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ENG 1092-097: Composition and Literature (Honors)

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Spring 2002 English 1092G: Composition and Literature (Honors) Dr. Zahlan

Section 97
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Course Objectives

In this course, we will read, discuss, and write about twentieth-century poems, plays, and short stories from a number of nations throughout the world. We will discover that literary works from different cultures may raise similar questions about personal feelings and relationships as well as social structures and behavior. What do we mean by love? How do families function? Who is insane and who decides? Why do human beings resort to violence and nations to war? What is reality and what is illusion? Reading texts that depict human beings experiencing life in a variety of cultural contexts, we will discover works of literature that were previously unfamiliar--and we may also enjoy literature in new ways.

This course will offer opportunities for students to consolidate their knowledge of literary forms and techniques, and to practice and improve skills in critical reading and thinking, as well as in oral and written communication. Since English 1092G is a "writing centered" course, writing will be a major means of both learning and evaluation.

Texts

The Norton Anthology of World Literature: The Twentieth Century, 2nd ed.

The Blair Handbook and *Webster's Dictionary*

Special Assignment: Attend a performance of *Master Harold and the Boys* at the EIU Theater in February.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**WEEK I**

Tuesday, 8 January: Introduction and Assignments; In-Class Writing

Thursday, 10 January: Rabindranath Tagore, Introduction (1671-73); Poems from *Gitanjali*, *The Crescent Moon*, and *The Gardener* (1674-77); "The Golden Boat," 1681.

WEEK II

Tuesday, 15 January: Tagore, "Punishment," 1693-99;

Premchand, Introduction (1907-09); "The Road to Salvation," (1910-17)

Thursday, 17 January: William Faulkner, Introduction (2130-35);

Faulkner "The Bear," (Read Parts 1,2,3, pp. 2136-68 for today.)

WEEK III

Tuesday, 22 January: Faulkner "The Bear" (2136-2208) (Finish the story for today.)

Derek Walcott, Introduction (2948-52); "Ruins of a Great House," 2953-55.

Thursday, 24 January: Richard Wright, Introduction (2515-18);

Wright, "The Man Who Was Almost a Man," 2518-26.

WEEK IV

Tuesday, 29 January: Above assignments continued; **Paper I due in class on this date.**

Prepare to share your paper with the class; peer evaluations workshop.

Assignment of Paper II and III

WEEK IV (continued)

Thursday, 31 January: Tawfiq Al-Hakim, Introduction (2277-81);
"The Sultan's Dilemma" (2282-2336) (Read Acts One & Two for today.)

WEEK V

Tuesday, 5 February: "The Sultan's Dilemma" (2282-2336) (Finish reading the play for today.)
Drama Group:

Revised Paper I due from those who participated in workshop.
Sign up for conferences in Week VI.

Thursday, 7 February: No class today--conferences as scheduled.

WEEK VI

Tuesday, 12 February: Discussion of Paper I: Bring Handbook to class.

Chinua Achebe, Introduction (2855-590);
Things Fall Apart (2860-2947): Read Part One for today (2860-2915)

Thursday, 14 February: Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (2860-2947): Read Part Two (2916- 2931).

WEEK VII

This week: attend a performance of *Master Harold and the Boys* at the EIU Theater.

Tuesday, 19 February: Finish reading *Things Fall Apart* by today.

Thursday, 21 February: **Paper II--In-Class Mid-Term Essay Exam**

WEEK VIII

Tuesday, 26 February: Doris Lessing, Introduction (2722-25);
Lessing, "The Old Chief Mshlanga," (2726-34)
Discussion of Paper II (Mid-Term Exam)
Wole Soyinka, Introduction (3021-24);
Death and the King's Horseman, Scene One (3025-36)

Thursday, 28 February: (Continue reading *Death and the King's Horseman*; bring book to class.)
Paper III due today; prepare to share your paper with the class.

WEEK IX

Tuesday, 5 March: Soyinka, *Death and the King's Horseman*: Finish reading the play.

