

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL 201  
Introduction to Literature**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: ENGL 201 Introduction to Literature
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: spring                      Year: 2022
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2022**
- E. Sponsoring Department: English
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3                      Lecture: 3  
   Laboratory: 0  
   Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: ENGL 111 (English Composition I)
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval: Ronald Tyson [Ronald.Tyson@raritanval.edu](mailto:Ronald.Tyson@raritanval.edu) ; Patrice Marks [patrice.marks@raritanval.edu](mailto:patrice.marks@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

**Prerequisite: ENGL 111 (English Composition I).** Introduction to Literature examines selected essays and works of poetry, fiction, and drama in ways that develop in-depth analytical and critical reading skills. Open to majors and non-majors, the course is designed for students who desire an introduction to literary study. The course requires students to utilize careful textual analysis, to explore thematic connections among and between texts, and to recognize and apply literary terminology in class discussions, papers and examinations.

**III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. Introduction to Literature is designed for students who wish to pursue literary study or who wish to major in English. Introduction to Literature will offer interested students the opportunity for more in-depth analysis of texts and prepare them to employ literary criticism and terminology.

Research reveals that many four-year institutions in New Jersey have equivalent courses to the English 201, ensuring successful transferability for students. Overall, for the major and non-major alike, Introduction to Literature exposes students to the kinds of literary discussions and assignments they will encounter in literature electives, both at RVCC and other institutions.

- B. This course does not have a Lab component
- C. This course generally transfers as an English general education course

#### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities/English Literature.
- C. English 201 Introduction to Literature is a required course in the English AA degree.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

#### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Introduction to course
- B. Review of essays; approaches to literary analysis
- C. Literary Terminology
- D. Narrative Fiction
- E. Poetry
- F. Drama
- G. Non-fiction prose
- H. Brief Introduction to the use of Literary Theory

#### **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Analyze a broad range of literary and cultural texts – e.g. fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction prose– within their historical and social contexts, both orally and in writing (GE-NJ 1, 6, 7, \*)
2. Use textual evidence to support logical and persuasive claims in writing using appropriate literary terminology (GE-NJ 1, \*)

(\*Embedded critical thinking)

##### **B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify and describe key characteristics of a diverse set of authors, literary genres, and

literary theories.

### **C. Assessment Instruments**

1. research papers
2. in-class formal and informal writing
3. journals
4. responses papers
5. discussion questions
6. collaborative projects
7. exams
8. demonstrations
9. portfolios

## **VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. Essays that communicate effectively in standard English with attention to grammar, mechanics, and the finer points of writing style
- B. projects
- C. exams
- D. presentations
- E. discussion questions
- F. reading quizzes
- G. class participation
- H. response papers
- I. journals

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. student collaboration
- F. independent study

## **VIII. Texts and Materials**

Samples of specific texts are:

- A. Instructor might turn to OER resources like *Galileo Learning Materials* and *Project Gutenberg* for representative fiction, drama, poetry, criticism, etc.
- B. Films and videos, when appropriate, to enhance study of given work

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

### **C. Resources**

Students will need to use library databases and other library resources for critical research assignments if the individual instructor chooses to assign a research project.

### **X. Honors Options**

There is no Honors Option for this course