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ENG 2009-002: Literature and Human Values: Faith, Survival, Progress

John Allison
Eastern Illinois University

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ENGLISH 2009G-002: LITERATURE AND HUMAN VALUES:

Faith, Survival, Progress

Spring 2015

Instructor: John Allison

Office: Coleman Hall 3552

Phones: 581-2428 (English Department)

E-mail: jballison@eiu.edu

Office Hours: MWF 11-12:00, T/Th: 11-12:00; and by appointment

Catalog Description

(3-0-3) S. A study of some of the universal, recurring issues facing the individual, as they are dealt with in a selection of literary texts from diverse cultures. (1: Labor, Class, Power; 2: Faith, Survival, Progress; 3: Love, Hate, Obsession; 4: Age, Race, Gender). This course is open to all EIU students, but the online version of ENG 2009G is restricted to off-campus students in the Fall and Spring semesters and open to all EIU students in the Summer. WI

Prerequisites & Notes:

"C" or better in ENG 1001G/1091G and ENG 1002G/1092G.

Credits: 3

Objectives of Course:

- To provide an opportunity to read and discuss major works of American literature reflecting national and universal themes related to faith, survival, and progress;
- To encourage thinking about how attitudes and ideas concerning faith, survival, and progress can enrich or impoverish our material and psychological life;
- To promote independent, critical thinking in discussion and writing;
- To promote the use of reasoning and evidence to support ideas and interpretations;
- To foster competent, well-organized writing.

Requirements of the Course:

- Three Essays of Comparative Interpretation (at least 1,200 words each): 60%
- Pop Quizzes: 10%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Final Examination (two short responses of about 300 words each; one essay of about 600 words): 20%;

Criteria for Evaluating Essays and Examination: When I evaluate your essays, I will consider content (depth, reasoning, evidence), coherence (organization, transitions, word choice), grammar, and mechanics. Of these criteria, content is most important, but an essay can fail if it is severely deficient in any one of the criteria. After all, who wants to puzzle through an incoherent message or confront the distractions of an essay riddled with grammatical/mechanical errors?

Revision: You may revise your first essay for up to 15% additional credit. If you decide to revise your first essay, hand in a revision with the original essay one week after I return the original to you.

Calculation of the Grade: I use a simple percentage scale, along with a letter grade, for each essay, quiz, and examination. For example, an 88% is a B+, an 85% is a B, and an 84% is a B-. The weighted categories (see "Requirements of the Course") and percentage scores allow you to calculate your grade for the course.

Late-Work Policy: You are expected to hand in your essays on time and in class. You will forfeit five points for each day an essay is late.

Attendance Policy: If you are enrolled in another class or engaged in any other activity that may cause you to miss a significant number of classes in 2009G, you should not attempt to take 2009G this term. If you have an excused absence, I will arrange time for you to catch up with written work. For an excused absence, you must provide a verifiable excuse from Health Service, a doctor, or a University official. After three unexcused absences, you will forfeit 5% of the course grade and 2% for each subsequent unexcused absence. The same penalties will apply to arriving at class late, leaving class early, and leaving and returning during class, unless you obtain my approval.

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.

Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is a serious offense; it is intellectual theft and fraud. Accordingly, plagiarism will be punished in conformity with English Department and University procedures. Here is the English Department's statement concerning 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 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 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. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

Electronic Writing Portfolio:

You may submit one of your essays for your Electronic Writing Portfolio. Keep in mind that submissions must be at least 750 words long.

Office Hours:

Whenever you want to ask questions about assignments or talk about your work for the course, feel free to schedule a time to meet with me during office hours or some other time of mutual convenience. I look forward to seeing you.

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.ciu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1. Week of January 12
 - Introduction to Course
 - Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1-31)
 - Narrative* (32-60)
2. Week of January 19
 - King's Birthday: No Classes**
 - Narrative* (61-89)
 - Narrative* (89-109)
 - Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (xiii-xiv, 1-54)
3. Week of January 26
 - Uncle Tom's Cabin* (54--131)
 - Uncle Tom's Cabin* (132-76)
 - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (176-219)
4. Week of February 2
 - Uncle Tom's Cabin* (219-76)
 - Uncle Tom's Cabin* (276--330)
 - Uncle Tom's Cabin* (331-397)
5. Week of February 9
 - Discussion of Plans for First Essay
 - Thoreau, *Walden* (1-34)
 - Lincoln's Birthday: No Classes**
6. Week of February 16
 - *Walden* (34-70)
 - *Walden* (107-61)
 - Walden* (201-24)
7. Week of February 23
 - “Civil Disobedience” (227-46)
 - “Walking” (260-87)
 - Cather, *My Antonia* (vii-xxiv, 5-17)
8. Week of March 2
 - My Antonia* (17-52)
 - My Antonia* (52-89)
 - My Antonia* (89-126)
9. Week of October March 9
 - My Antonia* (126-58)

- My Antonia* (159-96)
- Faulkner, *Light in August* (3-56)

SPRING BREAK

10. Week of October March 23
 - Faulkner, *Light in August* (57-118)
 - *Light in August* (119-84); **Second Essay Due**
 - Light in August* (184-231)
11. Week of March 30
 - Light in August* (184-286)
 - Light in August* (287-330)
 - Light in August* (331-86)
12. Week of April 6
 - Light in August* (386-465)
 - Light in August* (466-507)
 - Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1-60)
13. Week of April 13
 - Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (60-152)
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (152-200)
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (200-51)
14. Week of April 15
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (252-305)
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (305--362)
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (363-405)
15. Week of April 22
 - The Grapes of Wrath* (405-455)
 - Further Discussion of *The Grapes of Wrath*
 - Third Essay Due**; Orientation for Examination