Drama Group:

Thursday, 7 March: Discussion of Paper III (Bring Handbook to class.)
Death and the King's Horseman (concluded)

WEEK X

SPRING BREAK--NO CLASS

WEEK XI

Tuesday, 19 March: William Butler Yeats, Introduction (1699-1702); Poems (1703-11)
Assignment of Papers IV, V, and VI; Revisions due.

Poetry Reports:

Thursday, 21 March: Reubén Darío, Introduction (1712-1715); Poems (1716-20);
Yeats (continued)

Poetry Reports:

WEEK XII

Tuesday, 26 March: Luigi Pirandello, Introduction (1721-24);
Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Acts I & II (1725-57)
Thursday, 28 March: Pirandello, *Six Characters in Search of an Author* (1725-66)
Finish reading *Six Characters* for today.

Drama Group:

Topics for Papers V and VI due in class on this date.

WEEK XIII

Tuesday, 2 April: **Paper IV due in class** (Be prepared to share paper with the class.)
Six Characters concluded. Sign up for conferences.
Research Presentations scheduled.
Thursday, 4 April: Camus, Introduction (2570-73) and "The Guest" (2754-82).
Revisions due today.

WEEK XIV

Tuesday, 9 April: Conferences as scheduled in 3556 (no class meeting)
Thursday, 11 April: Jojima Nobuo, Introduction (2583-84)
Nobuo, "The American School," (2585-2606).
Sign up for conferences.

WEEK XV

Tuesday, 16 April: **Paper V due in class on this date.**
Borges, The Garden of the Forking Paths.
Thursday, 18 April: No class meeting--conferences as scheduled

WEEK XVI

Tuesday, 23 April: Final Oral Presentations as Scheduled
Thursday, 25 April: **Final Paper due in class.**
Final Oral Presentations as Scheduled; Final Exam Review.

FINAL EXAM (CUMULATIVE)

(Bring test booklets to your final exam.)

GRADE CALCULATION

Class Preparation and Participation (including in-class writings and poetry/drama presentation)=25%
Papers I, II, III, and IV = 35%; Papers V & VI (including Research Report) = 25%
Final Exam=15%

ASSIGNMENTS

I. JOURNAL: Keep a separate notebook or journal in which you write your initial and considered responses to reading assignments and class discussion and in which you keep notes of any "outside" reading or computer research you do that is related to the course. From time to time, you will be asked to write responses in class, and you should add them into your journal when they are returned. Journals are very useful in reviewing for exams and in planning your papers and oral presentations. I will not collect or grade journals.

1092 Assignments continued:

II. VOCABULARY: One important goal of the course is to improve your reading, writing and speaking skills. In order to do so, you will need to increase your vocabulary, both passive and active. Be sure to jot down unknown words as you read and then to go back and look them up in your Dictionary. Keep a list of new words and their definitions in your Journal. Try to incorporate newly acquired words into your spoken as well as written language.

III. ORAL PARTICIPATION, POETRY AND DRAMA READINGS, AND RESEARCH REPORT: Students are expected to come prepared to class and to contribute informed comments. Throughout the semester, students may be asked to prepare comments or bring in information relevant to assigned texts and their background.

Each student in English 1092 will make two oral presentations before the class. During the semester, students may report on an assigned work of poetry by Yeats, Walcott, or Darío or. participate in a dramatic reading of one of the three plays assigned. Consider the syllabus carefully and sign up for an author or work that you think will interest you. Be sure the time you sign up for is convenient; there are no "make-ups" for missed oral reports. (Sign up for presentations by 17 January.) (The grades on these reports will go into the "participation" grade.)

Poetry Reports: Students who choose to report on poetry will discuss poems assigned for the day on which reports are scheduled. Each presentation will consist of a dramatic reading of the poem and an analysis of salient features of sound and sense. Please be specific in your report; discuss a theme, a technique, a stylistic characteristic, imagery. If you consult criticism, be sure to cite the critics you use in your report! Do not paraphrase critics without acknowledgment. Also, be sure to put any critics you use into a context, identifying their critical positions: use criticism critically. The prepared presentation should last about 10 minutes. Once you have prepared the material of your report, be sure to practice your oral presentation. Practice in front of your mirror, before a critical audience, or into your tape-recorder. Time your presentation.

