ENG 2009G 001: Literature and Human Values
Love Hate Obsession

Randall Beebe
Eastern Illinois University

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“Because I Could Not Stop for Death”
The Body, Illness, & The Stories They Tell

Instructor: Prof. R. Beebe, EIU
rlbeebe@eiu.edu
CH 3841

Office Hours:
M, W 10-12; 1-2
T 11-1:00
& by appointment

course description

An introduction to human health through literature, narrative, and the visual arts. Students will investigate the fundamental and vibrant ways that the humanities and medical/health studies complement each other’s focus on the well-being and complexity of the human.

Through readings (fiction, non-fiction, and film), students will develop strong critical skills of analysis through topics including representations of health, illness narratives, death and dying, patient-professional relationships, medical technologies, and the human body.

Students will be asked to complete several written projects (individual and collaborative), varying in complexity and length.

course goals

1. Read and understand the perspectives represented by a diverse collection of texts that represent plural traditions, historical eras, and/or literary genres.

2. Analyze texts and develop arguments ideas from a series of different reading experiences in formal and informal written assignments and essay exams.

3. Develop their written communication skills by practicing various aspects of the writing process (e.g., drafting, outlining, and revision based on instructor feedback) throughout the semester in formal written assignments.

4. Listen and respond articulately to the ideas and perspectives represented by the instructor and their peers.

5. Reflect on the value of a text for themselves as individuals and for the world in which they live.

6. Examine the value of expression and creativity, especially in literature and literary analysis, determine the effects of narrative format.

TEXTS/FILMS
Mary Shelley, Frankenstein, (1818)
Caitlin Doughty, Smoke Gets In Your Eyes, (2015)
Selected Other Readings (fiction, non-fiction, film)

REQUIREMENTS
Paper 1 - 15%
Paper 2 - 20%
Brief Writings & Quizzes - 20%
Midterm Exam - 10%
Final Exam - 15%
Presentation - 10%
Participation - 10%
Conferences ~
With the importance of the final paper for this course, you should meet with me early and often to discuss your project as well as any other reading or writing concerns you have.

Attendance Policy ~
- I abide by the University’s definition of on excused absences, and I generally allow two unexcused absences—no questions asked. On the third absence—and for every absence thereafter—I will deduct 5% from your final grade.
- Five or more absences equate to an automatic “F” for the course.
- For any day that you are not in class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered, new assignments given, changes in the syllabus, or any homework due for the next meeting. Unless the absence is excused, any homework due on a day you were absent may not be turned in late or made up.
- It is also your responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation to verify an excused absence, preferably within a week of the absence.
- Please do not email me to tell me you were not in class or why. This is best done in person either after the next class or during my office hours.

Academic Honesty ~
Students are of course responsible for knowing Eastern Illinois University’s regulations and policies regarding academic honesty. Plagiarism, even if unknowing or accidental, can result in your failing the course and in further action by the university. Please note the English Department’s statement 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. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me to clarify.

Computer & Classroom Etiquette~
You’re welcome to bring your notebook computer to class. However, I ask that you observe common rules of etiquette and decorum when you use it. In brief, you may use it to take notes or complete an in-class writing activity. You may not use it for anything not directly related to class work. Also, please turn off (or mute) cell phones. Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, absolutely no text messaging during class is allowed.

Electronic Writing Portfolio ~
This course is a writing-intensive course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. If you plan on using work from this course for your EWP, I ask that you complete this before the last two weeks of the semester.

Students with Disabilities ~
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.