

Spring 1-15-2007

ENG 1002-017: Composition and Literature

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1002-017

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English 1002G
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Required Texts

Ann Charters, *The Story and Its Writer*
R.S. Gwynn, *Drama: A Pocket Anthology*
-----, *Poetry: A Pocket Anthology*
John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*
Online texts as specified in the schedule

Course Description

This course is devoted to developing writing skills in the context of literary study. We will pay particular attention to how language, both verbal and visual, conditions our understanding of reality. The goal is to give you a better appreciation of the power of language and greater access to its power in your writing.

Requirements and Evaluation

I expect you to be prepared for and to attend class. You may miss two classes for any reason. More than three absences will lower your final grade.

Your final grade will reflect an average of the following:

- Four major writing assignments. (One of these essays may be revised for a higher grade during the last two weeks of class.) 60% of grade
- Your participation in class and performance on short assignments and reading quizzes will be graded for each half of the semester. 20% of grade.
- A final examination. 20% of grade.

Online Readings

Several major readings in this class will be done online. In each case, I suggest you print a hard copy for yourself, but if this proves impossible, you would find it convenient to download the texts to your computer or a flash-drive.

Since we will not have a print text in front of us, I will require you to come to class with a page of "gleanings" for the material under discussion **every** day we work with an online text. Cut and paste onto your page anything from the assigned reading that strikes you as important. You may include individual words, phrases, sentences, and passages from the texts, and any comments you care to make. I will collect your page at the end of class and return it at the beginning of the next. Pages will be graded Pass/Fail.

Schedule

1. January 8, 10, 12
Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave*
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/DouNarr.html>

2. January 17, 19
Reading: Harriet Jacobs, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (excerpts TBA)
<http://digilib.nypl.org/dynaweb/digs/www97255/>

3. January 22, 24, 26
Library visit.
Slave Narratives from FWP. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>
Start Essay 1.

4. January 29, 31, February 2
Conferences, Group Work.
Essay 1 due February 2.

5. February 5, 7, 9
Miller, *Death of a Salesman*

6. February 12, 14
Jamaica Kincaid, *Girl*, Charters 469
Edwidge Danticat, *Night Women*, Charters 245

7. February 19, 21, 23
Joyce Carol Oates, *Where Are You Going. Where Have You Been?* Charters 619
Poetry: Sylvia Plath (handout)

8. February 26, 28, March 2
Group work. Essay 2 due March 2.

9. March 5, 7, 9
Background to *The Grapes of Wrath*

10. March 12, 14, 16
Spring Break

11. March 19, 21, 23
Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, chapters 1-5

12. March 26, 28, 30
Chapters 6-10

13. April 2, 4, 6
Chapters 11-15
Essay 3 due April 6

14. April 9, 11, 13
Chapters 16-20

15. April 16, 18, 20
Chapters 21-25

16. April 23, 25, 27
Chapters 26-30
Essay 4 due April 27

Segment 1
Weeks 1-4
Bondage

Segment 2
Weeks 5-8
Men and Women on their Way

Segment 3
Weeks 9-16
The Grapes of Wrath
Depending on our pace, in this segment of the course we will also read a selection of poems, personal journals, and other writings about the Great Depression. There will be several brief written assignments in response to these readings.