

**BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
The City University of New York  
Department of English



**ENG 201 Introduction to Literature**  
**Spring 2025 on BMCC OpenLab Platform**  
**Section 1201 – OL Synchronous**

**Office Hour: Mon/Wed 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 pm**

**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Prof. Celeste Conway**  
**Zoom Meetings: Mon. and Wed.**  
**12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.**  
[\*\*cconway@bmcc.cuny.edu\*\*](mailto:cconway@bmcc.cuny.edu)

**Note: This is NOT a Writing Intensive Course.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is a course that builds upon the skills introduced in English 101. In this course, literature is the field for the development of critical reading, critical thinking, independent research, and writing skills. Students are introduced to literary criticism and acquire basic knowledge necessary for the analysis of texts (including literary terms and some literary theory); they gain proficiency in library and internet research; and they hone their skills as readers and writers.

Assignments move from close readings of literary texts in a variety of genres to analyses that introduce literary terms and broader contexts, culminating in an independent, documented, thesis-driven, research paper. By the conclusion of English 201, students will be prepared for the analytical and research-based writing required in upper-level courses across the curriculum; they will also be prepared for advanced courses in literature.

**Prerequisites and Co-requisites: ENG 101 or 100.5**

**NO TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE**

This is a zero textbook cost course (ZTC) that uses OER (Open Educational Resources), which are accessed through the course.

**HOW THE ONLINE CLASS WORKS**

This is a synchronous online class on the *OpenLab*\* platform. This means that students must attend two weekly Zoom meetings on Monday and Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Members of the class are responsible for completing a number of activities each week. The activities, posted on the weekly pages on OpenLab, are varied and include reading, listening, viewing, and discussing activities. Your grade will be based on essays, quizzes and your responses to the discussion boards. Each online week begins on Monday morning and ends on Sunday night.

**CAMERAS IN ZOOM MEETINGS**

Students are required to be on camera during weekly Zoom meetings. You are free to use artificial or blurred backgrounds.

**\*OPENLAB AT BMCC**

OpenLab is an online platform on which the College's students, faculty and staff can come together to learn, work, play and share ideas. This means that almost all our course activities will take place on the OpenLab WordPress site, rather than on Brightspace. You will only be directed back to Brightspace to submit essays and take quizzes. You can also visit your Brightspace course to check your grades in the Grade Center.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process. In this course, participation is evidenced by attendance at Zoom meetings and participation in bi-weekly discussion boards, which will be shared with another section of this course.

If you do not engage in an academic activity at least once in the first weeks of the semester, the instructor is required to assign a grade of “WN”.

**INFORMATION ABOUT DISCUSSION BOARDS**

Class participation via the bi-weekly Discussion Board comprises 20% of your overall grade. Even in an online course, lively discussions are at the heart of an interesting class. Detailed information regarding discussion boards is posted in the COURSE INFORMATION section of our OpenLab class. You must post during the current week. Discussion Boards cannot be “made up” because once the discussion is closed, there is no one in the forum with whom to have a conversation.

**COMMUNICATION IN OUR ONLINE COURSE**

I can be easily be reached by email at [cconway@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:cconway@bmcc.cuny.edu), and will make every effort to respond within 24 hours. Students can meet with me via Zoom during my office hours or at a mutually convenient time if those hours are not possible.

I will be checking in frequently on the discussion boards during the week. A *Questions* forum will be open throughout the semester where you can post questions at any time. I will check this forum at least every 48 hours.

**RESPONSE TIME FOR GRADING OF SUBMITTED WORK**

Bi-weekly discussion board grades will be posted on Tuesday or Wednesday of the following week. Essays will be evaluated within 10 days of submission and possibly sooner. No email submissions will be accepted. All written work must be submitted through the Brightspace course in order to receive a grade.

**POLICY REGARDING LATE WORK**

Papers must be submitted on their due date. Late papers will be penalized one full grade for every 5 days of lateness. There will be a final cut-off date after which late essays will not receive a passing grade. Each essay assignment requires a first and final draft. Revisions of late essays will carry the penalization forward.

