature</i> , 7 th ed.) Plot—pp. 63-88

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- February 13 (W) Character—pp. 104-105, 123-148
Setting—pp. 151-159
- February 18 (M) President’s Day Holiday—no classes
- February 20 (W) Point of View —pp. 173-178, 178-191
Symbolism—pp. 211-214, 223-225
- February 25 (M) Theme—pp. 239-242, 251-255 220-223, 232-235
Style, Tone, and Irony—pp. 259-263, 345-361
- February 27 (W) *The Remains of the Day*
- March 3 (M) *The Remains of the Day*
- March 5 (W) *The Remains of the Day*
- March 10-14 Spring Recess—no classes
- March 17 (M) Exam II on Fiction
- March 19 (W) Reading Poetry—pp. 563-576
Word Choice, Word Order, and Tone—pp. 612-633
- March 24 (M) Images—pp. 644-654, 661, 663-664
Patterns and Rhythm—pp. 730-746
- March 26 (W) Symbol, Allegory, and Irony—pp. 683-692, 693-694, 700-702
Sounds—pp. 705-720
Paper on Fiction Due by Class Time—No Late Papers Accepted
- March 31 (M) Figures of Speech—pp. 665-674, 678-679
A Study of Emily Dickinson—pp. 803-825, 827-828, 829-843 (Peruse this last section as a sample of how to write your paper on poetry. Part of this material may be covered next class hour)
- April 2 (W) Poetic Forms—pp. 749-773
A Critical Case Study: T. S. Eliot’s “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”—pp. 907-924 (Again, peruse this section as an example of how to write your paper on poetry.)
- April 7 (M) Review & Film
- April 9 (W) Exam III on Poetry

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April 14 (M)	Reading Drama—pp. 997-1019 A Study of Sophocles—pp. 1042-1070
April 16 (W)	A Study of Sophocles—pp. 1070-1099
April 21 (M)	Catch-up Day
April 23 (W)	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> —pp. 1373-1408 Film <i>Paper on Poetry Due by Class Time—No Late Papers Accepted</i>
April 28 (M)	<i>Death of a Salesman</i> —pp. 1409-1443 Film
April 30 (W)	Review for Final Exam
May 5-8	Final Exam IV on Drama, TBA

N.B. The above schedule is carefully designed to help students master the material, but adjustments may be made to meet student needs better. Please stay alert to changes as announced in class.