Dr. Dorinda Fox

Spring 2014

Contemporary Literature

Online Course

**How do I contact Dr. Fox?**

407-928-1549

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Office Hours: 9:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m *Monday and Friday.*

1. I post grades on these days. Students will have an original response due on Thursday of each week and responses to classmates or final drafts due on Sundays.
2. I am available by phone from 9:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m Monday and Friday.
3. Students are welcome to leave messages to arrange for phone conferences at other times on other days. I will confirm those conferences in advance.
4. If students call before 9 a.m. after 7 p.m. on any day even if I answer the phone then I will ask them to call back and leave a message with a time for a conference during normal business hours.
5. My email address is [dfox@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:dfox@valenciacollege.edu). Email me directly and do not use the message section of Blackboard.
6. I return emails received on MTWRF and Sunday within 24 hours. I return emails received on Saturday within 48 hours. This means I do not answer emails on Sunday. I do not answer phone calls on Sunday.

**What is the required textbook?**

1. There is no required textbook. Each week an assignment will be posted with links that are required reading. Understanding the contents at these links will be essential to properly completing assignments.
2. A handbook for MLA formatting guidelines and for reference on grammar and the mechanical conventions of standard written English is required. Students are welcome to use the materials found at the Purdue Online Writing Lab for free to fill this requirement. Find it at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/> If students have already bought the rather expensive handbook at the bookstore then they can either return it for their money back or keep it for use in this and future courses.

**What is this course about?**

In LIT 2090 students will read, analyze, **discuss,** and write about representative work of contemporary novelists, short story writers, poets, dramatists, and non-fiction writers especially significant **in the last thirty years**.

The reading and writing in this course will reinforce the academic skills acquired in ENC 1101, with particular emphasis on the higher-order critical reading skills. Students will gain experience in reading literary criticism and incorporating critical ideas into documented essays. Students should gain a deeper appreciation of the value of literature as a mode of creative expression and as an artifact of human culture and should gain greater insight into contemporary culture by examining the work of literary artists of our time.

Here is a detailed line-by-line analysis of the catalogue course description.

The primary purpose for this course is to

*read, analyze,****discuss,****and write about representative work of contemporary novelists, short story writers, poets, dramatists, and non-fiction writers especially significant****in the last thirty years****.*

Assignments in the course address

*1.*    *higher-order critical reading skills*

This is addressed through the reading of the work of the authors themselves.  A short story is assigned for the first paper. You will be asked to read a book and short stories of your author for the second paper. You are asked to read a short work by a very contemporary author for the third paper.

You should consider your detailed assignment to require serious reading to understand. There are always several tasks and associated links to review.  These will be posted as announcements, emailed to you, and each task will be delineated at the appropriate discussion post.

*2.*    *reading literary criticism*

Students will prepare author bibliographies in which they read, summarize and include literary criticism about their author.

Please review the library tutorial provided if you need a refresher on research skills learned in 1101 to find this material.  It will lead you through databases necessary to find this material.

*3.*    *incorporating critical ideas*

The linked material provided at the Purdue OWL in all three assignments will provide information on literary analysis.  It was assigned reading so that you will know how to incorporate these ideas in your discussion posts and papers.

*4.*    *literature as a mode of creative expression/human culture/contemporary culture*

You will be asked to view video interviews and movie/film adaptations of all authors assigned to you to accomplish this goal.  I do not lecture on authors who are alive, have been filmed, and can speak for themselves.

This is not a course in literary criticism. It is a review of the work of contemporary authors. It is not modeled on APA English courses in high school.

Students should expect to devote 6 to 10 hours per week on this course reading material, making discussion posts, responding to classmates, preparing pre-writing activities, writing rough drafts, and/or posting final drafts in order to earn a desirable grade.

Students who spend significantly less time than this on the course for tasks are likely doing it wrong. This is the same amount of time a student would devote to a face-to-face course.

Students sometimes mistakenly believe an online course is the “lite” version of the course. It would be unprofessional for me to design a “lite” version of the course and it is unreasonable for students to have a “lite” expectation.

