

**English 236: Love, Friendship, and Family**  
Coker University  
Fall 2022

**Dr. Margaret Godbey**  
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**Office Hours: TBD and by appointment**

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**(email is best)**

**Course Description:** Our idea of what constitutes "family" is constantly changing, but how we feel about family seems to be as complex as ever. Who are our "loved ones," and how do they both trouble and comfort us? This class considers how authors and artists have addressed the ideas of love and friendship, courtship and marriage, as well as family and estrangement. Prerequisite: ENG 111 or placement credit.

This class fulfills the Humanities component of the Service Engaged Learning Pillar

Engaged Learning courses focus on experiential learning. For the final projects, students will create a project or participate in an experience that requires engagement with the community (local or global).

Courses in the Service Pillar provide opportunities for students to develop knowledge and skills to serve their community at the local level while also providing opportunities for thinking creatively and critically about the issues local communities face.

Outcomes for English 200-level courses

Students will:

- Carry out research to understand basic contexts
- Make connections between works both historically and thematically
- Pay careful attention to works and recognize patterns
- Carry out creative work of their own
- Connect texts from different cultures and histories to their own lives

As a result of taking this class, successful students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of abstract human ideas such as *love*, *friendship*, and *family* and explain how they change over time and vary between concurrent cultures
- Demonstrate knowledge of selected authors and artists who explore these powerful components of the human experience
- Collect data about *love*, *friendship*, or *family* that will help them evaluate current attitudes or expectations
- Create a project or design an experience that informs or engages a particular audience or community. Additional details and guidelines will be provided on Blackboard

**Requirements:**

Students are responsible for:

- Preparing all assigned readings
- Active participation in weekly online tutorials and written discussions
- Serving as discussion leader for one novel, article, or short story
- Presenting to the class on one topic of interest
- Developing a portfolio of three revised submissions (an expanded discussion post, revised discussion leader questions and commentary, or a revised topic presentation)

- Completing and presenting an Engaged Learning project on Blackboard

Students must submit all assignments to receive a passing grade for this course

### **Required Books:**

Butler, Octavia, *Fledgling* ISBN 13: 9780446696166

Hosseini, Khaled, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, ISBN 13: 9781594483851

### **Additional required readings and videos/films will be posted online.**

Course readings have included excerpts from the Bible, The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran, and Modern Romance by Aziz Ansari. Films have included Thelma and Louise and Casablanca.

### **Course Policies**

#### **Absences:**

Active participation is required. Successful students will read all assignments thoughtfully and will contribute in both the tutorial and the online discussions. If you must miss a class or a tutorial, it is your responsibility to find out from your classmates or from me what you have missed. In addition, it is your responsibility to hand in any work due in class. If an exceptional circumstance occurs during the semester, contact me to discuss the situation. Students who miss more than three weeks of tutorials and/or Blackboard discussions, or who fall three weeks behind on assignments will be advised to withdraw from the class.

#### **Due Dates:**

All assignments must be completed on the due date. Electronic copies must be uploaded. Five (5) points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Two points are deducted each day a discussion post is late. Requests for extensions must be made prior to the posted due date.

**All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class. To be clear: if you skip an assignment you will not pass the class.**

If a student does not login for five days, or if a student begins to skip assignments, I will contact him or her. As long as a student is healthy, whether in or out of quarantine, online participation is expected. Should a student become ill, I ask only that I be informed.

#### **Writing Format:**

All writing will follow MLA format. Use 11 or 12-point type and a standard font such as Times New Roman. Online conversations will be casual, but professional – revise and edit before you post! I encourage students to schedule a meeting with me to discuss their writing and to schedule regular appointments with the Writer's Studio.

#### **Topic Presentation:**

The required presentation is an opportunity for students to explore a specific book, film, television show, article, historical event, or issue in depth and present this information to the class. Presentations should be no more than fifteen minutes in length, and only one presentation will be offered per week. Presentations will be available to the entire class; additional guidelines and topic suggestions will be posted. Presentations will be evaluated on content, research, design, and layout. Recorded voice overs are required for presentations.

#### **Discussion Leader:**

As Discussion Leader, each student will be responsible for the week's discussion of the assigned novel, short story, article, film or television show. A prepared student will be thoroughly familiar with the text in question, will have at least five (5) open-ended questions for the class, and will have done some research to provide the

class with a supplemental reading or video selection to add to or complicate our consideration of the author or text. Students will sign up during the second week of the semester.

### **Discussions:**

Discussion responses are considered formal, graded, writing assignments. This means that posts and responses must be organized, spell-checked, and developed.

### **Weekly Tutorials:**

This class adopts the Oxford University tutorial method. This method aligns with the Coker University model of round-table learning. Students will work independently and asynchronously; however, students will also meet with me once a week individually or in pairs to discuss the ideas raised by the texts. To learn more about the Oxford tutorial method, see this link:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/student-life/exceptional-education/personalised-learning#>

If you come to your tutorial prepared and participate thoughtfully in the discussion, you will earn an A. If you skim the readings but are still ready to participate in a thoughtful and useful way, you will earn a B. If you read or skim, but sit quietly and only speak when called on, you will earn a C. If you do not demonstrate knowledge of the readings and do not participate in discussions or when called on, you will earn a D. If you are disruptive, this includes texting or inappropriate use of your laptop or devices or you do not come to class, you will earn an F.

