ENG-123 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE COURSE SYLLABUS

3 Credit Hours

Course Meeting: Online **Email:** aelsner@edisonohio.edu

Instructor: Ashley Elsner

MA: English, Southern New Hampshire University Fall 2026

Phone: 937-489-9640

Office Hours: By appointment only

Required Material:

The Norton Introduction to Literature, 15th edition, Ed. Kelly J. Mays ISBN: 978-1-324-08589-8

Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton ISBN 978-0-7432-6217-0

Course Description: Study in the reading of fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will learn to respond to literature from a critical perspective through both class discussions and assigned writings.

Course Learning Objectives: Students successfully completing this course should be able to:

- Identify the theme of a work of literature and analyze the message to the intended audience
- Identify the literary devices used by the author to convey their message to their audience
- Understand the differences between the various genres of literature and how a piece of literature functions within that genre

Course Requirements:

Discussion Boards: Learning to read and interpret literature is a major focus of this course. To develop those skills, you will submit discussion board posts of at least 200 words. You will also be responsible for submitting responses to your peers' postings.

Close Readding Analysis: There will be six short close reading activities throughout this course to help supplement your learning of each unit.

Journals: There will be three journal responses to *Cry, the Beloved Country*, to help prepare for the Research Analysis Project.

Reading Responses: Throughout the course, you will be asked to submit polished responses to reading assignments. These responses should be formatted as formal essays of 750-1000 words.

Criticism Review: Using the library database, you will find a piece of literary criticism covering one of the short fiction works from our textbook. In a polished formal essay of about 1,000 words, you will summarize and respond to the criticism.

Poetry Presentation: This assignment asks you to summarize and discuss a poem of your choice. This is not a formal essay. It should be submitted in the form of a presentation (recorded lecture, PowerPoint with audio, etc.).

Research Analysis Project: This is the "final exam" of the course. You will develop a strongly supported and researched analysis of Cry, the Beloved Country. In completing this assignment, you will submit a proposal and annotated bibliography, a draft, a peer workshop, and a final polished draft for grading.

Testing and Evaluation:

Grading Scale

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F 0-59

Your final grade will be determined by your score in each of these areas:

Discussion Boards 10x13 130

Reading Journals 3x25 75

Close Reading Activities 6x15 90

Reading Responses 3x75 225

Criticism Review 100

Poetry Presentation 100

Peer Review Workshop 30

Annotated Bibliography 50

Research Analysis Project 150

Total Points: 1,000

Course Policies:

Attendance & Class Participation: This is an online course, so it is essential that you complete and submit all the discussion questions from our assigned reading. Because we don't meet in person to have class discussion, your reaction posts and responses to the posted discussions will substitute for that. Keeping up with the posted discussion questions will help you on the quizzes and final analysis project.

1. If you are uncomfortable with self-guided learning, withdraw from this course and enroll in an in-person section. Although I'm always available by email and there will be feedback on most of the work submitted, this course is designed for independent learning and may require actively seeking out additional help and resources. There is a substantial amount of reading for this class as we will be studying literature for fiction, poetry, and drama.

2. Ensure you have all the necessary resources: access to a computer and the internet, Microsoft Word or software compatible with Microsoft Word files, a library barcode number, and the course textbook and novel.

3. All assignments should be submitted as .doc or .docx files. Assignments submitted in alternate formats may not receive credit.

4. Most emails will get a response within a few hours, but please allow 24 hours for a response between Monday-Saturday. Emails on Sunday may not be answered until Monday. If it's urgent, please let me know and I will do my best to respond.

5. Check your email and Blackboard regularly. Failure to see changes or missing instructions will cost you points. This is an online course. Consider Blackboard and your email as the classroom. Not participating online will have a negative impact on your grade.

6. Proofreading is important. All submissions should be polished and written to the best of your ability. Excessive mechanics, usage, grammar, or spelling (MUGS) errors may result in deducted points or automatic failure of the assignment at my discretion. Papers failed for MUGS may be resubmitted once for re-grading.