Not all teachers present material or assignments in the same manner. Please read the syllabus thoroughly to see if the methods in this course and hours required are doable for you. If not then please drop the course before the drop/add date so other students in need of the course credit can take the course.

**How is the final grade determined?**

There is a 1000 point base.

Participation in Weekly Discussions is worth 300 points total over the course of the semester.

Students are expected to post in a weekly discussion by Thursday of each week. Each discussion earns15 points.

**These posts count as attendance days in the course. Students are considered present when they make the discussion post in the proper time period. Students are considered absent when they do not make the discussion post in the proper time period. It is the college policy that students are dropped from courses after three absences. Online students are subject to the standard attendance policy of the college that applies to students in face-to-face courses. Students can miss two such posts without an attendance penalty.**

Discussion posts cannot be made up for any reason.

Paper #1 is worth 250 points. Sunday 03/02/2014.

Paper #2 is worth 250 points. The final draft is due on Sunday 04/20/2014.

Paper #3 is a research project worth 200 points. The final draft is due on Sunday 04/27/2014.

I suggest that students enter the assignment due dates in their own personal calendaring system.

I will post weekly reminder announcements of what is due on Monday mornings and email that announcement to students.

**What is the Late Work policy?**

1. Students cannot earn points or attendance for late discussion posts.
2. Students can turn in final drafts of the first two papers up to 7 days late but there will be a one grade penalty i.e. a B paper on which the student earned an 85% would be recorded as a C paper or 75%. After 7days the grade on the paper will be recorded as an F.

**What do I need to know about classroom policies and procedures?**

1. All writing assignments must be formatted according to standard MLA requirements and posted to the course website. See the MLA Formatting and Style Guide at the Purdue OWL for assistance. The URL is <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

Students can also review the MLA Styleguide at the Valencia College library. The URL is <http://valenciacollege.edu/library/documentation.cfm>.

1. Any student needing assistance with reading or writing assignments is encouraged to use Valencia College resources for which he or she has already paid with tuition and should use. The URL is

<http://valenciacollege.edu/communications/>

1. **Students are expected to meet deadlines on the course class schedule. Students who miss the due date for any combination of three discussions, peer review of rough draft, or final paper posts will be dropped from the course for non-attendance. The last date of attendance entered for the grade will be the date of the last post the student made. Students can miss two such posts without an attendance penalty.**
2. Students are expected to have Internet access throughout the course and are required to establish a Plan B computer and Plan B Internet access should their primary computer or access be unavailable.
3. **Travelling and vacations do not preclude students from meeting course requirements or extend due dates.** Go to a hotel business center, a local library, or a local Internet café. The Internet is also available on cruise ships, trains, and airplanes but it is not cheap.
4. Academic honesty requires that all work submitted by the student be totally original or properly credited. Students guilty of plagiarism will not receive credit for the assignment in question and may be failed for the course. Review the following material at the Purdue OWL to learn about plagiarism in general. The URL is <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>.

Review the material in the Valencia College Student Handbook to find materials related to Valencia College and plagiarism. They are found in the section beginning on page 55. The URL is <http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>

1. Students must use Valencia College library resources for papers. Internet sources such as Spark Notes or wikipedia will result in an F grade for a paper. Students will be instructed to complete library tutorials that explain how to use online library resources.
2. Online communication should be civil and respectful meeting Valencia’s Code of Student Conduct found in the Valencia Student Handbook. Review the material at the Valencia College Student Handbook beginning on page 55. The URL is <http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>.
3. Students must post work in the appropriate discussion for each week in order to earn points and attendance. Not doing so is akin to going to the wrong classroom for which one would also not receive attendance credit. It is not acceptable to be somewhere in the building/somewhere on the course website.
4. Valencia Community College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services before requesting accommodations from the professor. The URL is <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/>

Students with disabilities, who need accommodations in this course, must contact the professor **at the beginning of the semester** to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations