

# LIT 1000: Introduction to Literature -- Spring 2018 Full Term (3 credit hours--Classroom)

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert C. Schachel

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**Faculty Frontdoor Page:**

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<http://frontdoor.valenciacollege.edu/?rschachel>

**Mailbox Location:** 7-163 (Communications office)

Please only email using ATLAS. Do not use Blackboard.

**Office Hours:** MTWR 12:50-2:20 (In Office) and F (virtual/email)10-2 and by appointment if needed.

CRN	Days	Time	Location	Final Exam
25208	T-R	2:30-3:45 pm (E)	2-104	April 26 (Thursday) 1:00-3:30 pm
<b>Final Exam Policy: If you do not take the final exam and have not withdrawn, you will receive an F (failing grade) for the course—you must take the final exam in order to complete the course.</b>				

## Course Information:

### *Valencia Catalog Course Description*

**Prerequisites:** None ☺

(From Catalog): This course will focus on a variety of literary genres, with some emphasis on works by international authors. Students will be introduced to methods of reading and writing critically about literature with a focus on cultural and historical understanding.

*This class teaches students how to analyze and to appreciate literary texts, to form critical arguments about those texts, and to connect those different literary texts and modes of analysis to larger ideas. Texts include short stories, novels, poetry, criticism, and multimedia texts. This course is an introduction to the way literature as an art connects to history and the human experience. Much of it will be concerned with how those literary works reflect, interpret, criticize, or refract the human experience. In order to provide a foundation for some of your arguments, we will also examine peripherally some critical approaches to literature we will be studying.*

## Required Texts and Materials:

In this course will be reading various open-source materials designated and linked on the course calendar as well as on a list hosted online on my Valencia Faculty Frontdoor (not Blackboard).

You can also find a complete list of and links to readings on my [Faculty Frontdoor](#) under Course Materials, LIT 1000. You will need access to a computer (tablet, similar device) and the internet to read these materials. You may choose to print them if you wish. (I print them.) We will be working from [The Valencia Reader](#), [FeedBooks.com](#), and other public domain sources. Please make sure you have access to the documents during class.

A college-ruled spiral notebook for notetaking and organizational purposes.

Reliable electronic storage for all writing assignments—a USB drive (sometimes called a thumb/jump/flash drive) is required for saving documents which are typed in the labs. **Be sure to save backups of everything in more than one place.** Handwritten assignments must be in blue or black ink only. I will not accept paper that has frayed or uneven edges.

## A Note on the Gordon Rule:

Please note that this course is not a Gordon Rule Course. Hooray!

## Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a notification from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the instructor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. The East Campus Office is located in Building 5, Room 216, (407-582-2229).

## **Course Requirements, Assignments Overview, Grading Criteria:**

**Two Response Papers (350-450 Words) – 7.5% each:** These essays should be well-thought, organized, proofread, and edited. All writing should be typed in MLA format and conform to MLA standards. **Make sure that the assignments all are typed in 12 pt. font Times New Roman. Pay very close attention to formatting, and do not become sloppy or reckless with it—format counts, and it is the first major indicator of the quality of your work.** Please note that drafting your work at least once helps considerably. If you hand me “rough” work, it will receive a “rough” grade. These short papers will get you to consider, digest, and synthesize ideas in a more formal written form than just casual conversation.

**Mid-Term Exam – 25%:** The mid-term exam will cover the literary readings, related historical knowledge from lectures and readings, and terms that have been used in discussion. It is more than a simple reading quiz. However, it is multiple choice. Be sure to study for it—multiple choice does not mean “easy.”

**Final Exam – 25%:** The final exam will cover the literary readings, related historical knowledge from lectures and readings, and terms that have been used in discussion. This exam is cumulative in scope over the course of the semester. However, it is multiple choice. Be sure to study for it—multiple choice does not mean “easy.”

**Assignments, homework, quizzes – 10%:** These include classroom activities and discussion, peer reviews, general homework, board work, reading quizzes, etc. *Quizzes may be unannounced or announced, take home or in class, and may cover classroom lessons, reading, or skills (grammar mechanics, style, etc.) They may either be multiple choice or short answer; depending on the subject being quizzed. Attend class, and do the reading.*

**Trading Card Project – 5%:** You will choose an author, text, literary school, or genre and create a gaming trading card for it, similar in scope to a *Pokémon* or *Magic: The Gathering*. The detailed instructions will be on the assignment sheet, but this project will force you to distill down that subject to its essence—what it is, its impact, its contribution, and how it ranks among other subjects.

