

Brian Baaki

Fall 2019

Course Description- English 2201

With an emphasis on close reading, this course is intended to develop the analytical and interpretive skills necessary for both written and verbal critical responses to literature firmly grounded in the text. It also establishes a common knowledge base, however minimal, in literature in English, and equips students with the vocabulary and techniques for describing and analyzing literary works, with an emphasis on developing critical writing skills specific to literary analysis. In addition, this course foregrounds an appreciation and understanding of the aesthetic qualities of literature, as well as an awareness of literature as part of a larger ongoing cultural, social, and historical dialogue that informs, influences, and inspires our experience. Along with surveying English-language poetry from nearly 400 years, our readings for the class will include *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston, short stories by Edgar Allan Poe and James Baldwin, and academic writings related to these works.