

Fall 8-15-2005

ENG 1002G-004: Composition and Literature

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Eastern Illinois University

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ENGLISH 1002G--COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE

Dr. Buck, Professor

Office: Coleman Hall 3040

Telephone: Office: 581-5012 (Please leave voice mail if I'm not there)

Mailbox: English Dept Office, Room 308 (3155)

Office Hours: MWF 9:00-9:30 and by appointment.

Textbooks: --Madden, *Exploring Literature*, 2nd edition

--Fulwiler and Hayakawa, *The Blair Handbook* and dictionary

Course Objective

This writing seminar is designed to develop your skills in critical thinking and analytical expression based on the reading of literary texts. This course will 1) introduce you to a variety of works of literature, 2) instruct you in the distinction of literary genres, 3) help you to become more sensitive and attentive readers, and 4) guide you in articulating--both in class discussion and in written discourse--a mature, informed reaction to literary works.

Course Requirements

The requirements of this course include two formal papers, daily folder assignments, and two exams. Since this is a seminar, you will be required to discuss and present your work to the class throughout the semester. Paper I (5 pages) will be an analysis and interpretation of selected short fiction texts based on elements we have discussed in class; Paper II (8 pages) will be a close reading explication of a poem of your choice, informed by research. The first exam will test your understanding of the poetry unit; the final exam (an in-class long essay) will test your understanding of the drama unit. You may opt to revise either Paper I or Paper II. Paper and exam grades will be based on what you have to say and how well you say it.

Folder Writing Assignments

You will need to purchase a manilla folder for this class. That is where you will be keeping all your materials for each unit. Please always bring your folders to class.

Folder writing assignments (home and in-class) are a large part of this course. You should plan on spending one hour per class time that we meet on folder writing you will do at home. A folder response is 1-2 pages in length and will be evaluated on how well the question/issue is thought out. You must write in full sentences and in paragraphs (notes or fragments will not be accepted) and you must proofread your work. I will evaluate what you say and how much you say that's insightful. It is important that you come to class prepared with each assignment; students who come to class unprepared three times during the semester or who are absent from class on the day they are called on to lead discussion or who fail to show up for individual conferences will have the final grade lowered for the course.

Always keep your folder responses and writing in process (drafts, etc.) in your folder. You will turn everything in to me at the end of each unit (see attached sheet for dates).

Folder assignments do not need to be typed but if handwritten, they must be legible and neatly presented. If I cannot read them, I have no choice but to give a no-credit grade.

Active Attendance

You are expected to attend every class because teaching/learning requires dialogue and without you we can have no dialogue. Our class work on the analysis of literary works is a crucial part of this course and you will be required to participate actively in the discussion of texts. Come to class ready to articulate your knowledge and formulate your questions for the class.

An absence policy is important 1) so that I can be equitable to all members of the class and 2) so that you will be successful in this class. Please note that having five unexcused absences in this course is grounds for failing this course.

Definition of an excused absence:

1. University obligation, in which case you will need to present me in advance with a letter explaining the purpose and date of your upcoming absence.
2. Emergency or medical illness, in which case you will need to call my office and leave voice mail at 581-5012 BEFORE class begins on the day of your absence. When you return to class after an illness, you will need to bring me a medical note from health services.

--If you must miss class, I will expect you to find out from someone in the class what you've missed so that you'll be prepared for the next class meeting. Any worksheets or handouts will only be distributed once; it is your responsibility to photocopy assignments from another student if you are absent.

Tardiness

Please be on time for class; habitual tardiness is disruptive and disrespectful of other class members. I will be taking roll each morning as soon as class begins. If you come in late, it is your responsibility to notify me after class so that I take your name off the absence book. If you fail to notify me on the day you are late, you will be recorded as absent.

Late assignments

All written assignments must be submitted when due; no late assignments will be accepted. Papers are due when class begins on the designated dates. Make-up work will be permitted for excused absences only.

Typing and Presentation

Formal Papers I and II (all drafts) must be typed (double-spaced) in MLA format.

Course Grading

The final course grade will be based on an average of the following grades.

Unit I = 30% (paper 20%; folder 10%)

Unit II = 40% (paper 20%; folder 10%; exam 10%)

Unit III = 30% (folder 10%; exam 20%)

Please note that in order to receive a C or better for this course, you must do all the work. Failure to complete any component of the course (including the final exam) will result in a no credit grade for the course.

Scale for the course will always be 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60% = D; below 60% = F

Where to Go For Help with this Course

1. Come to see me in my office in Coleman Hall during my office hours and by appointment.
2. Go to the Writing Center, CH 301, where graduate students can help you with planning, drafting, revising your papers. Their phone number is 581-5929.

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.

Note also that students who have an ACT score in English of 14 or below, or who have no test scores on file with the university, must pass English 1000 before enrolling in English 1001G or 1002G. Students who are not sure of their status should consult the Director of Composition. Successful completion of 1001G or its equivalent is a prerequisite for enrollment in English 1002G.

Plagiarism

The English Department requires that instructors quote to all students the university's policy on 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 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 assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of NC 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.

What to Do in Case of Emergency

If we have an emergency in class, go promptly to inform Jean Toothman, Department Secretary (Room 3135) and Dana Ringuette, Chair (Room 3341). If they are unavailable, use phone in Room 3135 to dial 911.

BEGINNING MY STUDIES

Beginning my studies the first step pleas'd me so much,
The mere fact consciousness, these forms, the power of motion,
The least insect or animal, the senses, eyesight, love,
The first step I say awed me and pleas'd me so much,
I have hardly gone and hardly wish'd to go any farther,
But stop and loiter all the time to sing it in ecstatic songs.

walt whitman

COURSE READINGS
UNIT I: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF SHORT FICTION

Please read the assignment before coming to class on the date given here.
 All pages refer to Madden's text unless otherwise indicated.

- Aug 22 Introduction to the course
- Aug 24 Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants," pp. 486-489
 "Exploration and Analysis," pp. 55-58
 "Reading Critically," pp. 11-25 in Blair Handbook
 Theme, p. 65-66 and handout
 "Finding a Voice," pp. 68-73 in Blair Handbook
- Aug 26 Setting and plot and conflict, pp. 60-63
 Updike, "Summer" (handout)
 White, "Once More to the Lake" (handout)
- Aug 29 Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues", pp. 209-231
 Thesis (handout)
- Aug 31 Erdrich, "The Red Convertible," pp.234-241
 Miller, "In Search of Gay America," pp. 770-776
- Sept 2 Character and Conflict, pp. 63-64
 Mason, "Shiloh," pp. 494-504
 Hughes, "Salvation," pp. 32-34
 Cheever, "Reunion," pp. 231-233
- Sept 5 Holiday
- Sept 7 Tone and Irony (hand-out)
 Thoreau, "Life Without Principle" (handout)
 "Eliminating Biased Language," pp. 452-461 in Blair Handbook
 Write out Editing Ex 2, pp. 456-457 and Editing Ex 4, pp. 460-461 (Blair Handbook)
- