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ENG 1002-007: Composition and Literature

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1002-007

English 1002G-007: COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE

Spring 2007 / MWF 9:00-9:50am / Coleman 3609

PROFESSOR SUZIE PARK

Office: 3030 Coleman, 217-581-6285

Office Hours: M 10-12, W 10-11

Course Description

Composition and Literature is a course that emphasizes practice in two things: composing essays and responding to literary works. Moving beyond the shorter essays and articles that you read in English 1001, you will exercise your skills in interpreting and discussing literature across three major genres: poetry, fiction, and drama. You will learn how to identify and appreciate these different categories by exploring works that exemplify as well as test each genre's most recognizable features. Along with reading and writing about poems, short stories, and plays, you will be asked to conduct serious and thoughtful research on one of the works we discuss in this class. You will locate, summarize, and document a substantial critical article written about one literary work.

Like English 1001, 1002 is a reading and writing course designed to enhance critical thinking and communication skills. The written word rules here. We will examine how good writing looks (grammar), how it sounds (style), and where it goes (audience-oriented rhetoric). Over the course of the semester, you will produce essays through stages of brainstorming, drafting, and fleshing out theses. You will not do this alone, of course. This is a workshop course, which means that, much as in the world outside the university, you will be writing for an audience larger than your professor. You will receive and offer feedback on fellow students' work. In these feedback loops, you will be encouraged to keep an eye on your own growth as a writer of clear, effective, persuasive, and citation-savvy arguments.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is a **writing-centered, writing-intensive** course. You will do a lot of writing and responding. If you foresee difficulty in attending class regularly this semester, you should reconsider taking this course. **You must also be present on the scheduled mid-term and final exam dates in order to complete your exams. I do not schedule make-up exams.** See the attendance policy below.

Texts

Course Reading Packet—REQUIRED—purchase at Copy Express, located in the MLK Union
eFictions. New York: Thomson, 2002.

Meyer, Michael. Poetry: An Introduction. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2004.

Klaus, Carl. Stages of Drama. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003.

Hacker, Diane. A Pocket Style Manual. 3rd ed. New York: Thomson, 2000.

REQUIREMENTS: BEFORE YOU COMMIT TO THIS CLASS

The primary aim of this course is to help you to become a sharper, more persuasive, and more self-reflective writer. Now that you are writing at the university level, you should be able to:

- know your audience, and to write persuasively for different audiences and purposes
- communicate and collaborate effectively in both oral and written encounters
- review and understand scholarly literature in conducting library research
- economically incorporate and correctly document outside sources of ideas and information
- revise, revise, revise your writing so that it is grammatically sound and logical

PLAGIARISM (using another writer's written words or ideas without giving properly documented credit) will not be tolerated and will result in a **FAILING GRADE** on the assignment, if not for the course. I will follow the departmental policy on plagiarism:

“Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—“The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

Always submit your assignments using correct MLA format.

CONFERENCES: As I get to know your writing better throughout the semester, I will require that you meet with me on an individual basis. In these conferences, we will discuss where you think your writing and critical skills are improving or need more work.

LATE POLICY: For the purposes of your class participation grade, being late for class is the same as being absent. In addition, all take-home papers and assignments are due at the beginning of class. You will NOT be able to make up any missed in-class assignments and quizzes. More details:

- 1) Late final versions of assignments will be marked a full grade lower for every class day late. Assignments turned in a week past the deadline will be given a “zero.”
- 2) In-class writing assignments must be turned in by the end of class, and cannot be made up at a later date.
- 3) Turning in a **LATE DRAFT** of an assignment means that
 - a) you will not receive written feedback from the Professor
 - b) you will not be able to make up peer assessments (if you miss these days)
 - c) you will receive a lower grade on the final version of your assignment

ABSENCE POLICY: When you are absent—especially when you are frequently absent—two things happen. First, your participation grade drops substantially. Second, you naturally fall behind in understanding course material and neither the class nor the Professor can catch you up on everything missed in a day's class. YOU need to decide when it is absolutely necessary to miss class. Be wise. It bears repeating: you cannot make up missed work and late assignments will be penalized. Whether these are excused or unexcused absences does not matter for this course. The Professor does not need to have your absences documented or explained. You must complete your Mid-Term and Final Exams on the scheduled dates. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS**.

EMAILING POLICY: I want to get to know you and your work this semester. Thus I ask that you call me or stop by my office during office hours (or scheduled times) so that we can talk. **DO NOT EMAIL ME TO ASK FOR AN “UPDATE” ON MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, OR TO EXPLAIN AN ABSENCE**. Working groups will be assigned so that you can contact group members for notes and missed work.

ESSAY FORMAT: Your paper should be paper-clipped or stapled. It must include page numbers. Format: 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

PARTICIPATION: This means more than simply being present in class. It means being on-time, prepared (**BRING YOUR TEXTBOOKS AND READER TO CLASS**), thoughtful, respectful of others, engaged, and fruitfully open to criticism. **While you're in class, act like it and respect your teacher and fellow students: no cell-phone rings, no text-messaging, no iPods or headphones.**

GRADES

Participation (10%)

Essay 1 (10%)

Essay 2 (20%)

Peer-Editing, short responses, in-class grammar and other assignments, quizzes, library research assignment (20%)

Mid-Term exam (20%)

Final exam (20%)

For in-class writing assignments, group exercises, grammar exercises, and essay drafts, you will be graded on a scale of $\sqrt{+}$, $\sqrt{}$, or $\sqrt{-}$. Work that is strongly engaged and on-topic will receive a $\sqrt{+}$. Satisfactory work that is on-topic will receive a $\sqrt{}$. Work that shows little engagement or is off-topic will get a $\sqrt{-}$. Final versions of assignments will receive letter grades. See the attached **GRADING RUBRIC** for details of the grading criteria I will use.