
CHERRI PORTER

**Connect on the Internet**Email porterc@arc.losrios.eduYour work and grades are posted to ARC's d2l.losrios.eduAdditional resources and content available at cherriporter.com**Connect in Person**English, Davies Hall
Mailbox in 329a.Office hours alternate btwn
online and in person access
in Howard Hall 163. Tu 8:50-
9:20 am and Th 5:00-5:30
pm. Schedule posted in D2L.***Fragrance-Free Zone***

Long story very short, fragrances of all sorts make my brain think it's being poisoned. Perfumes, colognes, body sprays, soaps, scented lotions, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and pretty much any-smelly-thing can trigger asthma, migraines, and other unpleasantries. Please, for my health, wear no scented products in this classroom.

COURSE DETAILS

Description and Student Learning Outcomes

EngWr 301 offers study of literary texts, with emphasis on analytical reading and writing. It covers principles of argument and analysis, such as reasoning inductively and deductively. Assigned texts include novels, short stories, poems, plays or films, and literary criticism. Essays written for the course (6,000 words minimum) generalize from the texts to present carefully reasoned arguments. At least one essay includes secondary sources in MLA format.

On completion of course, students will be able to: analyze the cultural and historical contexts of literary works; reason inductively from examples, patterns, and structures to form generalizations; reason deductively by drawing conclusions about literary works; compose a thesis-driven argument of interpretation or evaluation and support it with textual evidence, using a sufficient variety and number of appropriate examples, and; compare opposing interpretations by literary scholars.

Required Materials

- Much course content is posted in D2L, and the calendar with assignment instructions and due dates is linked in D2L as well as located at cherriporter.com/301.html.
- Many materials posted to D2L must be downloaded and printed for use in class.

You also need:

- Octavia Butler's novel, [*Parable of the Sower*](#), 978-0446675505. Digital or print version ok.
- [*Hamilton*](#) (Original Broadway Cast Recording) Discs 1 & 2, 2015.
- [*Hamilton: The Revolution*](#), the book about the musical, 9781455539741. Print version recommended because the formatting of the digital version is print replicated.
- Lois Tyson's [*Critical Theory Today*](#), 2nd or 3rd edition ok, though I say buy the cheaper 2nd.
- A pen, notebook, and folder with which to take and keep notes and materials for this class.
- Los Rios email you check or forward to [an email account you do check regularly](#); also set your D2L notifications wisely.
- Regular access to a computer with internet. Most assignments are typed; some are printed; many are downloaded, uploaded, attached, and posted. Computer proficiency is part of college success. See more about the technology requirements at the end of this syllabus.

Themes

It is expected that you will behave as mature and responsible adults while you are on campus. In this class we will discuss the vast and diverse subjects of life using the vast and diverse languages of life—real life is messy, unpleasant, depressing, lovely, grotesque, fantastic, hilarious, and every other thing under the sun. Real life is decidedly “M” rated, too, as is this class. What is wonderful and interesting for one person may be shocking or offensive to another. Such is life. If you choose to stay enrolled in this class, do so knowing that the language and subject matter herein are for mature audiences and require mature responses.

In response to students at Columbia University objecting to reading Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* because of the sexual violence it depicts, poet and essayist Wendy Willis wrote: “The thing that is making us feel unsafe is not a collection of ancient myths; it is the fact that the world is not safe. I don’t say this to excuse violence or repression. But I do say it to wake us up. The world will never be safe enough to save us from our own deaths. By turning away from myths that grapple with pain and violence, we are turning away from the companionship of the immortals.”

In this class we keep the companionship of those who are writing now and those who have written before us.