**HOW WORK WILL BE GRADED**

Essays will be submitted and graded through the Turnitin feature on Brightspace. A grading rubric will be provided and included in all reviews of submitted work.

**WEIGHTING OF GRADES**

Essays (4)	60%
Discussion Boards	20%
Quizzes	20%

**BMCC GRADING SYSTEM**

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	63	60	
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
100	92	89	86	82	79	76	72	69	66	62	

BMCC is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help. A full list of student services is posted on the OpenLab course site on the Help and Resources page.

**[ADVOCACY AND RESOURCE CENTER \(ARC\)](#)**

If you are having problems with finances, health insurance or anything else that might get in the way of your studies at BMCC, contact the Advocacy and Resource Center for advice and assistance at [arc@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:arc@bmcc.cuny.edu).

### **COUNSELING CENTER**

[www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling), room S343, 212-220-8140. Counselors assist students in addressing psychological and adjustment issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, and relationships) and can help with stress, time management and more. Counselors are available for walk-in visits.

### **OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY**

Students who need academic accommodations in connection with a disability must initiate the request with BMCC's Office of Accessibility (OA). Students need to register with the Office of Accessibility in order to officially disclose their disability status to the College to determine eligibility for appropriate reasonable accommodations (including any prior IEPs or 504s). Please contact the OA at the start of the semester (or as soon as possible) to coordinate any accommodation request/s. **Office of Accessibility.** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility), Room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), 212-220-8180, [accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu).

### **GENDER-INCLUSIVITY**

BMCC community members have the right to use and be referred to according to their preferred name, title, and/or personal pronouns. Everyone also has the right to use all spaces according to their self-identification, including restrooms and locker rooms. To learn more about how to change your preferred name and affirm your gender identity at CUNY (including requesting a new ID card and/or email address), go here: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/lgbtq/>

Anyone who has experienced harassment related to gender or sexual identification, who needs assistance, or who wishes to file a complaint, can contact the Office of Compliance and Diversity: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity/>.

### **BMCC POLICY ON PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic/scientific/technical work as one's own creation. A student who copies or paraphrases published or on-line material, or another person's research, without properly identifying the source(s) is committing plagiarism.

Plagiarism violates the ethical and academic standards of our college. Students will be held responsible for such violations, even when unintentional. To avoid unintended plagiarism, students should consult with their instructors about when and how to document their sources. The library also has both print and digital guides designed to help students cite sources correctly.

Plagiarism carries a range of penalties commensurate with severity of the infraction. The instructor may, for example, require the work to be redone, reduce the course grade, fail the student in the course, or refer the case to the Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee (Article 15.4 of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees). Cases referred to that committee could result in suspension or expulsion from the college.

## **COURSE OUTLINE BY WEEK**

Below is a guideline for the class readings. Note that this schedule may be subject to change.

### **Short Week** (Wednesday - Sunday)

Course Sign-up, E-Learning Orientation, and Introduction

### **Week 1**

"The Most Handsome Drowned Man in the World" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

### **Week 2**

"Salvation" by Langston Hughes

"Araby" by James Joyce

### **Week 3**

"The Lesson" by Toni Cade Bambara

### **Week 4**

Nineteenth Century Women:

"The Story of An Hour" by Kate Chopin

"The Necklace" by Guy de Maupassant

"The Wife" (poem) by Emily Dickinson

Also: "Another Evening at the Club" by Alifa Rifaat

### **Week 5**

Poetry: *Sonnets*

Sonnet 18 "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day" by William Shakespeare

Sonnet 130 "My Mistress's Eyes Are Nothing Like the Sun" by William Shakespeare

Sonnet 43 "How Do I Love Thee?" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