**Theory Group Report and Presentation – 10%:** You and your cohorts will research your selected theory. You will then, on your assigned day, teach this theory—this critical approach—to the rest of the class. You will produce a handout that you will give to the students outlining your lesson. I will explain this assignment in greater detail when you choose your theory. (Yes, this is a group assignment. Be prepared to function professionally.)

**Genre Group Report and Presentation – 10%:** You and your cohorts will research your selected Genre. You will then, on your assigned day, teach this Genre—and its aspects—to the rest of the class. You will produce a handout that you will give to the students outlining your lesson. I will explain this assignment in greater detail when you choose your Genre. (Yes, this is a group assignment. Be prepared to function professionally.)

### **A Note on Grading:**

I use a ten-point grading scale. On your papers, I will indicate your grade with a number as outlined below. I provide the number so that you can have a better understanding of where your grade is numerically, but I want to remind you that I do not subtract points as I read along. When I assign a grade, I am evaluating your writing based on formal academic writing standards. Moreover, I usually break down the grade into Format (5), Style (5), Grammar (10), and Content (80) so that you can better identify your writing strengths and areas of improvement.

**A** = 100 - 90   **B** = 89 - 80   **C** = 79 - 70   **D** = 69 - 60   **F** = 59 and below.

**A** = excellent work   **B** = good, solid, above average   **C** = average, meets basic standard   **D** = below average   **F** = poor work.

In order to at least earn a grade of “C” or better in the course, your work must show all of the following criteria for effective writing: 1. Achieve its specific purpose. 2. Consider and adapt to its intended audience. 3. Develop logical and adequately supported arguments through the use of specific evidence. 4. Carefully construct and organize ideas, paragraphs, and sentences.

### **A Note on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: READ CAREFULLY!**

Students are reminded that they must conduct themselves with academic honor and honesty. You should read and be familiar with Valencia's Academic Dishonesty policy—found at:

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume8/8-11-Academic-Dishonesty.pdf>

Academic dishonesty comes in the form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion (unauthorized collaboration on a paper), and multiple submissions (submitting the same paper in different courses without permission). Keep in mind that both the Communications Department and I are well aware of the plagiarism opportunities available through the internet. I expect all work submitted to be your own, completed during the course of this class for only this class.

***DO NOT GO TO ANY WEBSITE JUST TO “GET SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE STORY IS ABOUT”-- THIS IS THE FIRST STEP OF PLAGIARISM. Borrowing or lifting (not just copying) phrases and ideas from websites is plagiarism and will result in your failing the paper and the class.*** If you are found guilty of plagiarism, you will receive disciplinary action that can range from no credit for the assignment to expulsion from VC. ***I will fail you for the class if you plagiarize any of your papers.*** More importantly, you will lose your academic integrity. For your sake and mine, don't. It is not worth it, and it creates a major hassle. You are better and smarter than that. **You can find the definition of plagiarism at this link:** <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/> You should be well aware of what plagiarism is. Please do not gamble with your grade or academic reputation.

### **Late Work and Missed Work:**

I do not accept work later than the due date; please do not ask for special treatment. Unless accompanied by verifiable written documentation for ***extreme emergency*** cases, **documented ongoing medical conditions** (such as VA appointments, surgery, or chemotherapy), military service, or jury duty, I will not consider accepting late work. Failure to turn in an assignment will result in your receiving no credit for that work. Although I am concerned about your well-being, **I do not make distinctions between “excused” and “unexcused” absences.** You are either present, absent, or tardy. You made a commitment to this class when you registered for it—honor that commitment. **Absence does not excuse you from being prepared or handing in an assignment** when it is due; however, you may always hand in an assignment early (within reason and with permission). Following an absence, it is your responsibility to determine what you missed and to obtain notes, assignments, and due dates from your fellow students. Since you are responsible for all material covered, get contact information from two fellow classmates (you are all in this together ☺). Your cohort members are great for this task.

Assignments (papers, drafts, etc.) done outside of class are due at the beginning of the class period. Be sure to plan ahead—broken printers, fried hard drives, long lines at the computer lab, emailing assignments to yourself, car trouble, lack of parking, alarm not going off, etc. are not valid excuses for late work. **Do not hand me a flash drive or email me an assignment and expect that I will print and staple it.** Quizzes or Peer Reviews missed due to an absence cannot be made up. **Plan vacations around the college and class calendar.** On that note, if you do miss work, don't let it fester. **Speak to me if you have any concerns or questions—the worst I can do is say no.**