Drama Report: The drama report consists of a dramatic (rehearsed) reading of an assigned play, and some critical commentary. Introductory comments should point out characteristics that struck the group as particularly significant. Make sure that the pauses and emphases you decide upon come from a consistent interpretation of the characters and of the meaning of the work, and be prepared to raise issues of meaning and defend decisions about inflection and emphasis.

Final Research Report: During the last two class sessions, each student will present the material of his/her final paper in a polished oral report. (The grade on this report is part of the 25% allocated to the research project.)

IV. PAPERS I, II, IV, V, and VI will be written and revised outside of class; Paper III is an in-class essay exam. Grading will be based upon English Department guidelines, copies of which will be provided to students.

For Paper I, you will be asked to write a cross-cultural critical analysis of depictions of and attitudes towards traditional agrarian societies in (at least) two texts read so far in the course. The essay should be from 600 to 1000 words; critical points must be supported with specific references to and quotations from the texts discussed. Details later.

V. DRAMA ATTENDANCE: Students are required to attend a performance of *Master Harold and the Boys* at the EIU Theater. Students are advised also to attend other plays at EIU's theater, the Charleston Alley Theater, the Krannert Center at the University of Illinois, etc. Paper II will be a review-essay on the EIU production of Fugard's *Master Harold and the Boys*.

STANDARDS & POLICIES: Class attendance, punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. Students are responsible for all material covered in class and all announcements or assignments made in class, as well as for all assignments on the syllabus. Assignments are to have been completed by class time on the date for which they appear on the syllabus. The books in which the day's assignments are contained should be brought to class.

Remember that "class participation" counts as 25% of the course grade; absence from class will result in a "0" for the day's participation as well as on graded work due or done in class. Unannounced quizzes on assigned material may be given at any time. There will be no opportunities to "make up" missed quizzes.

EXAMS: There will be no opportunities to make up a missed exam or oral report other than in cases of documented medical emergency; (signing in at Health Service does document a medical emergency).

Paper III and the Final Exam should be written on test booklets, available at the Union Book Store. Please write tests in ink and on the appropriate booklets.

ALL PAPERS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORK must be handed in on the date due.

1. Work turned in late without advance clearance will not be accepted.
2. Work turned in late with clearance will be penalized, usually at the rate of 5 points per day.
3. Any lateness may delay the grading and return of the paper, perhaps until the end of term.

BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF EVERY PAPER YOU HAND IN. It is advisable to keep a diskette as well as a hard copy of every paper you submit. **IN THE CASE OF A MISSING PAPER, THE STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPLYING A COPY.**

A NOTE ON THE PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: Papers must be typed (double-spaced) or computer-printed on heavy or medium-weight white 9 x 11 paper. Computer print must be clear and dark laser or ink-jet. Leave adequate margins. Each paper must have a separate title sheet which includes the paper title, course title, instructor's name, student's name, and date of submission. Repeat the title at the top of the first page of text. Papers must be stapled or clipped with the pages separated and in correct order.

ONLY PAPERS THAT ARE NEAT AND IN CORRECT FORM CAN BE ACCEPTED.

DOCUMENTATION: Introduce sources of analysis and critical opinion in your text. Document all sources of ideas and information; indicate direct quotation with quotation marks (or blocking). Use the current MLA system to cite all primary and secondary sources referred to in writing your papers. (MLA documentation is explained and illustrated in *The Blair Handbook* and other current handbooks.

Inform yourself about documentation conventions for electronic media information and materials. All such materials must be documented and citation forms are illustrated in recent handbooks; go to the Writing Center for assistance. Electronic-media materials must be evaluated for quality at least as scrupulously as print materials. Please remember that you must absorb and process all materials: downloading is not research.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be original and independent. Avoid resorting to commercial outlines and their on-line equivalents, as well as, of course, to fabricated papers and materials found on the net. Please make sure that you understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department:

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 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 assignment of the grade of F for the course.

Note: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.