"What Lips My Lips Have Kissed, and Where, and Why" by Edna St. Vincent Millay

### **Week 6**

*Lyrical Poetry*

"The Lake Isle of Innisfree" by William Butler Yeats

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost

*Narrative Poetry*

"White Lies" by Natasha Trethewey

*Dramatic Poetry*

"My Last Duchess" by Robert Browning

"The Mother" and "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks

### **Week 7**

*Oedipus the King*

### **Week 8**

*Oedipus the King (cont)*

**Week 9**

“Excerpt from ‘On Her Own Work—The Element of Suspense in ‘A Good Man Is Hard to Find’” by Flannery O’Connor  
 “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” by Flannery O’Connor

**Week 10**

“Little Snow White” by the Brothers Grimm  
 Excerpts from *Uses of Enchantment* by Bruno Bettelheim  
 “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” by Anne Sexton

**Week 11**

“Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?” by Joyce Carol Oates

**Week 12**

“The Gospel According to Mark” by Jorge Luis Borges

**Week 13**

“Cathedral” by Raymond Carver  
 “Commonplace but Precise Language” by Raymond Carver  
 Selected Poems

**Week 14**

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

**Week 15**

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

**Final Exam Week**

Final Test

**Below are the learning outcomes for this course in which you are enrolled.**

<b>Course Student Learning Outcomes (Students will be able to...)</b>	<b>Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)</b>
1. Write clear, grammatically correct sentences in well-organized paragraphs	Measured by papers 1-4
2. Write well-developed thesis-driven argument and analysis essays, some of which incorporate research	Measured by papers 1-4
3. Frame research questions; plan research strategies; find and evaluate sources using the BMCC Library and the BMCC Library Website; and present results of research	Measured by Research Summary and paper 4

4. Define and apply literary terms to analyses of text within three major genres of literature	Measured by quizzes, discussion board response, and essays
5. Correctly use the conventions of MLA documentation and citation, including a Works Cited page	Measured by papers 1-4
6. Be able to respond in writing to questions about literary works.	Measured by weekly discussion board responses and essays
7. Be able to engage in analytical discussion with others about literary works.	Measured by weekly discussion board responses.
5. Demonstrate an appreciation of the connection between literature and the world.	Measured by responses to discussion board and essays

**Below are the college’s general education learning outcomes, the outcomes that are checked in the left-hand column indicate goals that will be covered and assessed in this course.**

	<b>General Education Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Measurements (means of assessment for general education goals listed in first column)</b>
√	<b>Communication Skills-</b> Students will be able to write, read, listen and speak critically and effectively.	Measured in discussion boards and essays
	<b>Quantitative Reasoning-</b> Students will be able to use quantitative skills and the concepts and methods of mathematics to solve problems.	
	<b>Scientific Reasoning-</b> Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the natural sciences.	
	<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences-</b> Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences.	
√	<b>Arts &amp; Humanities-</b> Students will be able to develop knowledge and understanding of the arts and literature through critiques of works of art, music, theatre or literature.	Measured in discussion boards and essays
√	<b>Information &amp; Technology Literacy-</b> Students will be able to collect, evaluate and interpret information and effectively use information technologies.	Measured in successful navigation through the online environment and effective use of online resources, including research sources
√	<b>Values-</b> Students will be able to make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness and social responsibility.	Measured in discussion boards and essays

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**Below are the Pathways Learning Outcomes for English 201.**

<b>Course Student Learning Outcomes (Students will be able to...)</b>	<b>Measurements (means of assessment for student learning outcomes listed in first column)</b>
1. Be able to respond proficiently in writing to literary works	Measured in papers 1-4
2. Display familiarity with literary works by a variety of authors in a variety of genres.	Measured in papers 1-4
3. Be able to offer an extended discussion in writing of two or more texts and authors in relation to each other.	Measured in written discussion board responses
4. Demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret based on careful attention to both detail and overall design of a literary work	Measured in papers 1-4
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of context in determining meaning	Measured in papers 1-4

**Enjoy the class!**