### **Attendance Policy:**

**You are expected to be in class on time and remain until dismissal.** Regular attendance is crucial to your success and required for you to remain enrolled. I do not make distinctions between “excused” and “unexcused” absences (except where college policy applies). You are either present, absent, or tardy. Verifiable written documentation for ***extreme emergency*** cases, **documented ongoing medical conditions** (such as VA appointments, surgery, or chemotherapy), military service, or jury duty, are required to allow accommodations for those absences covered under college policy. Class absences cannot be made up (see late work and missed work above). Do not sleep or work on other class material during class. **Excessive lateness (three tardies) will constitute one absence. Upon your third (3<sup>rd</sup>) absence, you will be withdrawn from the course.** At 1-2 absences, I will email you an excessive absence notice letting you know that you are in danger of that consequence. However, keep track of your attendance. **DO NOT SQUANDER YOUR ABSENCES—THEY ARE NOT FOR DAYS OFF. THEY ARE FOR EMERGENCIES. YOU WILL BE DROPPED UPON YOUR THIRD ABSENCE UNLESS ALL THREE WERE EMERGENCIES. Failure to attend at least one of the first three class hours will qualify you as a no-show, and you will be withdrawn.** (See No Show Policy on the last page of syllabus.)

### **Class Conduct and Course Themes:**

Valencia Community College is not only dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning; it is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at Valencia Community College, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or Valencia's rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Valencia. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. You will find the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

The classroom should be a place in which everyone feels comfortable to express him or herself. To that end, I will not tolerate any attempt to belittle or ridicule others' views or beliefs. Moreover, abusive language should never be necessary and will not be tolerated since it usually breaks down communication of ideas. Discussion, disagreement, and even challenging each other's ideas is fine as it promotes an informed, respectful, and creative exchange of ideas, but students should always conduct themselves in a professional, scholarly manner. Also, true to a mature learning environment, this class may discuss themes that may be present in the material. Such themes—possibly including gender, race, sex, sexual orientation, class, religion, politics, profanity, and violence—will require rational maturity on the part of the students. You are welcome to discuss any discomfort with course material with me. **You may find this in the current student handbook, available online at <http://valenciacollege.edu/pdf/studenthandbook.pdf>**

### **College Withdrawal Procedure:**

The college has initiated withdrawal procedures and timelines in response to legislation/rules adopted by the state legislature and State Board of Community Colleges. ***If you do not intend to complete the course, you must withdraw yourself prior to the withdrawal date.*** The deadline to withdraw from this course is in the current catalog (**Full Term deadline is March 30, 2018**), and is also available online at <http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/>

***Please Note the College's policy below:***

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the established deadline for a particular term will receive a grade of "W." ***A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. A faculty member may withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy.*** A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of "W." Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F." For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume4/4-07-Academic-Progress-Course-Attendance-and-Grades-and-Withdrawals.pdf>

**You are responsible for withdrawing yourself from class before the deadline**, which can be done through ATLAS. Please speak with me before you withdraw so that your decision is a fully informed one. *If you withdraw accidentally (it has happened), contact me ASAP so that I can try to correct the situation.*

**If you do not take the final exam and have not withdrawn, you will receive an F (failing grade) for the course—you must take the final exam.**

There will be midterm assessments (progress reports) and excessive absence notices, which you will receive through your ATLAS account. You are responsible to check ATLAS regularly for this information.

### **Valencia ID Cards:**

Valencia ID cards are required for LRC, Testing Center, Supplemental Learning, and IMC usage. No other form of ID at those locations will be accepted. Possession and utilization of a Valencia ID is mandatory in order to obtain these services. Also, you will need to have an active ID to check out materials from the library.

**Valencia's Core Competencies:** *Think, Communicate, Value, and Act* are Valencia's core competencies. See <http://valenciacollege.edu/competencies/> for a more complete reference.

**Faculty Frontdoor:** <http://frontdoor.valenciacollege.edu/?rschachel>

I will have sections of my faculty frontdoor page dedicated to handouts, materials, images, links, etc. that will be helpful or necessary for you in the course. Most of the time, I will post these documents as PDF files. It is in your best interest to make sure your computer can open and print these files, as I will not be carrying around extra handouts with me throughout the course, and this will save you a trip to my office to pick them up. My faculty frontdoor site is located at the top of the first page of the syllabus.

**Paperwork Protocol:**

Be sure to keep (multiple) copies of all assignments you submit. Save all graded assignments after they have been returned to you. Do not throw any papers away until after you have received your grade at the end of the semester. Also, I make every effort to grade your work as quickly and as efficiently as possible, and I do so before the next written assignment is due. For short major assignments (500-750 words), this can be within the week. For longer assignments (4-5 pages) this may be up to two weeks. I do all I can to provide meaningful and constructive feedback that promotes student improvement—but sometimes it does come down to your having it fast or having it good. I will, in good faith communication, keep you updated as to the progress and will hand them back collectively as soon as I have them graded.

