

Fall 8-15-2010

## ENG 1002G-005: Composition and Literature

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## EN 1002G **Composition and Literature**

Instructor: Lucinda Berry [laberry@eiu.edu](mailto:laberry@eiu.edu) Coleman 3836 581-6987

Office Hours: 9:30 - 10:45 & 12:30 - 1:45 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**

Poetry essay = 20 pts.      Equivalent letter grades: 20/A, 16/B, 14/C, 12/D

Fiction essay = 25 pts.      Equivalent letter grades:

Drama essay = 25 pts.      25/A, 20/B, 17.5/C, 15/D

Participation (discussion, homework, group work, in-class writing)

Grades on the many assignments in this category will be averaged = 15 pts

Quizzes & exams will also be averaged = 15 pts.

Equivalent letter grades: 15/A, 12/B, 10.5/C, 9/D

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

Specific requirements for the three major essays will be explained in class. You might want to **take notes** on these instructions. It is your responsibility to understand what is required. There will be ample time to ask questions. If you choose not to do so, don't complain later that the assignment wasn't clear.

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 are strict. Except in cases of illness, **late work will be marked down 10% for each calendar day past the deadline.**

An absence will be excused with 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. **Documentation for absence must be given to me prior to the first class you attend after the absence.**

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. **Electronic devices such as cell phones and MPG players should be stowed during class, if you are using them, you'll be marked absent!**

Homework must be typed. **It will be accepted late only if accompanied by documentation of an excused absence on the day it was due.** Homework constitutes a sizeable portion of your participation 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 two scores.

### **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." Plagiarism will result in an F for the course and referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

### **Policy on Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive 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.