

course calendar (page 1 of 3)

writing about literature

eng 130 | spring 2023

Instructor: Rachael Benavidez | rachael.benavidez@qc.cuny.edu

Course website: Blackboard

Dates for writing and reading assignments are subject to change. Please pay attention to all announcements made in class, on Blackboard, or sent via email. You will complete informal writing assignments in most every class.



critical analysis of a poem

Through close reading, identify an interpretive problem in one of the poems we examined and develop a thesis that addresses it. Use at least one literary as a key term to analyze the text and support your thesis with close reading.

date	topic	reading due	writing due
WEEK 1 WED 1/25	Succeeding in this Course	Download: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The SyllabusThe Course CalendarThe Writing Guides	None
WEEK 2 MON 1/30	Reading Closely and Critically	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lorde, “Poetry Is Not a Luxury” and “A Woman Speaks”Closely Reading Poetry and Prose“A Small Needful Fact” by Ross Gay	Response 1.1
WED 2/1	Argumentation I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“A Small Needful Fact” by Ross GaySocratic Questioning MethodArgumentation“Elements of the Academic Essay”	Response 1.2
WEEK 3 MON 2/6	Intellectual Problems and Questions I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“A Small Needful Fact” by Ross GayIdentifying Intellectual or Interpretive Problems	Quiz Response 1.3
WED 2/8	Literary Terms and Tools of Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Essay 1 Assignment GuidelinesCiting SourcesArgumentationSandwiching Quotes	Zero Draft Essay 1
WEEK 4 MON 2/13	NO CLASS MEETING—COLLEGE CLOSED		
WED 2/15	Introducing a Problem and a Thesis I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“A Small Needful Fact” by Ross GayTheme to ThesisEffective Thesis StatementsDeveloping Strong Thesis Statements (infographic)Your EssayTCOR “Making Claims” pp. 120-126Model Essay	Essay Work
WEEK 5 MON 2/20	NO CLASS MEETING—COLLEGE CLOSED		
TUE 2/21	Revision and Asynchronous Peer Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Radical RevisionRevision versus Editing (infographic)TCOR “Making Good Arguments” pp. 108-118TCOR “Introductions and Conclusions” pp. 242-248	Quiz Peer Review Formal Draft Essay 1
WED 2/22	Developing and Structuring Argument I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your EssayDeveloping and Structuring Argument	Final Draft Essay 1 (Friday, 2/24)

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lens analysis of a short story

Use close reading of “The Starfruit Tree” by Ashwak Fardoush, in conversation with the lens text “The Women’s Movement in Bangladesh: A Short History and Current Debates” by Sohela Nazneen, to analyze the relationship “The Starfruit Tree” constructs between gender and identity. Use literary terms and key terms to support your analysis; define those terms precisely, with reference to the secondary text. You should make your thesis as narrow and focused as possible and attempt to think through the contextual lens provided by Nazneen’s article.

date	topic	reading due	writing due
WEEK 6 MON 2/27	Conducting Lens Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lens AnalysisTyson, Chapter 4 “Feminist criticism” pp. 83–130 (skim)Chapter 4 “Feminist criticism” pp. 91–93Fardoush, “The Starfruit Tree”	Response 2.1
WED 3/1	AUTHOR CLASS VISIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nazneen, “The Women’s Movement in Bangladesh”Fardoush, “The Starfruit Tree”Tyson, Chapter 4 “Feminist criticism” pp. 92-93, 119-120	Response 2.2
WEEK 7 MON 3/6	Applying a Lens to Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8 Strategies for Critically Engaging Secondary SourcesCiting SourcesFardoush, “The Starfruit Tree”	Quiz Response 2.3
WED 3/8	Argumentation II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nazneen, “The Women’s Movement in Bangladesh”ArgumentationSandwiching Quotes	Response 2.4
WEEK 8 MON 3/13	Identifying Intellectual Problems and Asking Focused Questions II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“Linking Evidence and Claims”Developing and Structuring ArgumentModel EssayIdentifying Intellectual or Interpretive ProblemsDeveloping Strong ClaimsFunctions of Sources	Zero Draft Essay 2
WED 3/15	Managing Multiple Voices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your EssayModel EssayEffective Paragraphing	Essay Work
WEEK 9 MON 3/20	Peer Review and Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TCOR “Introductions and Conclusions” pp. 242-248Developing and Strengthening AnalysisRevision vs. Editing (infographic)	Formal Draft Essay 2
WED 3/22	Introducing a Problem and a Thesis II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your EssayTCOR “Acknowledgement and Responses” pp. 139-150Effective Thesis StatementsDeveloping Strong Thesis Statements (infographic)	Essay Work
WEEK 10 MON 3/27	Developing and Structuring Argument II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developing and Structuring ArgumentIntroductions and ConclusionsAchebe, <i>Things Fall Apart</i>, Part 1: Ch. 1–3 (pp. 3–25)Achebe, “An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad’s ‘Heart of Darkness’”	Final Draft Essay 2

