

Professor: Ann Marie Brown
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Office: Prim Library 334
Office Hours: M/W 1-4 p.m. (please make an appointment)
Class Meeting Time: M/W 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Location: TCES 202
Prerequisites: Eng. 101

Course Description: This course builds on the writing skills introduced in ENGL 101, aiming to develop the conventions of scholarly academic writing with an emphasis on drafting and revising. In keeping with the course theme of “Philosophy in Literature,” students will read a wide range of short stories and novels, research various themes and concepts in the field of philosophy, write reader’s response essays, write essays and research papers, participate in peer review workshops, and make one oral presentation.

Required Texts and Materials:

1. All of the readings for this course are available on-line. You are required to print out these readings, annotate them as you read, and bring your printed, annotated version to class. This syllabus lists all of the reading assignments for this class. A list of URLs (web addresses) where you can download these readings will be handed out on the first day of class.
2. *The Little Brown Compact Handbook, 7th Edition* by Jane Aaron
3. Laptop computer (one that meets the published SNC Laptop Requirements). Please bring to class everyday.

Student Outcomes: The course aims to develop critical thinking skills, evidenced by students’ abilities to evaluate, analyze, and shape an argument in response to readings and research, and to make complex comparisons between texts and ideas. It also aims to develop the conventions of academic writing, including research skills, drafting, outlining, revising, and documenting/citing in MLA style. Students will perform college-level research and refine writing content and style through practice and revision.

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes: Student outcomes will be assessed using the following:

1. Written work (essays, research papers, quizzes)
2. Discussion and written analysis of assigned readings
3. Participation in peer review of classmates’ work and in-class writing sessions

Attendance: *Attendance in this class is of utmost importance.* Students are expected to attend every class and arrive on time. Four (4) absences = 10% deduction of final grade (i.e. an “A” becomes a “B”). Five (5) absences = a 20% deduction of final grade (i.e. an “A” becomes a “C”). Students who are absent 6 times or more will not pass this class. In every class period, points are awarded for in-class assignments. There are **NO make-ups for these in-class points.** On any day that you are absent, you will miss out on points toward your final grade.

If you are absent, **work due on that day is still due.** It may be brought in by a classmate, but all work is due **when the class begins.** Some absences (cleared in advance) may be excused and will not adversely affect your grade. These include absences followed by a note from a medical facility identifying you were under medical care on that day, and absences resulting from attending school-related trips.

Students are responsible for all material covered during the course whether handed out in class, discussed in class, read as an assignment, or disseminated in any other way. If you are absent, make sure you check with your assigned partner(s) to find out what information you missed that day.

Late assignments will be graded down by 10% for every CALENDAR DAY (not class period) that the assignment is late. I do not accept “my computer died” or “the printer is not working” or “you must not have received my email” as an excuse for late assignments.

Reader’s Responses: Each week you will read short fiction pieces and record your responses, reactions, comments, and questions in a short reader’s response essay. Your reader’s response essays will be graded on the depth and quality of your analysis (details to be discussed in class). ***Reader’s Responses are due every Wednesday when the reading assignments are due. You will use these essays as a basis for our in-class discussions. To receive full credit for reader’s responses, they must be turned in during class on Wednesdays (no late responses accepted).***

Electronics policy: Turn off your cell phone and all other distracting devices in the classroom. If we are using computers during class, you are expected to refrain from activities not related to the lesson (i.e. Web surfing, Facebook, YouTube, etc.) Frequently I will ask you to turn off your laptop for the entire session and write using only pen and paper.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the accumulation of points during the semester (total possible points = 1,000), distributed in the following ways:

- 25% reader’s response essays (250 points for depth and quality of reading analysis)
- 25% written assignments & research paper (250 points)
- 25% quality of contributions to in-class workshops and discussions (250 points)
- 25% final culminating research paper

Consequences for Violating the Faculty/Student Honor Code: SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the honor code and consequences for violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, and FABRICATION and refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the honor code become part of a student’s academic record.

SNC’s Disciplinary Sanctions for Honor Code Violations:

- 1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.
- 3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

The SNC E-mail System: The SNC e-mail system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college e-mail accounts daily during the school year. Students have a right to forward

their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having e-mail redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC e-mail account.

Academic Accommodations: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

Note: This schedule provides a general plan for this course. You will be advised of any changes, if necessary.

Date		
Week 1 Wed. Jan. 20	You are everyone and everyone is you. Time is a manmade construct.	Andy Weir, “The Egg” reincarnation, Brahma ** how to write a reading response
Week 2 Mon. Jan 25 Wed. Jan 27	What is the impact of our actions on others? Is the happiness of many people more important than that of one person?	M Research Topics: William James’ pragmatism, utopia/dystopia, Ursula LeGuin W Reading Response due: Ursula LeGuin, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas”
Week 3 Mon. Feb. 1 Wed. Feb. 3	Moral choices can make a person’s life meaningful in a meaningless world.	M Research Topics: Camus, Sartre, existentialism W Reading Response due: Camus, “The Guest” & “The Myth of Sisyphus”
Week 4 Mon. Feb. 8 Wed. Feb 10	There is no causality in life. There is no “grand plan.” Every human being must create his or her own meaning.	M Research Topics: Camus, Sartre, existentialism W Reading Response due: Sartre, “The Wall”
Week 5 Mon. Feb. 15 NO CLASS Wed. Feb. 17	Is the universe orderly or chaotic? Are there punishments and rewards for ethical behavior?	M NO CLASS! W Reading Response due: Stephen Crane, “The Open Boat”
Week 6 Mon. Feb. 22 Wed. Feb. 24	How can we describe infinity?	M Writing Assignment #1 due W Reading Response due: Jorge Luis Borges, “The Aleph” & “Library of Babel”
Week 7 Mon. Feb. 29 Wed. Mar. 2	What is the impact of our actions on others? Is the happiness of others more important than our own?	M Writing Lab – assigned times W Reading Response due: Leo Tolstoy, “Three Questions”
Week 8 Mon. Mar 7 Wed. Mar. 9	Humans are basically evil and can’t think for themselves. We have a herd mentality.	M Writing Assignment #2 due W Reading Response due: Shirley Jackson, “The Lottery”
Week 9 March 14-18	SPRING BREAK!!!	SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 10 Mon. Mar. 21 Wed. Mar. 23	Literary Naturalism: Nature is indifferent to human foibles	M Research Topics: Literary naturalism W Reading Response due: Saki, “The Interlopers”
Week 11 Mon. Mar. 28 Wed. Mar. 30	Modern life alienates us from others	M Writing Assignment #3 due W Reading Response due: Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” & “A Country Doctor”
Week 12 Mon. Apr. 4 Wed. Apr. 6	Humans are dangerously dependent on technology	M Writing Lab – assigned times W Reading Response due: E.M. Forster, “The Machine Stops”
Week 13 Mon. Apr. 11 Wed. Apr. 13	Enforced equality leads to mediocrity	M Writing Assignment #4 due W Reading Response due: Kurt Vonnegut, “Harrison Bergeron”
Week 14 Mon. Apr. 18 Wed. Apr. 20	Humans try all their lives to fight entropy, but they fail	M Writing Lab – assigned times W Reading Response due: Isaac Asimov, “The Last Question”
Week 15 Mon. Apr. 25 Wed. Apr. 27	Science and religion conflict, but one is useless without the other	M Writing Assignment #5 due W Reading Response due: Arthur C. Clarke, “The Star”
Week 16 Mon. May 2		M Writing Lab – assigned times
FINAL EXAM TBD May 6-11		FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts • Professional Preparedness • Entrepreneurial Thinking • Sustainability