ENGL 101A: Introduction to Literary Studies
Spring 2013
9:30-10:20 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Taught By:
Kasandra Arthur Office: PAS 1062
Email: karthur@uwaterloo.ca Office Hours: 11:00-1:00 Wed.

Course Description:
This course will offer students an introduction to the fundamentals of university level literary studies. Our readings will cover a wide range of the canon of English literature including authors from different periods of time and different English speaking communities. We will explore some major genres including poetry, drama, short story, the novel, film, television, and new media. We will also engage in some of the major approaches to the study of literature including psychoanalysis, feminism, historicism, and postcolonialism among others. In so doing, students will become familiar with some of the key concepts and practices of the academic study of English.

Course Objectives:
- To learn some basic critical terms and concepts foundational to critical analysis
- To learn how to engage in critical debates about literature
- To effectively document sources using MLA format
- To continually improve written communication

Required Textbooks:
- Arthur Conan Doyle’s *A Study in Scarlet*
- Jack Kerouac’s *On The Road*

Assignments:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Terms Worksheet</td>
<td>Monday, July 29th</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>5 throughout the course (2 by June 14th)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay Proposal</td>
<td>Wednesday, July 10th</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>Monday, July 29th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Critical Terms Worksheet:** At the beginning of the course students will be given a list of critical terms. These terms will be discussed throughout the course and developed in conjunction with practical examples. By **Monday, July 29th** students will hand in this list with definitions and brief examples of each term. Assignments must be done in MLA format in 12 point Times New Roman font.

**Reading Responses:** Throughout the course, students will hand in at least **five (5)** Reading Responses. Each one will respond to questions posed about specific readings in detail, though stronger responses will go beyond this by relating the reading or the questions about the reading relate to critical terms, literary periods, or other issue related to the course and our discussions. These will be graded based upon clarity of writing and the depth of critical thinking demonstrated. Assignments must be done in MLA format, double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font. Assignments must be handed in within **one (1)** week of the last day of our covering the reading the quotation is from in class. Assignments can be handed in at any point during the course, but at least **two (2)** of them must be handed in by June 14th. Students can hand in more than five assignments and will be credited with only the best five grades.

**Final Essay Proposal:** On **Wednesday, July 10th** students will hand in a proposal for the final essay. This proposal will include a thesis, topic sentences, and a potential Works Cited including the primary texts and at least three (3) scholarly sources (journal articles, chapters, or books). Assignments must be done in MLA format, double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font.

**Final Essay:** Students will write a **five to eight (5-8)** page essay in response to one of the prompts provided. Students will integrate at least three (3) scholarly sources into essay arguments. Assignments must be done in MLA format, double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font. Final Essays will be due **Monday, July 29th**.

**Final Exam:** Students will write a final exam at a date yet to be determined during the official exam period. The Final Exam will consist of three sections. **Section A** will require students to provide brief definitions of a selection of the Critical Terms we will have covered in class. **Section B** will require students to perform **two (2)** Reading Responses on a selection of quotations after identifying the authors and titles of the text these quotations come from. **Section C** will require students to write a brief essay in response to **one (1)** of a selection of questions. These questions will pick up on the recurring themes of the class.

**Course Policies:**

**Student Responsibilities:** Students are required to read all assigned material and come to every class prepared to discuss the topics thoughtfully and in a respectful manner. Part of this means arriving on time, having mobile phones either off or silent during class time, not having distracting computer programs open during class time, and paying attention to the questions and comments of your classmates.

**Extensions:** Extensions may be given in rare cases of illness or emergency. The earlier an extension is requested, the more likely it is to be granted. While I do not require personal details, documentation may be requested to prove illness or emergency. **All extensions requests must be sent in email so both you and I have documentation to refer to.**
Late Policy: Assignments submitted late without an approved extension will be subject to late penalties of 2% per day, including weekends, up to a maximum of 50% of the assigned grade. No assignment will be accepted after August 17th, 2013. Please note that I do not accept assignments submitted via email unless I have given specific and explicit permission for students to do so.

Email Policy: Students are required to check their university email accounts regularly as course information will occasionally be emailed through that system, including some readings. Emails regarding course business should be sent to my university email address (karthur@uwaterloo.ca) with the course number in the subject heading. Please ensure your emails are clear and direct. While I will try to respond to emails promptly, this is not always possible; please allow up to 36 hours for a response. Students cannot hand in assignments via email unless given explicit permission by me (to be determined on a case-by-case basis).

Academic Integrity: Students are required to familiarize themselves with the guidelines for academic integrity, discipline, and appeals as outlined in policies 71, 72, and 73 (links can be found at http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/about-academic-integrity/integrity-policies-0). Serious penalties can and will result from infringements against university policies. All assignments submitted to me that lack the required MLA formatting will receive an automatic grade of zero (0). Assignments with this issue can be resubmitted with proper MLA formatting but will face standard late penalties (these assignments are still subject to the deadline of August 17th). We will cover in class what constitutes plagiarism and cheating. If, after this class discussion you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask for further clarification.

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall Rm. 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with OPD at the beginning of each academic term.