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multimodal researched argument

Use a variety of contextual, theoretical, and argument sources to produce a PowerPoint presentation or equivalent video to make an argument that answers an interpretive question that you raise about *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Support your argument with close reading, using secondary texts to define your terms precisely. Begin with the cultural/historical and theoretical texts that we studied in class and refer to at least two scholarly sources that you find through original research in the QC Library Database.

In order to produce your researched argument, you will also develop a complete annotated bibliography and compose a cover letter that thoughtfully reflects on the writing practices and critical faculties that you gained in the course.

date	topic	reading due	writing due
WED 3/29	Writing About the Novel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power” by Stuart Hall<i>Things Fall Apart</i>, Part 1: Ch. 4–13 (pp. 26–125)	Response 3.1
WEEK 11 MON 4/3	Literary Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Things Fall Apart</i>, Part 2: Ch. 14–19 (pp. 129–167)Tyson, Chapter 12 “Post-colonial criticism” pp. 417–432 (skim)Tyson, Chapter 12 “Post-colonial criticism” pp. 426-427Elements of an Annotated BibliographyStrong Research QuestionsFunctions of Sources	Response 3.2
SPRING RECESS 4/5 – 4/13			
WEEK 12 MON 4/17	Evaluating and Choosing Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Things Fall Apart</i>, Part 3: Ch. 20–25 (pp. 171–209)Gikandi, “Chinua Achebe and the Invention of African Literature”Strong Research QuestionsFunctions of Sources	Response 3.3 Academic Integrity Quiz
WED 4/19	Engaging Different Types of Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8 Strategies for Engaging with Secondary SourcesYour Researched SourcesElements of an Annotated BibliographyModel Annotated Bibliography	Response 3.4
WEEK 13 MON 4/24	Identifying Intellectual Problems and Asking Focused Questions III	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifying Intellectual or Interpretive ProblemsElements of an Annotated Bibliography	Annotated Bibliography
WED 4/26	Introducing a Problem and a Thesis III	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TCOR “Making Claims” pp. 120-126“Motivating Your Argument”Effective Thesis StatementsDeveloping Strong Thesis Statements (infographic)	Zero Draft Essay 3 Presentation
WEEK 14 MON 5/1	Developing and Structuring Argument III	<ul style="list-style-type: none">An Introduction to Visual RhetoricDeveloping and Strengthening AnalysisTCOR “Revising Your Organization and Argument” pp. 203-211Developing and Structuring ArgumentEffective ParagraphingModel EssaySection Titles and Signposting	Essay Work
WED 5/3	Peer Review and Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your PresentationRevision vs. Editing (infographic)	Formal Draft Essay 3 Presentation
WEEK 15 MON 5/8	Writing Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your PresentationModel Essay and Cover Letters	Cover Letter Draft
WED 5/10	FINAL CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your PresentationProofreading and Editing	Essay Work
WEEK 16 MON 5/15	Individual Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Your PresentationYour Cover Letter	Essay Work
THURS 5/18	Final Submission Due / Not a Class Day		Final Drafts of Essay 3 Presentation and Cover Letter