Calendars

The course calendar with assignment due dates and directions is published online (accessed through D2L) for each project. It’s your responsibility to check this calendar regularly and do the work on time. You might also need ARC’s [academic calendar](#), featuring deadlines and holidays.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Attendance & Lates

- Plan to attend every class, and do your best to avoid absences. However, I understand that life happens. Sick students should stay home. Email me if you have concerns. Please contact a peer to exchange notes as you are responsible for any class content you miss.
- You may miss class 3 times without it negatively affecting your enrollment, though any absences may affect your performance. The day of your 4th absence you will be dropped from the course.
- A seating chart will be established and attendance is taken at the start of every class.
- Do not arrive late. If you cannot make it to your seat by the start of class each day, this class time is not for you.
- Late work is not accepted. Missed in-class work cannot be made up.

Participation

- Read all of the assigned materials and do the homework even if it is ungraded. Some days we may not discuss those materials explicitly in class, yet the lessons I plan are predicated on the foundation of those materials. It’s all connected; look for the connections.
- Try to figure out the solutions to the problems you encounter yourself, first. Then ask your peers, and then ask me. All learning takes place because of your actions; identifying what help you need, and asking for it, is part of that learning process.
- Contribute to our classroom by sharing your insights, interests, and expertise.
- Take notes during lectures, discussions, and activities.
- No class may be audio/video recorded without the written permission of the instructor.
- Don’t use phones, computers, tablets or other devices during class unless directed to. The research on this is clear: devices distract students and lead to lower grades.

Collaboration

- The writing we do in this class is public in that your classmates will be reading much of it, so do not submit work you wish to keep private. We work collaboratively, reading and discussing each others' ideas and writing. There are also many in-class tasks that require you to work directly with peers and report your findings back to the whole class.
- You can contact peers at any time during the semester using the Classlist link on the navigation bar in D2L. Please be respectful when communicating with your peers. Feel free to set boundaries when necessary and let me know if problems arise.

Keep in mind, too, that all faculty and staff are mandated reporters, which means they are required by law to report the physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect of anyone under the age of 18, no matter how long ago such abuse occurred.

Academic Honesty

- Asking questions, sharing ideas, and collaborating are all parts of learning; copying and pasting, cheating, stealing, and buying are not. Dishonest or plagiarized work earns zero points and can result in other disciplinary measures. The tricky thing about plagiarism is that most often, we don't intend to do it, we are just sloppy about our paraphrasing and attribution. Sloppiness is still plagiarism, though, even if it is unintentional. [Always cite.](#)
- Consult American River College's [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) for more about the expectations and discipline for academic dishonesty. It's the student's responsibility to understand and practice academic honesty.
- You cannot turn in assignments you completed for other class and earn credit in this one; each new class you take requires new work on your part.
- Learning MLA citation is on the agenda this semester, but the responsibility is always on the student to [understand and apply the correct citation style](#) for the given assignment.
- In D2L Dropbox there is an open, ungraded folder to [test your citations in Turnitin.](#)

Accommodations

I want you to succeed, and I do what I can to create materials and design lessons that are accessible to all students. Please let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes we can make to the course so that it might be more accessible to future students. In addition:

- There are many resources available to you at ARC to help you succeed—from the Health Center, to the Child Development Center, to the Veterans Center, to more academic-based services like the Foreign Language Lab and the Sciences Skills Center. To learn more about these programs and more, visit the [Student Services tab on ARC's website.](#)
- For the cost of half a unit, students can get help with reading and writing from ARC faculty and tutors in the RAD and WAC programs located in [The Learning Resources Center.](#)
- Students with disabilities may qualify for or require special accommodations. To request accommodations you must be registered with [Disabled Students Programs and Services.](#)

Preferred Names & Pronouns

The class roster provides me with your official name given at registration or updated in your eservices account. Should you want to be called by a name that is not currently on the roster, please let me know, and do [login to eservices and update your information.](#) If you'd like to specify a gender pronoun, please send me an email or let me know the first day of class.

EVALUATION

This class practices reading and writing as recursive processes and emphasizes revision. Process acknowledges that it takes many drafts to achieve strong writing, thus revision is essential. As teacher and writer Don Murray explains, “writing *is* revision.” Students will workshop their writing and ideas with peers, and the course will focus on the *how-to* aspects of writing as much as the subject matters being written about. This class also recognizes the metacognitive aspects of writing, that we often do not know what we think about something until we put it into words. Thus, much of the writing we do here will be exploratory and experimental in nature. The assignments descriptions and the calendar are separate documents from the syllabus, but here is key information about how grades are distributed and assigned.