I recognize and reward students who demonstrate increased participation over the course of the semester. However, if it seems to me that students are not keeping up with the readings, I will institute daily or weekly reading quizzes constituting 50% of the class participation grade.

Respect and civility are critical for meaningful intellectual inquiry and debate; therefore, we will all exhibit good manners and maintain a professional demeanor in the online environment.

**Remember, good questions are often more useful than simple propositions**

### **Evaluation Rubric and Grade Calculations:**

Comments on written and visual/audio work will consider the following aspects in the context of the specific assignment: purpose, content, expression, organization, development of ideas, mechanics, and maturity of thought. Revised work should demonstrate significant revision.

“A” (90-100) Writing attempts and is successful in achieving a sophisticated and original discussion. The thesis reflects complexity of thought and is thoroughly developed in the discussion. Style is creative and suited to the discussion. Research, if required, is synthesized and cited accurately.

“B” (80-89) Writing attempts original thesis and discussion with uneven success. The writing shows some complexity of ideas, though it may not maintain the same degree of complication throughout. Overall, this document is carefully written, especially the mechanics. Research, if required, is evident and for the most part, cited accurately.

“C” (70-79) Writing meets requirements adequately, that is, there is a thesis with explanation and some support. Mechanics are sound, though there may be errors. Problems: fullness of explanation; apt examples. Research, if required, demonstrates a minimal attempt. Errors in citation are evident.

“D” (60-69) Writing fails to meet the minimum requirements of the assignment. There is an incoherent discussion and serious problems at the sentence level. Nevertheless, the writer demonstrates an attempt to fulfill the assignment. Research, if required, is unacceptable in both content and format.

“F” (below 60) Writing fails to meet the requirements of the assignment. The writing is incoherent and there are unacceptable problems at the sentence level. The writer does not seem to have made an attempt to fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

**“D” and “F” assignments are considered unsatisfactory for college-level writing.**

Semester evaluations will be based on:

Weekly Tutorials	20%
Weekly Reading Responses	30%
Discussion leader	10%
Topic Presentation	10%
Revised Assignment Portfolio	10%
Final Project and Presentation	20%
Total	100%

### **Plagiarism:**

Academic honesty standards will be strictly enforced. The following is an excerpt from the Coker College Student Handbook:

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, or failing to appropriately cite sources. Any form of academic dishonesty is wholly incompatible with the Code of Student Responsibility, the Mission of the College, and generally understood standards of ethical academic behavior. Academic dishonesty is among the most serious of violations that might be committed at the College; for that reason, penalties for academic dishonesty may include suspension or expulsion from the College.”

Plagiarism: A student guilty of plagiarism when he/she submits work purporting to be his/her own, but which in fact borrows ideas, organization, wording, or anything else from other sources—a published article, a chapter of a book, a friend's paper, etc.--without appropriate source acknowledgment. Plagiarism, as a form of cheating, also includes employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the academic work the student submits as his/her own. Students may generally discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but the student alone must do the actual work. When an assignment involves research with outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what they are, and where and how he/she employed them.

**Students who submit plagiarized work will fail the course.** A report will be sent to Dean Andrea Coldwell.

### **Assistance:**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented physical, sensory, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require assistance to fully participate in this class. If you have a disability that will likely need some accommodation, you should contact Jennifer Rhodes in the Learning Support Services Office (jrhodes@coker.edu) to provide the necessary documentation, as no accommodations can be made without documentation from LSS. Students are responsible for contacting Robin Richardson.

**Learning Environment:**

To learn effectively you must have basic security: a roof over your head, a safe place to sleep, enough food to eat. If you're having trouble with any of those things, please talk with me or Patrick Riccards, VP for Student Affairs, [priccards@coker.edu](mailto:priccards@coker.edu).

Coker University, in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, including Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, marital status, veterans or military status, or against individuals with disabilities, or other legally protected classifications in the areas of employment, admissions, financial aid or access to educational or extracurricular programs, activities, or facilities.

All people have the right to be addressed and referred to in accordance with their personal identity. In this class, we will have the chance to indicate the name that we prefer to be called and, if we choose, to identify pronouns with which we would like to be addressed. I will address and refer to all students according to their preference. In this class, we will respect how each person identifies and how they would like to be addressed.

As a professor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the following professionals:

**Counseling Services:** [843-383-8040](tel:843-383-8040) | [counselingservices@coker.edu](mailto:counselingservices@coker.edu)

**Health & Medical Clinic Services:** [843-383-8141](tel:843-383-8141) | [healthservices@coker.edu](mailto:healthservices@coker.edu)

**Course Schedule**

Schedule is subject to change based on class needs and progress. All adjustments will be announced in class and posted online.

**EXPANDED SCHEDULE TO FOLLOW**