UNDERSTANDING LITERATURE
Fall 2013
English 200, Section PQ-Hybrid
Tuesdays 2pm - 3:50pm; online
AC 2A05; Blackboard

Professor Kelly Josephs
kjosephs@york.cuny.edu
Office: AC 2A02; 718-262-2469
Office Hours: Tues 12:30p-1:30p

***Note: This is a hybrid section of English 200. This means that a portion of our work is conducted online. We generally meet face-to-face (F2F) once a week as a class and communicate often via the course Blackboard site. Please pay close attention to your schedule to stay on track. See page 3 of the electronic version of this syllabus for information about the web content of this course***

ABOUT THE COURSE

Course Description: ENG200: Understanding Literature (3 hrs. 3 cr.). For non-Pathways students: This is a liberal arts course that fulfills York College’s General Education requirement in literature. For Pathways students: This is a liberal arts course that fulfills York College’s General Education requirement in the World Cultures and Global Issues component of the flexible core. Prerequisite: ENG 125.

Course Objectives: Over the course of the semester, through discussions, presentations, and writing assignments, students will:
- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view
- Evaluate evidence and arguments critically and analytically
- Produce well-reasoned written and oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
- Identify the fundamental concepts and methods of literary study and apply them to exploring world cultures and global issues
- Analyze the historical development of one or more non-U.S. societies
- Analyze the significance of one or more major movements that have shaped the world's societies
- Analyze and discuss the role that race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, sexual orientation, belief, or other forms of social differentiation play in world cultures and societies

ABOUT THIS SECTION OF ENG 200

Required Texts:

Grading Policy: Response papers 20%
Discussion Board 30%
Midterm and Final 20%
Extended Papers 20%
In-class Participation 10%
**Attendance policy:** This course is governed by the English Department’s attendance policy, stated below. Additionally, your in-class participation grade is in part dependent on attendance. See the Grading Rubric posted on Blackboard for more information on in-class participation grade.

**English Department Attendance Policy for classes that meet once a week:**
- Students in classes that meet once a week may miss no more than two (2) sessions.
- Three (3) absences are grounds for failure.
- Missing 15 minutes of class—arriving late, departing early, or leaving during class—counts as half an absence.

**Reading Assignments:** You are required to complete all reading assignments and to discuss them in class and via your group discussion board according to given prompts. Readings may be altered.

**Writing Assignments:** All assignments are to be submitted via Blackboard by midnight of the given due date. **I will not accept late assignments.** Details for each assignment are included below and in separate (more detailed) documents on Blackboard. All papers should be double-spaced and use a readable 12pt font.

**Plagiarism:** Students are required to review and abide by the College’s policy on plagiarism (see York College Bulletin). Plagiarism consists of utilizing someone else’s words or ideas in work you submit as your own without giving the original author(s) credit. **You alone are responsible for the originality and integrity of your work,** therefore, if you are unsure about the meaning of plagiarism, please contact me for further explanation. Plagiarism for any of your assignments will result in a failing grade for the course.

**Assignments**
- Response Papers (500-600 words) – 4 total. I will assign questions a week ahead of each due date. Please view the document titled “Response Guidelines” for more details on the requirements for these papers. Response papers are due on Monday nights, by midnight, and are to be turned in electronically via Blackboard.
- Discussion Board (200 - 350 words) – 11 weeks total. These are comments you make via the discussion board in your assigned groups. There are two components to the Discussion Board assignment: Posts – approximately 100-150 words in response to the assigned questions, due Monday nights by midnight; Comments – approximately 50-100 words each in response to two of your classmates’ Discussion Board posts, due Wednesday nights by midnight. Please view the document with more details and instructions on Blackboard (“Guidelines for Discussions”).
- Extended Papers (1000-1200 words) – 2 total. These papers are extended writings based on one of your response papers and in response to given prompts. Please view the document with more details on the requirements for these papers.
- Midterm and Final – both in class, open book and open notes.

**Email Policy:** I will respond to any email within 48 hours during the week, longer on weekends. Please do not email me on the day an assignment is due with questions about said assignment. Before emailing, please ensure that the answer to your question is not already covered in your syllabus or assignment handout. Before pressing “send,” please proofread your message. **I do not accept assignments via email.** You must use the assignments upload option on Blackboard. Please see the document with instructions on Blackboard (“Uploading Assignments”) if you have never used this option. Please see additional communication details and requirements in “About Web Component.”
ABOUT THE WEB COMPONENT

Email addresses: All students must use their York College email address for all college correspondence. If, in an emergency, you need to use another address, make sure that you have set up the account so that your name shows up when you send a message. Messages from addresses such as hotsexymama@hotmail.com may be blocked by the college spam program (I also would prefer not to see such email addresses in my inbox). Please also ensure that you always have a “subject” in your message as I will not open untitled messages.

Time Management: Online instruction does not work for everyone. The online portion of this course will require that you are more self-motivated and independent as a learner than a regular F2F class would. There will not be many lectures; rather, your learning in this course will take place via class discussions, online group discussion, and other formal assignments. This means you will have to keep up, observe due dates, and be an active member of the class community. You can do the work when it suits you best, but you will need to spend between 6 and 10 hours per week on this class, and get into the habit of checking your email regularly, checking the course website at least twice per week, following the course schedule so that you know when everything is due, and staying in touch with your instructor and at least some of your classmates. You are in control of your time and your work.

If you’re ambivalent about this hybrid class, or have general questions about requirements, please see the York College information on Online/Hybrid courses: http://campus.arbor.edu/ma_com/online_learner.html

Hardware Requirements
You will need to have access to a computer with high-speed internet access that you can spend at least six hours on each week. It doesn’t matter to me whether it is at your home, or somewhere else, but you must have reliable access to both a computer and the internet. I recommend that you don’t try to do the work for this class from your phone. Not being able to find a computer to use, or having unreliable internet access, are not valid excuses for not doing the work of this class.

Software Requirements
Your computer should have a standard internet browser (Internet Explorer, Safari or Mozilla Firefox are all browsers that I have used effectively with the course materials). Keep all updates (Java, etc) current. You will need to use a word processor with which you can save documents in a .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt format. Many PCs come with Microsoft Works installed. I cannot read .wps files. Use Microsoft Word, Open Office, NeoOffice, or Wordpad or Notepad if you don’t want to be bothered changing the file type. Written assignments that are submitted via documents in the .wps format will not be accepted and you will receive a zero for said assignment.

Note to Students: Not having access to technology or the appropriate technology to complete course requirements is not a valid excuse. You must be willing to obtain access to the necessary hardware, software, and Internet. You must be willing to check your e-mail regularly and access the course site at least every other day during the week. If you are not willing to do these things, then you should consider dropping this class and registering for a F2F section because you will not do well in this course without the proper equipment and frequent online presence in the course.