AP/EN 1001 3.0B (F)
INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY STUDIES

Lecture: Tuesday 11:30 am – 1:00 pm Room: Curtis D
Tutorials:
1 Wed. 11:30 – 1:00 Room: Calumet 208
2 Tues. 1:00 – 2:00 Room: Health, Nursing, Enviro 401
3 Wed. 8:00 – 9:30 cancelled
4 Thurs. 10:00 – 11:30 Room: Ross S128
5 Thurs. 8:30 – 10:00 Room: Chemistry Bldg 120
6 Tues. 2:30 – 4:00 Room: Calumet 208

Professor: Dr. Thomas Loebel
Office: Atkinson 730
Office Hours: Monday 1:30 – 2:30 or by appt in person on Monday or Tuesday, or via skype throughout the week
Email: loebel@yorku.ca
Skype: prof.loebel

This course is required for all EN majors and minors. A minimum final grade of C in this course is required for continuing in EN as a major or minor.

General Description:
This course provides an introduction to the study of, and writing about, literature. Students learn to observe, understand and evaluate how literary texts work. Through specific attention to the technical language of literature, the mechanics of writing, the kinds of questions involved in critical reading, and the preparation of an essay, students learn to write effectively about literature.

Using examples from the shorter genres of literature (essays, stories, poems and plays), from various historical periods, this course examines different modes of literary expression, with particular emphasis on elements and strategies of composition (including rhetoric, structure, genre, voice, audience, idiom, diction and historical contexts). In doing so, it makes explicit and exemplifies effective skills in close reading and comparative analysis. In tandem with these skills, students learn the mechanics of writing with attention to grammar, punctuation, the construction of sentences and paragraphs, as well as the process of planning, researching and writing a comparative literary essay.

Additional Notes from Professor Loebel:
As I specialize in American literature, there is “a certain Slant of light” (Dickinson P258) to the text list in that direction. In lecture, I will explore different ways of approaching the texts, focus on specific issues engaged by them, demonstrate critical reading, and aim to inspire you to honour literature with your practices of reading and writing by being as demanding of it as it is of you. In tutorial, we will get into the nuts and bolts of writing – yes, grammar, style and phrasing, organization and argument, etc., but the general aim is to bring our conceptual abilities and communication skills up to a level at
which you, and I, can be proud. These are old-fashioned terms, “honour” and “pride.” Relative to appreciation of literary art and the honing of your skills, I’ll also throw in “self-respect,” just to make matters utterly ancient. This doesn’t mean that I’m a horrible bore, at least not when it comes to culture, argument, and so forth. It does mean, however, that I promote achievably high standards, and you have to believe in and want those standards, at the very least in terms of the level of your skills.

Reading List:
- All readings are available in a course kit available at the YorkU Bookstore. Plato’s Republic is available through the YorkU library as an ebook, as is Sophocles’ Antigone and Melville’s “Benito Cereno.” Inexpensive Dover Thrift editions of Antigone and “Benito Cereno” have been ordered at the Bookstore if you want print editions as has Gurney’s Another Antigone.


Learning Objectives:
1. to introduce students to the concept of genre and the literary language used to describe examples of shorter works selected from the past to the present (essays, poems, stories, plays)
2. to develop students’ abilities to read closely and analytically
3. to introduce comparative analysis to students within and across literary genres and historical periods
4. to introduce students to effective literary enquiry and research methods and sources
5. to train students in writing about literature at the university level

Evaluation:
In-class and homework focused writing assignments (grammar, proofreading, sentence correction, library skills) 15%
Short but formal writing assignments (paragraph comparisons, essay introductions and outline, close reading/textual explication) 30%
1500 word comparative research essay 30%
fina test 20%
Participation 5%
**Schedule**

**September**
10   Intro lecture: Reading literature as a multidisciplinary art  
    (the literary, the imagistic/figural, the visual, the rhythmic & musical)  
    + what you’ll “get” from this course  
    + what is difficult about the course  
  • **Diagnostic Writing Assignment in Tutorial**  
  • **Online research for next week’s tutorial:** define “Elegy,” “Ode,” “Lyric,”  
    “Sonnet,” “Free Verse” and bring in an example.

17   T.S. Eliot, “Tradition and the Individual Talent”  
    Poetry: shaping thought  
    Marianne Moore, “Poetry,” “A Jelly-Fish” & “Poetry”  
    e e cummings, “I Will Wade Out” & “O Moon”  
    George Herbert, “Easter Wings” & “A Wreath”  
    Lewis Carroll, “A Mouse’s Tale”  
    Steve McCaffery, *Carnival* & Derek Beaulieu’s concrete poems  
    **Research for next week’s tutorial:** bring in all or exemplary stanzas of your  
    favourite song lyric which conveys an idea of some depth poetically, figuratively  
    (allegory, metaphor, symbol, etc.) or philosophically. Pay attention to how rhyme,  
    meter, form work with the words to convey the meaning.

24   “Traditional” and Ideas: Beauty  
    John Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”  
    William Carlos Williams, “Youth and Beauty”  
    Wallace Stevens, “Peter Quince at the Clavier”  
    Emily Dickinson, “I died for beauty,” “There’s a certain slant of light,” “There is a  
    Pain so utter,” ”The Brain is Wider than the Sky,” ”Much Madness in divinist  
    Sense,” ”Renunciation is a piercing virtue,” ”Finding is the first Act,”  
    ”Perception of an Object Costs,” ”Wonder is not precisely knowing,”  
    Frank Ebersole, Frank, Conversation with a Dead Philosopher"  
    Walt Whitman, “I Sing the Body Electric”

**October**
1    **Comparative Poetry Assignment Due**  
    Comparing Arguments: Prose  
    Plato. “Book X”  
    Oscar Wilde, “Decay of Lying”

08    Library Skills Workshop  

15    **Library Skills Assignment Due**
Theorizing With Literature
Plato, “Book VII”
Herman Melville, "Benito Cereno"

22  Plato & Melville continued

29  **Context, Significance & Implications Assignment Due**
Essay form & Mechanics, incl. Zotero in tutorial
Sophocles, *Antigone*

**November**
5   Sophocles, *Antigone*

12  Sophocles and A. R. Gurney, *Another Antigone*

19  Sophocles and A. R. Gurney, *Another Antigone*

26  Review
**Comparative Research Essay Due**

**December**
3   December Test
Writing Resources for EN 1001

YorkU Learning Commons
http://www.yorku.ca/yulearn/
- The gateway site for all sorts of YorkU links and resources available in and in association with the Library

York U Library
http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/en1001?hs=a&gid=1025
- EN 1001 Research Guide Page

http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/ResearchAndInstruction/index.htm
- How to use the library for research

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/literature?hs=a&gid=949
- The literature-specific research guide page

Citation Styles
http://www.library.yorku.ca/ccm/Home/ResearchAndInstruction/StyleManuals/
- Pretty much all the main style guides online links

York U Centre for Academic Writing
http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/
- Includes tutoring, writing and research resources

Grammar Man
http://www.yorku.ca/aweiss/GrammarMan/grammarman.htm
- Everything to do with grammar, punctuation, sentence-building, etc.

York U ESL Open Learning Centre Main Page and Info
http://www.yorku.ca/eslolc/keele/default.asp

York U Senate Policy on Academic Integrity

York U Academic Integrity Online Tutorial
http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/

You may want to purchase on your own a writing and style guide, such as Diana Hacker, *A Writer’s Reference* (Bedford).