Grade Breakdown Per Assignment	Percentage
Everyday classwork, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 Reading Responses, worth ____ points each for entries 750+ words. • Other assignments, like the introductions, definitions, tropes and schemes, poetry recitation, application of theory, drafts and peer workshop, mini-expert projects and other stuff along the way, which are worth 25-100 points each. Directions distributed as needed; due dates on calendar 	45%
Literary Analysis Essay 1: <i>Parable of the Sower</i>	20%
Literary Analysis Essay 2: <i>Hamilton</i>	20%
Final Project: a cumulative work you present to the class during the final weeks of semester. Directions for and examples of this project will be posted to cherriporther.com/301final.html in the coming weeks	15%

- Responsibility for keeping track of your work and understanding your grade is yours.
- If there are errors in the gradebook, please email me with the exact date, the assignment title, and the error you believe to have occurred.
- Students must turn in Essays 1 and 2 as well as the Final Project to pass the course. If you do not turn in one of these essays, you automatically fail.
- This grading system values the hard work of students AND strong, revised writing. Both are necessary to earn high marks in this course.
- Learning is a messy space that doesn't translate smoothly to a letter grade. The comments on your assignments aren't there to justify a grade; they are there to show you how to improve your work. See the cherriporther.com/grades.html for more information about how I comment and grade student work.

Excellence and Enthusiasm

Students who earn “A” grades never half-ass it, nor do they miss homework assignments, nor do they start their essays at the last minute. Do not expect extra credit late in the semester. If you want a high grade, do quality work from day one. Excellence and enthusiasm are necessary for success and earning high marks. Students earning “A” grades:

- engage in the course with curiosity, respect, and attention
- engage in writing and reading as a processes, revising regularly
- demonstrate critical thinking, analyzing, and evaluating information
- use the thinking tools and writing strategies addressed in the class
- complete all course work on time, with care and accuracy
- practice reflection and self-discovery as key aspects of learning
- ask for help and utilize support services when necessary
- collaborate with peers, demonstrating respect for all.

Classroom Culture

The Etiquette of Communicating Online and Offline

Kindness should rule all of our communications with each other. And when we fail at this, humility and apologies come in very handy. Saying “please” and “thank you” is nice, too.

Ask questions. We’re here to learn, and questions are a necessary tool for learning. Ask and answer—with kindness.

Help each other. Don’t wait around for me to solve all your problems—if you know the answer to a peer’s question or have a suggestion to a query—jump into the fray.

Yet, **respect each others’ spaces.** Just because you can follow your peers on every social media platform and favorite every post they make, doesn’t mean you should. If you earn someone’s phone number, use it wisely. (If someone asks you for your number and you don’t want to give it, it’s okay to say no.)

Be patient. We’re all busy people with a lot going on. We may not be able to respond to your queries questions immediately and that’s okay.

Learning is a process of change, and change is not usually comfortable; sometimes it’s downright painful. However, beyond the normal and necessary discomfort that is a natural part of the learning process, this classroom is a **safe zone** in that no hate speech, intimidation, or harassment will be tolerated. If you are aware of instances of hate, harassment, or trolling, happening online, in class, or on campus, please inform the me or another faculty or staff member to whom you feel comfortable confiding.

Use complete sentences and standard English whenever possible. This is a writing class. We’re practicing our rhetorical savvy as we engage in the work of the course. Re-read and edit your work before posting. I recommend you write all classwork in a word processing document, revise and edit as you would any assignment, and then copy and paste them into the discussion board and emails.

Yet, **errors are human** and expected and not cause for drama. There are errors in this syllabus and errors on my website. Errors aren’t to be ridiculed; they are a natural and normal part of communicating through writing.

