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ENG 1002G-032-045: Composition and Literature

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EN 1002G **Composition and Literature**

Instructor: Lucinda Berry laberry@eiu.edu Coleman 3836 581-6987

Office Hours: 9:30 - 12:15 on Tuesday & Thursday

Course Description

This course offers practice in analytical academic writing using poetry, short fiction and drama as the subject matter. Various terms and theories associated with each genre are examined. You are expected to read carefully and think deeply about what you have read. Read the work more than once; you must remember significant details, not just the basic plot. You will be expected to write well-reasoned, logically organized essays using sound rhetorical means to support an arguable thesis.

Course Policies and Grade Determination

In percentage terms, your grade will be determined as follows:

Poetry essay 20% Fiction essay 25% Drama essay 25%
Participation (discussion, homework, group work, in-class writing) 15%
Quizzes & exams 15%

100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, below 70 = NC

Specific requirements for the three major essays will be explained in class, so **take notes**. In general, I will be assessing your writing for:

- overall development in support of your thesis
- clarity of expression
- effective organization and use of transitions
- use of standard conventions for spelling, punctuation and grammar

Deadlines will be given for each of these essays. **Late work will be marked down 10% for each calendar day past the deadline.**

All assignments must be completed to receive credit for the course.

No absence will be excused without a note from the health center or doctor in case of illness, or from another faculty member if you are absent due to a performance, sports competition or field trip for another course.

Being tardy three times will equal one unexcused absence.

You will fail the course if you have more than three unexcused absences.

Participation means more than just your physical presence. Anyone discovered texting, e-mailing or making other use of electronic devices during class will be marked absent for that date. If you are marked absent, you can receive no credit for quizzes or participation on that date.

Homework must be typed. **It will be accepted late only in the case of an excused absence.** Homework, class discussion and other work in class determine the participation portion of your grade.

Quizzes requiring a definition or short answer will be given at the beginning of the class period. You won't get extra time if you're late. **There are no make-ups for the quizzes.** When determining your average, I will throw out the lowest score. Exams for each genre will be based on material in your notes.

The final exam for this course is on

Policy on Plagiarism

Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines plagiarism as "the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's own original work." In this course, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment. In cases of blatant and intentional plagiarism, you will receive an F for the course, and you will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, which is not a pleasant experience.

Policy on Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583 as soon as possible.

Introduction to Poetry

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.

Billy Collins

For Thursday: "Sonnet 18" 66, "Sonnet 130" 69, "Idea: Sonnet 61" 65
Be able to explain the rhyme scheme of an English sonnet.