

Literature and Writing

Course syllabus

Aim: The purpose of this course is to enhance students' writing quality in terms of academic writing styles. The students will be introduced to the skills of writing papers. The ultimate purpose is to help students improve their writing skills when they conduct their writing assignments for some course-work or to write up their academic papers. This will be done through the study of African literary texts.

Expected outcomes: After learning this course, students will gain a broad knowledge of writing skills such as the organizations of ideas, some essential linguistic features for academic writing, and especially, you learn how to write up a paper for publication for national or international journals.

Writing assignments: Students will be required to study given texts, choose and write papers on chosen prompts. Each student is expected to write three papers and one final paper at the end of the courses. All writing is expected to be in academic writing styles. The written papers should include citations and references. Papers are evaluated based on the references that the candidate searches for the content. This requires broad reading of existing literature. In addition, writing at this level requires students to obtain critical thinking; hence, most of the writing needs student's personal skills based on his/her reading. Students will submit their drafts periodically (the beginning of each week).

Presentations: Presentations will be conducted regularly for improvement. This will be done in class and later individually with the instructor. Although the presentations will be individually, candidates will be open to comments and suggestions from the class. Scores will be given to each student in terms of informative presentation, good preparation, and delivery techniques. The topics for presentations will be based on the texts studied in class.

Final writing paper: At the end of the course, each student is required to develop and write a paper relating to different themes and texts studied. The format of the writing will be based on the "MLA Style Sheet". It is supposed that students are expected to write a small-scale research paper for publication on a national or international journal.

Academic writing style is required. Each paper needs to include a thesis statement, and every paragraph should have a topic sentence and supporting sentences to stay focused. In each paragraph of the paper, the candidates need to make sure that they are arguing an issue (Argument) or comparing two ideas (comparison-contrast), or want to present some causes of a problem (Cause-effect). Grammar errors and poor sentence structures are also evaluated. Students will be encouraged to make use of the Microsoft Office to help them with those weak points. Broad reading is highly recommended to include references in the papers. Other books or empirical studies relating to each topic should be reviewed to make a new idea and contribute to existing knowledge. Each writing should be simple, apparent, and consistent from the beginning to the end. References and in-text citations should be in MLA styles.

SCHEDULE

- Week 1 Begin *So Long a Letter*
- Week 2 Finish *So Long a Letter*
Problems and Questions, Discussion of prompts
- Week 3 *First Paper: Writing & discussion. A Basic Outline.*
- Week 4 *Essay 1: A Single-Source Essay (Draft)*
- Conferences
- Week 5 *Essay 1: A Single-Source Essay (Revision)*
- Week 6 Read *The River Between* by Ngugi wa Thiongo'o
- *Analysis of themes*
- *Problems and Questions, Discussion of prompts*
- Week 7 *Problems and Questions, Discussion of prompts (Continue)*
- *Essay 2: A Multi-Source Essay (Draft)*
- *A Detailed Outline*
- Week 8 Conferences and one on one discussion
- *Feedback from previous drafts*
- *Essay (Revision)*
- Week 9 Read *Weep Not, Refugee* by Toyi Marie Therese.
- *Finish reading and Analysis of themes*
- Week 10 *Problems and Questions, Discussion of prompts*
Discussion of prompt for final paper
- Week 11 Selection of prompt for final paper
- *Presentation of Bibliography*
- *Discussion of abstract*
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- Week 12 *Research & Drafting of final paper*
- Week 13 *Research & Drafting of final paper*
- Week 14 Workshop 3 on final research paper
- Week 15 Revision of final *Essay*

Bibliographies

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