

English 1500: Experiences in Literature, Topic: What is the essence of a person?
Professor Emma Heaney, William Paterson University
Meeting Time and Location: Asynchronous Online

Required Texts:

AUTHOR	TITLE	YEAR	EDITION
Zora Neale Hurston	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	1937	Virago Modern

+Please purchase the required text from the bookstore or online before the beginning of class. Shorter works by Herman Melville, Deesha Philyaw, Sylvia Plath, Emily Dickinson, Ocean Vuong, and Carol Duffy will be posted as pdf documents on Blackboard under Course Content

Course Description:

The goal of English 1500 is to introduce students to the basics of literary analysis of stories, novels, and poems. The questions for the course are: What makes literary writing distinct from the language that I'm using to compose this course description or from the language that a journalist uses in a newspaper article? Or from the opposite view, how does the way we speak every day or a particular historical detail enter the literary text? How do you write about what makes literature different from other kinds of writing? How do you write about the way "the real world" is represented in literature? Teaching you to do this kind of analysis in writing is the chief goal of this course. The principal skill that this course teaches is the basic skill of literary study: close reading. Close reading involves the introduction, citation, and interpretation of evidence from literary texts. Close reading is the foundation of any essay in an English class. For this section of "Experiences," I've selected work that focuses on a particularly fascinating and complex character. I want us to consider the literary techniques that each writer uses to convey what is essential about that character.

Course Policies:

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the submission of work of any kind that is not the work of the student and where there is no citation or explanation acknowledging the work of another person. If you plagiarize any portion of your paper, you will receive an F for the paper.

Course Format:

For this asynchronous online section of Experiences in Literature" I will post a video lecture that includes explanation of your tasks for the week under discussion on Blackboard. You should consult the posting early in the week and follow the instructions contained in the video lecture.

Assignments:

% of Final Grade

❖ Blackboard Posts	40%
Every week I will post a video lecture for you to watch. This lecture will include questions and activities that you will do and post under the thread for that week.	
❖ Response Papers [Due every Friday by 11:59pm]	30%
Every week you will post a 500 word response paper. In this paper you will communicate your ideas about the reading for the week. What did you like about it? What did you not like? Does it remind you of other things you've read?	
❖ Final Essay (5 pages)	30%
→ Essay Format: Essays are in MLA format and should include a Works Cited Page. A set of guidelines for the paper will be posted under Course Materials.	

Reading Schedule

Week 1.12/13-12/17 Read: Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (164-200)

Week 2. 12/20-12/24 Read: Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (201-247)

Week 3. 12/27-12/31 Read: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Chapters 1-7)

Week 4.1/3-1/7 Read: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Chapters 7-14)

Week 5. 1/10-1/14 7 Read: Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Chapters 14-End)

Week 6. 1/17-1/21 Read: Deesha Philyaw "Eula," "Peach Cobbler"; Sylvia Plath "Daddy"; Ocean Vuong "Someday I'll Love Ocean Vuong"; and Emily Dickinson "They Shut me Up in Prose"