All of that being said, let’s **have some fun**, too. My hope is this class is a challenging and fun space in which to practice the crafts of academic reading and writing.

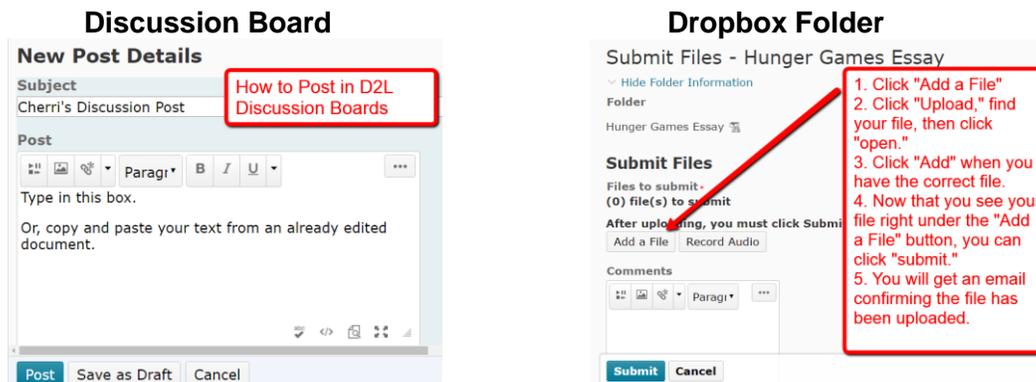
MLA Formatting

All typed documents uploaded to D2L Dropbox should be in MLA format. I recommend you download this [preformatted MLA rtf document](#) or copy this [preformatted MLA googledoc](#) to use for each assignment you write. MLA formatted documents:

- Set margins to 1 inch around the entire page
- Use 12 pt Times New Roman font
- Set line spacing to double
- Set spacing to zero before and after the paragraph
- Set header/page numbers to top, right
- Alignment: document left, header right, title center. No bolds. No underlines.
- For this class, also put word count below the date and underline your thesis.

Discussion & Dropbox in D2L

Although you will bring some work with you on paper to the class sessions, the two primary ways you will submit typed work in this class are through D2L Discussion Board and Dropbox. Although the orientation module and help menus can answer most of your questions, I want to clarify that the Discussion Boards are for posting—or copying and pasting text you’ve already written elsewhere—to the discussion topic by clicking the button “Start a New Thread.” Never attach files to the Discussion Board. And, the formatting can be wonky in discussion board. MLA isn’t necessary, but at a minimum, you should have space between paragraphs. The Dropbox is for submitting MLA formatted files by uploading—adding—they to the Dropbox folder. See the images below for clarification of these directions.



Computer Help

<p>D2L Basics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are using Desire2Learn (D2L) learning management system for accessing content and submitting work. You may click the hyperlink above or type in the direct address for this page, which is https://d2l.losrios.edu. Please bookmark this page and check the course regularly for updates. In our D2L class, there is an orientation module. If you complete all the steps in the module during the first week of school, you can earn extra credit points. • Set up your D2L notifications to email you as regularly as you’d like about updates to your classes. However, do not get updates about the gradebook sent more than once a day—it’s annoying. • The Los Rios district is moving from D2L to CANVAS this year. If you have a class that has already transitioned to CANVAS, this tutorial might come in handy.
<p>Student Help Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Los Rios Help Desk is available Mon-Thu, 7 am to 6 pm and Fri, 7 am to 5 pm excluding District holidays. They can be reached by phone at 1-855-321-3232 and by email at lrohlp@losrios.edu for assistance with D2L, Los Rios Gmail, or eServices issues. • You might also find the D2L Student Help Website or the D2L Overview Video to be helpful resources. • Also, password and other login issues might come in handy.

