

**Syllabus:**  
**College English**  
**School of Arts & Sciences**  
**St. Thomas Aquinas College**  
**Dr. Steven Burns, Dean**

**Course Description:**

*Themes:* This course will focus on themes and issues regarding personal identity, cultural identity and relationships. Reading, critical thinking and writing skills will be emphasized. The textbook, *Lives Through Literature*, provides essays, short stories, plays and poetry which students will use to analyze how the writers approach their themes. Students will connect these themes to their own prior knowledge and experiences.

*Essays:* This course will also focus on different rhetorical methods in order to invent, discover and develop ideas. Students will learn to identify these methods and develop essays using a variety of rhetorical structures, such as: compare and contrast, definition, division and classification, cause and effect, persuasion and argument. In class, students will have the opportunity to work on rough drafts of their papers individually and in peer groups to learn how to revise and edit another writer's work and critique their own.

**Course Objectives:** Students will:

1. Analyze and discuss a variety of texts which reflect on the theme of American identity
2. Write essays with the following characteristics:
  - a. A well-defined subject
  - b. A precise thesis
  - c. An organized argument
  - d. Sound paragraph division, structure and focus
  - e. Correct grammatical usage, including spelling, subject-verb agreement, syntax and pronoun use.
3. Demonstrate the correct uses of summary, paraphrase and direct quotation in order to cite sources properly.
4. Draw from class discussion and personal observation of the texts to develop their own unique essay topics.

## **Evaluation**

Five Essays (60%)

Midterm (10%)

Final (10%)

Class Participation (also includes minor written assignments and quizzes) 20%

Students are expected to complete assigned readings before coming to class, attend every class on time, actively participate in classroom activities and contribute to class discussions.

## **Required Texts**

Required texts (with ISBN numbers and recent Amazon.com prices); it is essential that you use the correct translations of these works, most of which have been translated many, many times into English, and not always very faithfully:

Keating, Helen Levine., ed. *Lives Through Literature: A Thematic Anthology*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1995. ISBN: 9780130170064 (\$20)

Sophocles I: *Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone*, trans. David Grene (U of Chicago P, 1991) ISBN: 978-0226307923 (\$11)

## **Approximate Schedule**

\* Please be advised that this list of readings is subject to minor additions or omissions; also, the order of the works may change. Any alterations will be announced in advance.

### **Week 1**

Introduction to course, review of summer reading

### **Gender issues**

Cause and Effect

1. "Shakespeare's Sister"
2. "The Yellow Wallpaper"
3. "I Stand Here Ironing"
4. "Seventeen Syllables"
5. "Counterparts"
6. "Boys and Girls"
7. "Trifles"

Note: Summer reading books may not be used for your first paper. Likewise, summer reading does not count towards your STAC grade.

**Family Relationships:**

1. "A Perfect Day for Bananafish"
2. "Cinderella" (fairy tale and essay)
3. "Snow White" (fairy tale) and "Snow White and her Wicked Stepmother" (essay)
4. "Hansel and Gretel"
5. "Gretel in the Darkness"
6. "The Lottery"
7. *Oedipus the King*
8. *The Glass Menagerie*

**Friends and Enemies**

1. "Roman Fever"
2. "The Wall"
3. *A Streetcar Named Desire*
4. *The Tempest*

**Love**

1. Myth of "Cupid and Psyche" and "Orpheus and Eurydice"
2. "About Love" "Love and Death" (essays) and "Faithful Even in Death"
3. "The Horse-Dealer's Daughter"
4. "The Ring"
5. "A Dill Pickle"
6. *The Importance of Being Earnest*

**Education, Cultural Identity, and Independence**

1. "Mrs. Bertha Flowers"
  2. "Teacher Wei"
  3. "Soap and Water"\*
  4. "Cathedral"
  5. Chapters from "The Story of My Life" by Helen Keller\*
  6. "A Hunger Artist"\*
  7. "Solitude"\*
  8. "To Build a Fire"
- \*as time permits

**Final**

This will consist of an in-class essay. Topic and date to be determined.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

Academic Integrity, a commitment to honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility, is the foundation of the learning process. All members of the St. Thomas Aquinas College community are held to the highest standards of academic honesty. While we recognize the participatory nature of education, we take academic integrity very seriously, and the College policy on academic dishonesty details consequences that can include dismissal from the College. That policy can be found in both the Student Handbook and the College Catalog.

As a student in this class, you must demonstrate your commitment to academic integrity by submitting work that originates in your own thinking and imagination, your ability to analyze and evaluate information, and your own knowledge, that you have done yourself, and that represents your very best efforts. When appropriate, your work should be supplemented and supported by other sources; however, you must always ensure that these sources are properly cited using the recommended documentation system.

### **Academic Disability Statement**

Students requiring accommodations for a documented disability should notify the instructor before the end of the first week of class.