

Mastering the Liberal Arts I

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Learning Objectives

- To enhance the skills of reading, critical analysis and expository writing.
- To grasp the concept of writing as a process with various steps: finding and narrowing an appropriate topic, arriving at a thesis, outlining, revising, and editing
- To understand the difference between a topic and a thesis, between summary and analysis; and to advance an argument supported by documented textual evidence
- To realize the importance of accurate citation of sources and academic integrity
- To understand how to integrate both direct quotations and paraphrases into a research paper
- To understand the importance of online participation: writing cogent responses as well as reading and responding carefully to others' ideas.

Online Format and Schedule

This course offers readings, lecture material, frequent writing and online multiple-choice assessments, including active discussions and online exercises. There are no scheduled meeting times, but deadlines are strictly enforced, as students work together to achieve learning objectives. The class follows a rigorous schedule and you should expect to be working at least as many hours as with a traditionally-scheduled class. Plan to log into Canvas and work almost every day.

As much as possible, we will try to stick with a consistent schedule during the week:

- Monday: each unit begins on a Monday morning
- Monday-Wednesday: read and study online materials
- Wednesday by 11pm: post your first discussion posts

- Thursday-Sunday: write your follow-up posts in online discussion; work on assignments
- Sunday by 11pm: complete posts; upload assignment
- Submit major essay assignments and quizzes by the date indicated on each Module.
- All assignments, quizzes and discussion posts not received within two weeks of the due date will be assigned a score of "0."
- The two lowest scores in quizzes and discussion posts will be dropped when tabulating final grades.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- No textbook is required for this class
- Either an online stream or DVD of the film *Blue Velvet* for multiple viewings
- An MLA formatting and style guide, such as a college writing handbook **or** an online-source like OWL
Purdue <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> (Links to an external site.)

Assessment

Discussions/Worksheets	25%
Reading quizzes	15%
Papers	55%
Punctuation Test	5%
Total	100%

Online Discussions

We'll use the Forums tool in Canvas to engage in meaningful and graded discussions at least twice per week. I expect you to make a substantive post for each discussion topic, as well as a substantive response to a classmate's post. (I recommend using Microsoft Word to compose your responses, then copy-and-paste them into the discussion forum.) Note that each discussion topic will present two deadlines: one for the initial post and one for the response. You can expect me to access the discussion forum regularly and contribute to the conversation. Discussion grades will be posted in Canvas generally within one day of the discussion closing date. Topics are available Monday morning, and discussions close at 11pm Sunday. You must post/respond at least once Monday-Wednesday, and at least once Thursday-Sunday.

Your participation will be graded based on how well you meet these criteria:

<p>Exceeding Expectations 10 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post comprehensively addresses the topic, adds value to discussion with stimulating posts • Posts in-depth, incisive reflections that demonstrate critical thinking; shares real-world experiences and examples • Well-written posts made within required timeframe; no grammar/spelling errors
<p>Meeting Expectations 8-9 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts are on-topic, relevant, and contain original content • Posts elicit reflections from and/or build on ideas of others; show evidence of knowledge and understanding of content, may include occasional examples • Posts use complete sentences and rarely have grammar/spelling errors online
<p>Emerging Towards Expectations 7 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts are on-topic, but may lack originality and/or fail to elicit reflections from or build on ideas of others; examples may be made but may be irrelevant or unclear how they connect to course content • Posts may contain multiple grammar/spelling errors
<p>Below Expectations 1-6 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posts do not contain enough reference back to original topic or may not address the issue at hand sufficiently • Little evidence of knowledge/understanding of course content is shown; examples missing • Posts contain incomplete sentences and/or may not adhere to standard English grammar/spelling
<p>Cannot Judge (Missing) 0 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student did not complete discussion board question.

Academic Integrity

The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. You are responsible for reading and understanding our policy on academic integrity policy, available from

the [Rutgers Academic Integrity website \(Links to an external site.\)](#). Academic integrity means, among other things, that all Rutgers students are required to:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress

Students with Disabilities:

Students who have a diagnosed disability on file with the [Office of Disability Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#) are eligible for accommodations, as specified by the University. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 856-225-6442 if you need to begin the process of receiving accommodations. Students who do not have a letter of accommodation from the university will not be eligible to receive accommodations in this course.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Wed Sep 7, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 1: Personal Narrative Ideas
	Quiz MLAQ1: Important Narrative Concepts
Sun Sep 11, 2022	Quiz MLAQ2: Reading Comprehension
	Quiz MLAQ3: Recognizing Phrases

Date	Details
	Discussion Topic Discussion 2: Creative Writing Exercise
Wed Sep 14, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 3: "Shooting an Elephant" Two Paragraph Response
Sun Sep 18, 2022	Quiz MLAQ4: Important Narrative Concepts 2
	Quiz MLAQ5: Identifying Clauses
Sun Sep 25, 2022	Quiz MLAQ6: Name that Cite
	Quiz MLAQ7: Commas 1
	Assignment Worksheet #1: Database Scavenger Hunt
Fri Sep 30, 2022	Assignment Major Paper: Personal Narrative
Sun Oct 2, 2022	Quiz MLAQ8: Commas 2
	Assignment Worksheet #2: Putting Together the Works Cited
Wed Oct 5, 2022	Assignment Worksheet #3: Quotation Sandwich Exercise
Sun Oct 9, 2022	Quiz MLAQ9: Commas 3
Wed Oct 12, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 4: Critical Strategies for "A Soldier's Home"

Date	Details
Sun Oct 16, 2022	Quiz MLAQ10: "Story of an Hour"
Wed Oct 19, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 5: Critical Strategies for "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"
Fri Oct 21, 2022	Assignment Major Paper: Bibliographic Summary
Sun Oct 23, 2022	Quiz MLAQ11: Terminology
	Quiz MLAQ12: Less Common 1
Wed Oct 26, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 6: Critical Strategies for "Lust"
Sun Oct 30, 2022	Quiz MLAQ13: Terminology 2
	Quiz MLAQ14: Less Common Punctuation 2
Wed Nov 2, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 7: Critical Strategies for "Young Goodman Brown"
Sun Nov 6, 2022	Quiz MLAQ15: Less Common Punctuation 3
Wed Nov 9, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 8: Freudian Strategies for "Young Goodman Brown"
Sun Nov 13, 2022	Assignment Major Paper: Literature Analysis
Wed Nov 16, 2022	Quiz MLAQ16: Freud

Date	Details
Sun Nov 20, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 9: Jungian Strategies for "Young Goodman Brown"
Wed Nov 23, 2022	Quiz MLAQ17: Jung
Sun Nov 27, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 10: Critical Strategies for BLUE VELVET Quiz Punctuation Test
Wed Nov 30, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 11: Freudian Strategies for BLUE VELVET
Sun Dec 4, 2022	Quiz MLAQ18: Lindroth
Wed Dec 7, 2022	Discussion Topic Discussion 12: Jungian Strategies for BLUE VELVET
Sun Dec 11, 2022	Quiz MLAQ19: Stein, Stein, and Weidemann
Wed Dec 14, 2022	Assignment Worksheet #4: Works Cited Page
Mon Dec 19, 2022	Assignment Major Paper: Psychological Analysis