7. Assignments must be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59pm on the date assigned. Submitting late may cause your work to be docked up to 50% or in some cases, not accepted at all. It is your responsibility to ensure that your work is completed on time. Double check that your submission went through. Verify me if necessary.

8. All work must be your own, produced by you, and not by someone/something else.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism is generally accepted as being any the following for any assignment: 1) Copying and pasting text from any electronic media or website, transcribing text from any printed material, 2) Using words, phrases, information, or ideas from any print, electronic, or audio-visual media without proper citation or acknowledgement of the source, 3) Using passages from other texts while only changing a few select words within that passage 4) Submitting work that originates from another student or commercial source such as a paper mill, 5) Resubmitting an assignment used in another class without the expressed permission from the current and previous instructor, and 6) translating a work from one language to another without proper quotations and citations.

Consequences for plagiarism can vary by instructor but can include failure for the assignment and failure for the course. The instructor is not obligated to provide opportunities to make up a failed assignment. Each instructor will provide his or her policy on plagiarism in the course syllabus. Instructors will provide students with opportunities to fix occurrences of plagiarism before final submission.

It is generally accepted that academic writing consists of the author's thoughts, which are supported by properly cited sources through paraphrasing, summary, and quotations. At the instructor's discretion, papers with excessive quotations, where quotations make up 10% or more Whether plagiarism is intentional or unintentional, it represents a serious academic offense that can be easily avoided by adhering closely to the following advice. A student must document his/her/their source of information whenever he/she/they:

- uses direct quotations.
- copies a table, chart, or diagram.
- constructs a table from data provided by others.
- paraphrases a passage in his/her/their own words.
- presents specific examples, figures, or factual information taken from a specific source and uses to explain or support his/her/their judgments (James M. McCrimmon, Writing with a Purpose, p. 499).

In addition to this definition, I consider plagiarism to include: (1) submitting the work of another student, (2) copying from another student, (3) using unauthorized notes or crib sheets to complete assigned work, or (4) submitting an essay generated in part or entirely by AI (adopted from a statement used by the Human Services program at James A. Rhodes State College).

AI-Generated Text:

This is a writing intensive class, and I expect all writing to be your own, not written by AI. Although there are beneficial uses of AI, such as to generate ideas and brainstorming as a pre-writing activity, please be aware that relying on a computer to do your thinking for you will not benefit your development as a critical thinker or the quality of your education. It is still better to use your own brain and original thoughts as a human being, as a machine cannot replace the authenticity of the lived human experience. Therefore, if you copy any language or phrasing generated by AI into your essay (generally, 4 or more words in a row as produced by the model), you must put quotation marks around the copied words and provide:

- a parenthetical citation at the end of your sentence identifying the AI model used. Failure to do so is considered plagiarism. Any essay or assignment that is found to be partly or entirely written by AI and presented as your own original writing will receive an automatic zero, no exceptions.

ACCOMMODATIONS /ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES POLICY

Edison State Community College will provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you believe you may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact the instructor privately with your self-identification letter. If you do not have a self-identification letter, contact Accessibility and Disability Support Services by emailing disabilities@edisonohio.edu or by calling 937.778.7850. Accessibility and Disability Support Services is located on the Piqua Campus in Room 160.

ADVISING SERVICES

Edison State's career pathway advisors are your partners in success. A career pathway advisor is the first advisor that you will meet with once you have made the decision to further your education. Together, you and your career pathway advisor will:

Identify the right academic major to set you on your desired career path.

Identify the courses you'll need to accomplish your academic goals.

Help you develop a student plan tailored to your lifestyle and work schedule.

Prepare you to navigate your first semester at Edison State.

You can find your career pathway advisor and faculty advisor information, including their email address, by logging into MyESCC and clicking on Student Planning. Go to Plan and Schedule and click on the Advising tab. You may also call 937-778-7850 to connect via phone call.

BOOKSTORE SERVICES

eCampus is Edison State's official bookstore and is located on the Edison State webpage, under "Resources," "Bookstore," or at https://edisonohio.ecampus.com. You can also access eCampus from the ESCC home page, under "Campus Services." Through eCampus, you can rent or buy books, access course materials, or purchase ESCC merchandise.

