

Spring 1-15-2015

## ENG 2009-001: Love, Hate, Ovsession

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# ENG 2009G

Literature & Human Values

## LOVE, HATE, OBSESSION

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### Course Description

**English 2009G** is a general education course, studying significant works of literature (fiction) from diverse cultures and of the ways in which they depict meaning, identity, and action in the world.

In this course we will investigate how the concepts of Love, Hate, and Obsession are related in complex, dynamic ways, and how these concepts provide the basis for some of the most challenging and provocative stories and human events. In short, we'll be investigating the extreme in narratives, and we'll do so in short stories, novels, non-fiction, and film.

The goal here is not only to increase your analytical and reading skills—developing your ability to talk with precision and sophistication about books and movies—but is also to enjoy some beautiful but challenging works of fiction.

### Assignments & Grading

You will write two formal papers and complete a midterm and final exam. Since the primary “work” of this course is reading—reading carefully and persistently—you will also complete a weekly reading journal. I will hand out a separate assignment sheet for this requirement, but you should see the journal as something relatively informal yet something you need to work on continually. When done well, reading journals can provide great topics for papers and be extremely valuable in preparing for exams. More on this later.

You should also be prepared for reading quizzes (usually completed at the beginning of class; so be on time), and occasional response papers.

This is not a lecture course. You also need to be an active participant in class discussions, which means you're always present, prepared, and eager to ask questions or engage with other students.

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Spring 2015

Tues, Thurs 12:30 - 1:45

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**Coleman Hall 3160**

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### Texts & Materials

Capote, *In Cold Blood* (1966)

Harris, *Red Dragon* (1981)

Dunn, *Geek Love* (1989)

Ellis, *American Psycho* (1991)

Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* (2005)

McEwan, *On Chesil Beach* (2007)

[will need to purchase; inexpensive copies available second hand]

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**Instructor:** Prof. R. Beebe  
rbeebe@eiu.edu

**Office:** Coleman 3841

**Office Hours:** M/W 9 - 11:00  
T/R 11:00 - 12:30  
& by appointment

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### Requirements

2 Papers @ 15%	30%
Response Papers, Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	15%
Participation	15%
Reading Journal	20%

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### D2L (Desire to Learn)

This course uses D2L, often quite extensively.

Learn how to use it—especially how to upload assignments to a dropbox.

Check it often. Sign up for automatic notification so you'll know when something new is posted.

### Participation & Attendance

I usually allow 2-3 personal days (unexcused absences). Thereafter, you will lose 5% from your final grade for each unexcused absence. Six or more unexcused absences will automatically result in a grade of "No Credit" (NC).

### Conferences

If you are having any problems with a paper, I encourage you to come by and see me during my office hours or make an appointment for a more convenient time. I will be more than happy to talk any number of times about a single paper or particular writing problem.

### 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.

Please turn off (or mute) cell phones. Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, please refrain from using your phone during class.

### Electronic Writing Portfolio

This course is a writing-intensive course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio. EWP guidelines insist that you complete your submission prior to the last day of class. Talk to me if you have any questions about this or consult the EWP website.

### 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.

### Course Schedule & Due Dates

I will hand out the day-to-day course schedule in Week 2. However, the approximate due dates of the formal papers are listed in the right column.

### Plagiarism

Since the university is a place of ideas, discussion, and reflection, it views plagiarism—the taking of others' ideas as one's own—very harshly. The penalty for plagiarizing is swift and severe. You will receive an immediate F for the course and notice will be given to the Office of Student Standards.

If you have any questions about plagiarism—however small—please talk to me before you turn in your work.

### Approximate Due Dates

Paper 1 Feb 26

Midterm Mar 6

Paper 2 Apr 30

Final Exam May 6

Weekly Journal Entries (posted in D2L dropbox)