<p>Technology Requirements</p>	<p>The minimum Technology Requirements are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You cannot complete this class using only a cellphone. You must use computers with internet access to do many of the tasks required of you. Immediate access to a computer – On campus access: The Learning Resource Center, Mon-Thu, 7:30 am to 8:30 pm; Fri, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm or the Library, Mon-Thu, 7:30 am to 10 pm; Fri, 7:30 am to 5 pm; Sat, 9 am to 3 pm. The ARC Technology Help Center is located in the Learning Resources Center, room 117. They are open Mon-Thu, 8:00 am-4:50 pm and Fri 8:00-4:30 pm. • E-mail capability—set your Los Rios email up to forward to your preferred account and check it daily. • A Web browser – Tech support recommends the latest version of Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome when working in D2L. Safari and Internet Explorer are not recommended. For browser information, go to System Check. • Word processing software <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARC students are eligible for a free subscription to Microsoft Office 365 for your home desktop or laptop and includes access to online versions of Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and OneNote and 1TB of storage in OneDrive. Students should follow this process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Click on this link to the 365 product page or copy and paste this web address into your browser: https://products.office.com/en-us/student?=&students ▪ Click on “Get Started for Free” ▪ Enter Los Rios Gmail (w+ID number@apps.losrios.edu) ▪ Check email follow the link ▪ Set up account with name, birthdate, and new password ▪ Install ▪ Sign in using LosRios Gmail address and new password • Adobe PDF Reader • Links to other browser plug-ins and software
<p>Save, Backup, & Format</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please SAVE regularly and BACKUP all of your writing this semester. I cannot emphasize this enough. Every semester students lose their writing because they did not save and backup their work. Popular backup methods include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Drive (through your apps account) • Emailing documents to yourself • Using a flash or external hard drive • Using offsite storage like Dropbox (free version) • For discussion posts, I recommend writing and saving them in a word processing document first, and then copying and pasting them into the discussion board. (I have lost my internet connection in the middle of posting countless times, or pressed some rouge combination of keys on the keyboard, losing my post with it. I’ve heard the same from students. Learn from our mistakes.) • For MLA, download this preformatted MLA rtf document or copy this preformatted MLA googledoc to use for each assignment you write.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The self-paced MLA Citation tutorial is available for you use as well. • Learn how to make pdfs, screen grabs, and manipulate images.
<p>Profile Pictures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please post a profile picture of your face so we can begin to put names and faces together. If you do this by the end of the first week of class, you'll earn 10 extra credit points.
<p>#Protips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label everything with your name, number, and email. • Send effective emails. • When things don't seem to be working the way they should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reload the page and empty the cache. • Make sure you're using a computer with Chrome or Firefox. If you're on your phone, or using Safari, or an outdated browser, things won't work as they should. • If you're in the right browser, logout and begin again. • Try a different browser. What doesn't work in Chrome might work in Firefox, and vice versa. • Restart the whole computer. It's surprising how often this solves the problem. • If a link won't open: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try right clicking it and opening in a new tab • If it's in D2L or on cherriporter.com, email Cherri about it • If you need the information right away, hover over it and look at the bottom of the browser window. Sometimes you can see the error in the address and retype the corrected version into the browser. You can also copy and paste the name of the link into the search box and see if the link pops up. • Turn off your grammar check in MSWord. You can check the grammar on your final draft, but don't have this feature turned on while you're writing as it is a distraction and often wrong. • If you're going through ink or toner too fast, go into your printer preferences and change the default settings to: Black/white or grayscale AND / OR Draft or fast quality • Use PRINT PREVIEW. If you click through the pages in print preview and notice that the article you want to print is only on pages 2-4 and the rest is ads and comments, then only print pages 2-4. You can also copy and paste text into a doc before printing to save paper.

Our Contract

By staying in this section you are agreeing to participate according to this syllabus, the calendar, and other documentation provided. If you think you will have a problem participating accordingly, please find another section of the class that will better meet your needs. The fragrance-free policy is part of this agreement.

Alternate Version of the Syllabus

There is a pdf version of this syllabus available on cherriporter.com/wel301.html and in D2L Content Module 0: Syllabus and Documents so you can click open the links throughout.