CAREER AND JOB SERVICES

Our Career and Job Services advisors are dedicated to helping students and alumni advance their professional development as they make career decisions, develop job search strategies, pursue experiential opportunities, and secure employment. Career and Job Services also provides career assessments, career information, resume and cover letter help, job postings and resources, tips for interviewing and more. Visit https://www.edisonohio.edu/Career-and-Job-Services/ for more information.

COMPUTERS

If you are working on campus, computers with internet access are available in the internet café. The Library and Tutoring Center have computers and printers available for your use.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

Health and Wellness Services are available on the Edison State Piqua campus. The program is dedicated to providing resources that promote healthy lifestyle choices for our students, faculty and staff and is managed by the Human Resources department.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Edison State library is not only a comfortable place to study, we have an expansive collection of online resources available to help you with your research. Check out the library webpage here: https://www.edisonohio.edu/Library/. Libguides and short instructional videos are available to help you use these resources and can be found at: https://libguides.edisonohio.edu/. Please contact the library staff with any library questions you may have at library@edisonohio.edu, 937-778-7950, or stop in!

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

College is stressful! Feeling burned out, anxious, frustrated? When challenges arise that you need help dealing with, it's helpful to have someone to talk to. We have established partnerships with many local mental health providers. If you are struggling and need to speak with someone in person, please reach out to the Edison State Care Team, https://www.edisonohio.edu/CARE-Team/. If you are concerned about a student or colleague, please file a CARE Team form https://www.edisonohio.edu/CARE-Team-Referral-Form/ so that immediate assistance can be given. This link and the CARE Team website can be found under Campus Services on our home page.

STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER AND CHARGER STATION FOOD PANTRIES

Edison State Community College is proud to assist students needing help to obtain basic necessities. The Student Resource Center and Food Pantry is stocked with all kinds of grab-and-go snacks, meal supplies, toiletries, household needs, and community resources. Stop by and check out our Charger Stations in Room 163 at Piqua, in the student lounge at Troy, in the Brooke-Gould Learning Resource Center at Eaton, and in Room 121 (for personal care items) and pantry items in the student lounge at Greenville. If you need additional assistance, please reach out at ResourceCenter@edisonohio.edu.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For Blackboard Assignment issues, the instructor should be the first point of contact.

For Log-in or other technology issues:

There are several steps you can follow if you have issues logging in to Blackboard or Office.

During business hours:

Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the "forgot password" prompts.

Reach out for help during regular business hours (9-5 Monday-Thursday, 9-4 Friday) or email to support@edisonohio.edu or call 937-778-8600 and ask for IT Help Desk

After hours:

Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the “forgot password” prompts · Go to www.edisonohio.edu into the Resources tab and click "IT Help Desk" then click "Chat".

Call 937-778-7957 and talk to the off-campus Blackboard company to get help

TESTING YOUR FAITH ACT POLICY

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Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students’ beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records, located in “Forms” and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources.

TITLE IX STATEMENT - Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying

It is the policy of the College to maintain a learning environment free from bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual violence. Title IX federal law protects students, employees and third parties with a relationship to the college.

All Edison State Community College employees are required to report all knowledge of incidents that violate the Title IX policy to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX Coordinator immediately. Student and employee confidential consultation is available through the Coordinator of Health and Wellness Services.

Title IX Policy and procedure language as well as contact information for the Coordinator of Health and Wellness, Title IX Coordinator and Deputy Title IX Coordinator can be found at www.edisonohio.edu/TitleIX/.

TUTORING SERVICES

All Edison State students are eligible to receive free tutoring and learning support services through our Tutoring Center. Available services include Edison State tutors, both online and in-person, covering a wide variety of courses including various levels of math and paper reviews, online tutoring through OhioLINK eTutoring, distraction-reduced study rooms, and the use of Tutoring Center resources including subject-specific and general study guides. For more information on tutoring services, visit the Tutoring Center in the Library, email us at tutoringcenter@edisonohio.edu, call 937-778-7959, or visit our webpage at https://www.edisonohio.edu/tutoring-center/

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For additional help, please click the ASSIST tab on Blackboard or the Edison State Student Resources folder within your course.

