

Principal Academic Focus

Language: Rhetorical Criticism

- The major elements of rhetorical theory focus on situation, audience, and means of persuasion

Literature: Literary Criticism

- Historical, Formalist, Reader Response, Archetypal, Deconstruction, Gender Studies, Psychoanalytic, Marxist, Post-Colonial

Reading

Language

- Analyze how an author's rhetoric and style creates meaning

Literature

- Analyze how an author's imaginative and artistic language creates meaning

Writing

Language:

Teaches and requires students to write on a variety of subjects (e.g., public policies, popular culture, personal experiences) and includes narrative, expository, analytical, and argumentative essays

Literature

Teaches and requires students to write on the critical analysis of literature and includes expository, analytical, and argumentative essays

Texts

Language:

Primary Text:

Non-fiction (includes non-fiction essays in the areas of journalism, political writing, science writing, nature writing, autobiography / biographies, diaries, history, criticism)

Literature:

Primary Text:

Fiction (includes poetry, short stories, drama, novels)

Objective Test

Language:

Multiple Choice (60 minutes):

Employs multiple-choice questions to test the students' skills in analyzing the rhetoric of prose passages

Literature:

Multiple Choice (60 minutes):

Employs multiple-choice questions that test the students' critical reading of selected passages from literature in English (British and American) written from the sixteenth century to the present; also expects students to be familiar with the common terms of literary analysis, and to have strong reading comprehension and analysis skills

Essays

Language:

135 minutes for three (3) essay questions (this includes a 15-minute reading period for the synthesis question).

- The exam measures students' expository and analytical writing skills, and students must demonstrate that they can (1) analyze how an author's rhetoric and style create meaning, (2) analyze how an author develops an argument or idea, (3) create a persuasive argument, and (4) synthesize information from a variety of sources

Literature:

120 minutes for three (3) essay questions, encompassing poetry, prose, and the open question.

- The exam requires writing as a direct measure of the student's ability to read and interpret literature and to use other forms of discourse effectively.

Common Ground

Language

- Performance on the essay section of the exam counts for 55 percent of the total grade; performance on the multiple-choice section: 45 percent.

Literature

- Performance on the essay section of the exam counts for 55 percent of the total grade; performance on the multiple-choice section: 45 percent.

College Credit

Language

- Although some schools differ in policy, a student presenting a grade of 3 or higher on the AP English Language and Composition Exam might expect to receive credit for a college composition course.

Literature

- Although some schools differ in policy, a student presenting a grade of 3 or higher on the AP English Literature and Composition Exam might expect to receive credit for an introduction to literature course.

Public Universities in Illinois MUST AWARD credit for a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam!