

Common Course Outline

English 241

Major Figures

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Major Figures

Provides an intensive study of the works of a single writer or two or three related writers.

Prerequisite: ENGL 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Discuss and/or write about the biography of the writer studied.
2. Discuss and/or write about how the writer's environment, the times in which he or she lived, influenced his or her writing.
3. Discuss how the writer's race, class, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, age, ethnic identity, and/or religion influenced his or her writing.
4. Discuss and/or write about the major themes the writer is concerned with.
5. Discuss and/or write about changes in the writer's works over his or her lifetime.
6. Discuss and/or write about the writer's style.
7. Discuss and/or write about any innovations the writer has contributed to the genre in which he or she is working.
8. Conduct scholarly research into the writer and report effectively on the results of that research.
9. Read a work by the writer which was not discussed in the course and say or write something insightful about that work.
10. Assess the overall strengths and weaknesses of the writer.

Major Topics

The major topics will vary depending on the writer; however, the following sample outline for a semester in which Toni Morrison is the major figure under study gives an indication of the topics that would typically be covered.

Week 1 Overview of Morrison's life

Week 2 *The Bluest Eye*

Week 3 *Sula*

Week 4 Part 1 on researching Morrison in the library and on the world wide web

Week 5 *Song of Solomon*

Week 6 *Song of Solomon*

Week 7 Gender in the works of Toni Morrison

Week 8 *Tar Baby*

Week 9 *Beloved*

Week 10 Part 2 on researching Morrison in the library and on the world wide web

Week 11 *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. Race in the works of Toni Morrison.

Week 12 *Jazz*
Week 13 *Paradise*
Week 14 Final presentations

Course Requirements

Grading procedures and percentages will be determined by individual instructors, but will include the following:

1. A grade for classroom participation.
2. A grade for short, informal, in-class or out-of-class writing assignments.
3. At least two formal papers.
4. At least one examination which will include at least one essay.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective.