

English 110AB: Composition, Literature, & Critical Thinking
Spring 2010, MWF, 11:10-12, Rm. 8118



Instructor: Karen Wong

Office: 8212 **Website:** <http://www.smccd.net/accounts/wongk/english110>

Office Phone: (650) 738-4369 **E-mail:** wongk@smccd.edu

Office Hours: _____, and by appointment

Literature invites you to temporarily inhabit other worlds. Like a fly on the wall, you gain insight in to the human condition, witnessing the lives of others in familiar as well as foreign locales, in the present as well as other time periods. The fun and challenge of this course is in arriving at a personal understanding of the themes the literature addresses, such as innocence and experience, culture and identity, and conformity and rebellion. This process requires your constant and active participation; as Marcel Proust would argue, "We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us."

Thus, by the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- (1) write coherent, well organized, analytical essays about various literary genres: poetry, plays, short stories, and novels;
- (2) analyze, interpret, and distinguish between various literary genres and their elements;
- (3) utilize literary criticism and research to illuminate various texts.

How well you are able to articulate your understanding of the literature will be among the most weighed determinants in evaluations of your work. To ensure your success, come to class every class meeting, be prepared and ready to participate, and see me as soon as you have a question or problem.

Departmental Course Description and Prerequisites:

To enroll in this course, you must have passed English 100/105 with a C or better. English 110, a transfer level composition course which is also applicable toward attaining an associate degree, gives you three units of credit. For CSU transfer requirements, it satisfies A2, A3, and C2, and for IGETC transfer requirements, it satisfies Area 1, Group B.

Required Texts & Supplies:

- Richard Abcarian, Marvin Klotz, & Samuel Cohen's *Literature: The Human Experience (10th edition)*
- A novel to be selected by the class from among a list that I will provide
- English 110 Course Reader

Grading Policy:

Bear in mind that even though this class is only three units, you will need to allot sufficient time to complete homework. Clearly, completing your homework will greatly affect how much you learn in the class. And because most homework assignments are integral steps toward completing the essays, you can determine early on if you need assistance from me to write the essays.

Check your progress in this course by accessing my website, which is updated every two weeks. Your final grade will be based on the following:

The Task	Percentage of the Final Grade
Essay #1 (14%): Analyze and interpret a short story (W. 2/16) Essay #2 (14%): Use literary criticism to analyze and interpret two poems that share a common theme (F. 3/18) Essay #3 (12%): Use literary criticism to analyze and interpret a play (F. 4/22) Essay #4 (5%): In-class midterm on the play (W, 3/30) Essay #5 (15%): Use literary criticism and conduct research to analyze and interpret the novel (F. 5/20)	60%
Final Exam on the novel (W, 5/25, 11:10-1:40)	10%
Quizzes & Journals	15%
Participation (being prepared, completing in-class exercises, contributing to class discussions, giving classmates thoughtful responses to their essays in workshops, etc.)	10%
Presentation on the play (F, 4/1, and MW, 4/11-13)	5%

Because we usually will discuss the homework on the day it is due, I will not accept late homework unless you have made prior arrangements with me or you are absent. Please also note that I rarely permit "make-ups" of quizzes, in-class exercises, and midterms without legitimate and documented reasons (i.e., illness, court appearance, death in the family, etc.), so not being absent is in your best interest.

Minimally, to pass the course, (1) the essay portion of your grade must be a C- or better, and (2) every essay assignment, passing or no, must have been attempted and submitted for a grade.

Attendance and Participation:

Because all of the work we do in class is directly related to your reading and writing development, it is crucial that you come to each class prepared and ready to participate. Thus a maximum of six absences is permitted; each absence after the sixth may significantly lower your grade and warrant your withdrawal from the course. **Even if absent, you are responsible for all work assigned or due that day**, so for any changes in the homework, contact a classmate or me, or consult the web site. In addition, because arriving late or leaving early is distracting and annoying, each will count as half an absence.

Should you need to withdraw from the course, you are responsible for doing so. Neglecting to drop by April 28 may result in a failing grade.

Essays & Late Tickets:

- **FORMAT:** All essays must be typed with 12-point font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, on 8.5" x 11" standard weight paper. I don't require a separate cover page. Instead, at the upper right-hand corner of the first page, write your name, the date, the class, as well as the essay number. Center the title below. And last but not least, staple your essays on top of the peer response worksheets.
- **WORKSHOPS:** Because writing is communicating, you will have class time to read, discuss, and comment on each other's essays to determine whether your ideas are clearly conveyed and adequately developed. Workshop days are very important, and therefore each workshop is worth up to 300 points (three assignments). For workshops, bring three copies total. You *must* have a draft in order to participate. If you forget copies or if your draft does not fulfill the page requirements, points will be deducted accordingly. Following are the workshop dates; final due dates are generally one week after the workshop dates.

Essay #1: F. 2/11	Essay #2: W. 3/9	Essay #3: F. 4/15	Essay #5: F. 5/13
-------------------	------------------	-------------------	-------------------

- **LATE TICKETS FOR FINAL DRAFTS:** Essays are due on the assigned due date. But you have the option of using one of your two late tickets when you need an extra week, unless otherwise noted. Substitute the late ticket for your paper on the due date. But note that while late papers will not be penalized in terms of the grade, the likelihood that you will get them back when the rest of the class gets theirs is extremely slim. Thus, you may be forfeiting the option of revising. Note, too, that after the late ticket's extra week allotment, five points--equivalent to half a grade-- will be deducted for each day that the essay is late.
- **REVISION POLICY:** You have the option of revising the first two essays if your score is 80 or less, but you must meet with me before you fully revise, and you must submit the revision before the next essay's due date. Please note that a revision requires substantially more work than simply attending to the grammar. If you revise, highlight

all of the major changes in your revision, and submit it along with the original draft with my comments on it as well as the accompanying gradesheet.

- GRADING CRITERIA FOR ESSAYS: To receive a passing grade, your papers must demonstrate your ability to do the following:
 - Formulate a thesis that lends focus to the essay;
 - Substantiate the thesis with appropriate textual evidence and explanations;
 - Organize thoughts in a logical and coherent manner;
 - Cite sources according to MLA format;
 - Use complex sentence structures whenever appropriate;
 - Use correct English grammar and spelling. (Generally a point will be deducted from the final grade for every two grammatical errors such as run-together-sentences or misspellings. In the event of excessive grammatical errors, your essay will receive an "E" instead of a grade. "E" stands for Edit. In other words, your essay is passing, but you must attend to the grammar in order to receive credit. For your subsequent draft, the aforementioned point deduction policy will apply.)

Plagiarism:

Your work must be your own! Using someone else's ideas or words, e.g., from sources such as books, magazines, or websites, without giving the author credit for them, can lead to an F on the assignment or referral to the College Disciplinarian for further sanctions which range from a warning to expulsion from Skyline College. See me if you have any questions about appropriate ways to cite sources and/or integrate them with your own ideas.

Extra Assistance:

In addition to working with me during office hours, take advantage of one-on-one assistance in The Learning Center. To receive assistance and credit, enroll in LSKL 853 (CN 41276).

Also, please schedule an appointment with me within the first two weeks of class if you have a disability and require accommodations. To be provided with the appropriate accommodations, you will need to obtain a signed form from the Disabled Students Programs and Services office (650-738-4280).

Means of Communication:

To avoid missing important messages from both me and the College/ District, such as your registration status, please activate your student email account by logging in at <http://my.smccd.edu/> if you have not already done so. You can configure this e-mail to forward to an e-mail account that you regularly use.

Please note that the aforementioned schedules and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.