RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
English 251
Dr. Rick Tomlinson

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Student Learning Center: S117, 875-7211, ext. 419

**COURSE TITLE:**  
ENGL. 251 – English Literature to 1800

**Course Credits:** 3-0-3

**PREREQUISITE:**  
Completion of ENGL. 101, 124, 126, 128, 140 or 150

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
_English Literature to 1800_ is a selective, historical survey from its beginnings to 1800. Major authors considered will include Chaucer, Spenser, Shakespeare, Donne, Milton, Locke, Dryden, Swift, Pope, and Johnson. It is an introductory course in the reading, discussion, and written analysis and understanding of poetry and prose that will focus, alternatively, on the historical background of English literature, themes, genres and modes, and women and English literature.

**TYPICAL TEXTS:**  

Fielding, Henry, _Tom Jones_ (1749)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To read and to comprehend poetry and prose in the English tradition;

2. To contribute to oral discussion about English poetry and prose;

3. To become familiar with some of the texts that shaped the English language and that influenced Western cultures;

4. To write an insightful literary analysis;

5. To understand the primary elements of poetry and prose;

6. To develop an introductory comprehension of selected critical methods.

**GRADING and ATTENDANCE POLICIES:**
Diction, logic, mechanics, organization, and sophistication of thinking will be considered when evaluating your work. Following the college policy as outlined on page 57 of the _RCC Catalog_: “Regular attendance is necessary for satisfactory college work. Richland faculty will take roll daily, at least through the midterm of the semester. If a student is absent for one week plus one day (or less, if specified by the instructor in the course

Last revised 08/12/04
Based on the policy articulated above, you will be graded on attendance and participation. You will be expected to attend all of every class period. Class discussion and writing workshops cannot be duplicated or “made up.” Absences affect your grade, as you will have missed highly important discussions and explanations. If you miss class more that 3 times or are excessively late (3 times = one absence), you will lose one letter grade. For every absence after that, you will lose ½ letter grade. You must call me about any absence within 24 hours of that absence. However, this will not necessarily assure that the absence will not count against you. You are responsible for all missed information on any day that you are absent (lecture information, assignments, etc.).

Your grade for participation will depend upon you involvement as a group member and the timeliness of your submission of assignments. No work may be skipped; all assignments must be completed in the appropriate order, including outstanding drafts and revisions. I require that you type or computer-print all assignments.

Consider yourself to be a member of this class, which means that you not only have privileges and receive benefits, but you also have responsibilities — both to yourself and to your fellow class members. If you should decide to drop the course, however, you, alone, are responsible for completing the appropriate notification with the Students Records Office. If you do not, an “F” will be the result. Grades will be averaged as indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay # 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay # 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The grading scale for English 251 is as follows:

- 90%+ = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 59% and below = F

OPEN LAB:
Although significant class time will be devoted to the actual writing and revision of your essays, you will also need to spend additional hours outside of class writing. Much work can be done at home in the inventing and planning stages, and additional hours on the computer are available in the Open Lab in C239.
**INSTRUCTOR ABSENCE:** If I should somehow be delayed, which is highly unlikely, for more than twenty minutes after the scheduled starting time of the class, you may consider that class to be cancelled.

**HUMAN RELATIONS:** This course incorporates concepts regarding all races, creeds, sexes, and ethnic groupings and the belief that they must learn to live together.

**STUDENT SUCCESS:** If at any time I believe that a student is at risk of being unsuccessful in the course, I may notify the Student Success Office. This office will, in turn, contact you suggesting assistance options. I anticipate that you will need to spend at least 3 hours of study outside of class for every hour of in-class work.

**RCC ACADEMIC SUPPORT:**
Learning Resource Center                          Ext. 296  
Perkins Support                                    Ext. 202  
Student Services Center                            Ext. 267  
Student Learning Center                            Ext. 419  
Student Support Services                           Ext. 440  
Learning Accommodation Services                   Ext. 379  

**SPECIAL NEEDS:**
Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify your instructors during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for particular courses. Prompt notification is necessary to ensure that requested accommodations are available when needed. All accommodations must be approved, in advance, through the Accommodations Services Coordinator in C130, at 362.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**
Instructional methods may include lecture, discussion, peer evaluation, and group work.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**
The response to student cheating or plagiarism will follow the college policy as outlined on page 45, which states: “Each student is expected to be honest in his/her class work or in the submission of information to the College. Richland regards dishonest in classroom and laboratories, on assignments and examinations, and the submission of false and misleading information to the College as a serious offense. A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or furnishes false, misleading information to the College is subject to disciplinary action up to and including failure of a class or suspension/expulsion from the College.” No credit will be given for plagiarized classroom assignments and tests; Division chairperson will be notified; incidents deemed by the instructor to be of a serious nature may result in dropping the student from the course.

**RCC CORE VALUES:**
Commitment, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, and Diversity
IAI INFORMATION:
The IAI designation for English 251 is H3 912. This course is part of the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI). Consequently, successful completion of English 251 (with a grade of C or better) will ensure transferability of the course, and the course will count toward an associate or bachelor degree program at any other participating school in the college or university in the State of Illinois.

CALENDAR:
All dates and assignments are subject to change; you are responsible for keeping up with changes. Additional readings and exercises will be assigned as needed (for students individually or to the class as a whole). Unannounced quizzes may be given on any reading assignments. I strongly recommend that you began reading the novel we will be considering in the course, e.g., Tom Jones, systematically, at the beginning of the term; it would probably be a severe mistake to wait until our discussions of the novel begin in class.

Note: We are reading back to the earliest texts of our Western culture written in English; therefore, the language of many of your assignments will be difficult. As a result, (1) Plan time for careful reading, (2) Write down questions when you cannot understand a passage, and (3) reread. “Skimming” will not be sufficient.

(WK. # 1) Introduction to course. View Reforming Education.  Read Norton, “The Middle Ages to ca. 1485.”  Read “The Dream of the Rood.”  Read the Beowulf “Headnote.”

(WK. # 2) Read Beowulf; listen to “Last Survivor’s Speech.”  Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 3) Read Beowulf.  Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 4) Read Chaucer “Headnote”; listen to “General Prologue,” lines 1-18.  Read “General Prologue,” Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 5) Listen to “Miller’s Tale” selections; read “Miller’s Prologue and Tale.”  Group explication and presentation  Essay #1 due.

(WK. # 6) Listen to “Wife of Bath’s Tale” selection; read “Wife of Bath’s Tale.”  Group explication and presentation
(WK. # 7) Read “The Sixteenth Century.”
Read *Utopia.*
Group explication and presentation
Begin *Faerie Queene.*

(WK. # 8) Complete *Faerie Queene.*
Group explication and presentation
**Midterm Examination.**

(WK. # 9) View and read *King Lear.*
Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 10) Read “The Early Seventeenth Century.”
Read Donne.
Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 11) Read *Paradise Lost,* Books 1 & 9 and *Samson Agonistes.*
Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 12) Read “The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century.”
Read “Termini: John Locke and Isaac Newton” and Locke and Newton.
Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 13) Discuss *Jones* Books #1-6.
Group explication and presentation
**Essay #2 due.**

(WK. # 14) Discuss *Jones,* Books #7-10.
Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 15) Discuss *Jones,* Books #11-14.
Group explication and presentation

(WK. # 16) Discuss *Jones,* Books #15-18.
Group explication and presentation
Preparation for final exam

(WK. # 17) **Final Exam.**