**Computer/Equipment Use Policy:**

The college policy covering computer equipment can be found here: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume7A/7A-02-Acceptable-Use-of-Information-Technology-Resources.pdf>

Computer use is remotely monitored; any student using computers inappropriately may be subject to dismissal from class or banishment from the lab. Subsequent offense may be sent to the campus administration for further disciplinary action. As we use some Open Source Materials in this course, you will want to access them via a computer or personal technology (tablet, etc). I do recommend printing the materials for note-taking purposes (as I do), but the choice is yours to make.

**Student Assistance Program Information**

Valencia College strives to ensure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, and time management, as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

**Links to the College Catalog, Policy Manual, and the Student Handbook**

College Catalog - <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/catalog/> (includes a full description of all VC policies)

Policy Manual - <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/>

Student Handbook - <http://valenciacollege.edu/studentdev/CampusInformationServices/>

*Important dates regarding the college calendar may be found on the course calendar and at*

<http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/> **Full Term:** Classes begin 1/8 Regular classes end 4/22. Final Exam Week 4/23-4/29; Withdrawal deadline for W grade is 3/30 College Closed 1/15 and 3/12-3/18

**Email policies:**

Use email to ask me questions outside of class, to request and confirm appointments, and to let me know about any problems you may be having with your writing, or any ideas about the texts you would like to see discussed in the next class. Please do not email entire drafts to me, or forward Spam (junk mail). **Do not use email to hand in written work.**

### **Some Major Learning Outcomes of this Course:**

All of that syllabus stuff being said, here are some (but not all) of the learning outcomes I want you to achieve during the scope of this course, and that you will demonstrate in your work:

**Students will identify and explain characteristics of literary works, including theme, plot, point of view, characterization, and setting.**

*Objectives related to this outcome:* Student will be able to apply literary terms to assigned readings.

**Students will interpret literary works by authors from different cultures.**

*Objectives related to this outcome:* Student will be able to annotate texts to indicate relevant passages and to consider the cultural and historical context of assigned readings.

**Students will identify different literary genres and styles.**

*Objectives related to this outcome:* Student will be able to identify characteristics of poetry and to identify characteristics of prose, including fiction, drama, or creative non-fiction.

**Students will construct oral or written responses to literary works.**

*Objectives related to this outcome:* Student will be able to develop a thesis/main idea, to provide major and minor support for thesis and to incorporate supporting reasons and details.

**You, as the student, will also be able to:**

Demonstrate an ability to think critically about written texts, especially themes and construction as they relate to the human experience, use specific textual support in order to substantiate the assertions you make about a text, define common literary terms, recognize authors and works as belonging to specific literary movements, understand the intertwined relationship between history, society, and literature. These are only some of the major learning outcomes of the course, and your papers demonstrate your ability to grow in these areas. As a result, you should not think of your papers as simple assignments that you “just need to get done.” I assess your progress and learning through these papers, and you should make every effort to clearly demonstrate that you have mastered these outcomes. For other things I look for in your papers, you can always consult the “scream list” on my faculty frontdoor.

### **No Show Policy (as stated by Valencia College policy)**

Class attendance is required beginning with the first class meeting. If you do not attend the first class meeting, you may be withdrawn from the class as a “no show.” Students who are not actively participating in an online class and/or do not submit the first assignment by the scheduled due date must be withdrawn by the instructor at the end of the first week as a “no show.” If you are withdrawn as a “no show,” you will be financially responsible for the class and a final grade of “WN” will appear on your transcript for the course.

### **A Note on Peer Review Activities in this Class: (if we do them)**

1. Arrive on time; if you arrive after the peer review, you will be asked to leave and be counted absent for the day. 2. You must bring a TYPED first draft that represents your best first effort. Remember, your writing cannot get better if you do not give it your best to start. 3. If you do not come prepared with a typed draft, you will not earn peer review credit, and you will be asked to work on your paper. 4. When you give feedback, give helpful, meaningful, and constructive feedback—do not simply give one-word answers. 5. If you miss a peer review assignment for any reason, you cannot make it up. *Missing a Peer Review can impact your grade, so make sure you complete your first drafts on time--they can impact your grade more than you think.*

### **Disclaimer Statement:**

This outline may be altered, at the instructor’s discretion, during the course of the term. It is the responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced.

**\*\*It is every Valencia student’s responsibility to regularly (every day) check his/her ATLAS email account as professors may use this as a means of communicating important/time-sensitive information.**