ADEN 1060 01 – LITERARY WORKS  
Fall 2015 (4 credits)

Schedule: M 6:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.  
Room: Stokes Hall 113 S

Instructor: Dustin Lee Rutledge  
Email: dustin.rutledge@bc.edu  
Office: Stokes Hall 381 S  
Office Hours: By appointment

BOSTON COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers students a concentrated, introductory study of drama, creative non-fiction, fiction, and poetry. Students read a selection of contemporary works, learning how to analyze and appreciate literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Students will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity (literature) by reading and discussing literary works.
2. Students will develop creative capacities by studying literature with imagination.

3. Students will develop the skills of oral and written expression by talking about literary works with classmates and writing two papers.

4. Students will develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values by exploring the questions presented in literary works.

5. Students will demonstrate knowledge across cultural settings, and will learn about the impact of culture, gender, and age in writing and in reading, by studying course texts that represent life’s richness of human diversity and gifts.

6. Students will demonstrate ethical competency by applying the questions presented in literary works to real issues and experiences.

**GRADING**

**Grading System:** The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A-(3.67) or A (4.00) for excellent work; B- (2.67), B (3.00), or B+ (3.33) for good work; C- (1.67), C (2.00), or C+ (2.33) for satisfactory work; D- (0.67), D (1.00), or D+ (1.33) for passing but unsatisfactory work; and F (0.00) for failure. Additionally, I (0.00) is given for incomplete work, W (0.00) for official withdrawal from the course, and F (0.00) for dropping the course without notifying the office.

**Grading Criteria:** Here's how your coursework will be weighted.

**Papers:** 30%

Two papers (each worth 15% of your final grade) will be assigned this semester. Details will be provided well ahead of time.

**Midterm Exam:** 20%

The midterm will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of all class material through midterm.

**Final Exam:** 20%

While the final will be cumulative, it will emphasize class material after midterm.

**Participation:** 20%

Participation includes your attendance, preparedness for class, contributions to class
activities and discussion, and effort on all written exercises and assignments.

**Quizzes:** 10%

Quizzes will be given at the beginning of many class meetings. Be ready by reviewing your notes and completing all assignments.

**Grade Reports:** All students are required to log in to Agora online to access their semester grades. Students must use their BC username and password to log in. If your username or password is not known, the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license, or passport) for you to obtain your password.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


Note: Essays from *The Sun*, selected poetry, and all supplementary readings will be accessible on the web and/or through BC’s library resources online.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity:** Students must produce original work in the course and cite any references appropriately. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work, etc. Please see the Woods College’s complete statement on academic integrity at

[http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html](http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html).

**Attendance:** Attendance is an important component of learning; students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion prevents a student from attending class, the student must
inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets and must still meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows he or she will be absent for a particular class, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain assignments for that class, for turning in any written assignments and completing any reading assignments by the deadline, and for making up work by getting a classmate’s notes and handouts from the missed class. Attendance counts towards a student’s participation grade; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with the missed class. (Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc.) Additional assignments, penalties, and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absences from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students will accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with the Woods College’s commitment to creating an academic community that respects and welcomes persons of differing backgrounds, we will make every reasonable effort to allow any student to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. Students should review the course syllabus at the very beginning of the semester and should consult the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations of observing the particular holiday. It remains the student’s responsibility, however, to complete all class requirements for any class missed due to a religious holiday.

Certain circumstances may necessitate a departure from the class attendance policy. In this case, feel free to contact the Woods College at (617) 552-3900 for consultation.

**Deadlines:** Assignments, unless otherwise noted, are due at the beginning of a class period. Late assignments will not receive full credit.

**Request For Accommodations:** If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan—(617) 552-8093, kathleen.duggan@bc.edu—at the Connors Family Learning Center regarding learning disabilities or Dean Paulette Durrett—(617) 552-3470, paulette.durrett@bc.edu—in the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities.

**Written Work:** All assignments should be typed (double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1” margins) in MLA format and proofread for submission, and should include MLA citations of any references used. For refining writing skills beyond formatting and editing, students are encouraged to utilize campus resources as needed:

http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html.
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

This is a 4-credit class that meets for 3 hours on Monday nights. Expect to spend, on average, an additional 8 hours each week completing homework assignments. Your assignments for the semester are listed below. (Changes to our course schedule—or policies, etc.—may be made at the instructor’s discretion; any changes would be announced.)

Course Schedule:

Literary Work (drama): *The Flick*

M August 31

Following Convocation, CLASS BEGINS at 7:30 p.m.

In class: Discussion of *The Flick* and Introduction to Analysis

M September 7

NO CLASS—Labor Day

M September 14


M September 21


Literary Works (creative non-fiction): Essays from *The Sun*

M September 28

Reading due: “Thank You For Last Wednesday” and “Even Music And Gold” from *The Sun*

M October 5

Reading due: “Resurrection” from *Fourth Genre*, “We Did” from *The Sun*
T October 13

This week, because of Columbus Day, all Monday classes will meet on Tuesday. (Tuesday classes won’t meet).

Writing due: Paper #1

M October 19

In class: Midterm Exam

Literary Work (fiction): Drown

M October 26

Reading due: “Ysrael” and “Drown” from Drown, and “About Face” from The New Yorker

M November 2

Reading due: “Fiesta, 1980” and “Edison, New Jersey” from Drown, and “The Price Of Nice Nails” and “Perfect Nails, Poisoned Workers” from The New York Times

M November 9

Reading due: Video—“A Reading By Junot Diaz” from BC’s Lowell Humanities Series

Literary Works (poetry): Selected Poetry

M November 16


M November 23

Reading due: Selected poetry, “Room For Debate: Does Poetry Matter?” from The New York Times
Literary Work (drama): *Good People*

M November 30

Reading due: Act 1 of *Good People*

M December 7

Reading due: Act 2 of *Good People*

Writing due: Paper #2

M December 14

In class: Final Exam