College Credit Plus Disclosure: Faculty are required to provide course information pertaining to students' attendance and grades to any high school administrator, guidance counselor, athletic director or custodial parent/guardian. Faculty are NOT required to provide information to a custodial parent/guardian via phone or any method by which the individual's identity cannot be verified. In addition, faculty can require that the student be present during any disclosure of information to a custodial parent/guardian.

Academic Integrity: Edison State Community College expects students to submit original work for each assignment. The Student Handbook, https://www.edisonohio.edu/uploadedFiles/_Web_Assets/Documents/Handbooks/Stu dent_Handbook.pdf, page 29, defines academic dishonesty and how Edison State handles cases of academic dishonesty.

Tentative Schedule

Week Dates	Reading Assignments & Video Lessons	Discussions (Due Dates will be assigned)	Assignments (Due Dates will be assigned in Blackboard
1 **Aug 24-30**	Read: Introduction in Norton Intro to Lit Read: *The Black Cat* by Edgar Allan Poe in the Norton Intro to Lit Watch: Unreliable Narrator Vs. Reliable Narrator supplemental video	DB: Introduction DB: What is Literature? DB: Plot, Narration, and P.O.V	Respond to 2 peers for DB: Introduction Close Reading Analysis 1
2 Aug 31-Sep 6	Read: The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman Watch: The Yellow Wallpaper supplemental video	DB: Character and setting	Close Reading Analysis 2
3 Sep 7-13	Read: The Story of an Hour by Kate Chopin in the Norton Intro to Lit Watch: Symbolism in Literature supplemental video	DB: Symbol and Theme	Close Reading Analysis 3
4 Sep 14-20	Read/Review Literary Reference Center Instructions View Criticism Review Call of Assignment	No DB	Criticism Review
5 Sep 21-27	Read: Boys and Girls by Alice Munro in the Norton Intro to Lit	DB: Short Fiction Unit Reflection	Fiction Reading Response

6 Sep 28- Oct 4	Watch "Close Reading Poetry" supplemental video Read: *Ballad of the Landlord* by Langston Hughes (Reading link provided) Read: Introduction-Chapter 10 in *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton	DB: Reading, Responding, and Speaker	Poetry Close Reading Analysis 1 "Cry, the Beloved Country" Journal 1
7 Oct 5-11	Read: *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost in the Norton Intro to Lit	DB: Situation and setting	Poetry Close Reading Analysis 2
8 Oct 12-18	Watch: "Theme and Tone" supplemental video Read: Emily Dickinson's *Because I could not stop for Death* in the Norton Intro to Lit	DB: Theme and Tone	Poetry Close Reading Analysis 3
9 Oct 19-25	Read: *Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night* by Dylan Thomas in the Norton Intro to Lit Read: Chapter 11-22 in *Cry, the Beloved Country*	DB: Poetry Unit Reflection	Poetry Reading Response "Cry, the Beloved Country" Journal 2
10 Oct 26- Nov 1	View Poetry Presentation Call of Assignment		Poetry Presentation Respond to 2 classmates
11 Nov 2-8	Watch: The Elements of Drama by the Khan Academy Read: A Doll House by Henrik Ibsen	DB: Elements of Drama	No Assignment Due. Please focus on reading this week
12 Nov 9-15	Read: A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry in the Norton Intro to Lit	DB: Drama Unit Reflection	Drama Reading Response 3
13 Nov 16- 22	Read: Chapter 23-36 in Cry, the Beloved Country	No DB	"Cry" Journal 3 Proposal/Annotated Bibliography
14 **Nov 23-29**	No Reading this week. Focus on your Research Analysis Rough Draft	DB: Rough Draft Check-In	Research Analysis Rough Draft
Nov 30-Dec 6	No Reading this week. Please continue revising your rough draft and participate in the Peer Review Workshop this week.	DB: Research Analysis Peer Review Workshop	Respond to 2 peers
Week 16 **EXAM WEEK** Dec 7-12	No Reading this week. Please focus on your Research Analysis Final	DB: Final Thoughts	Research Analysis Final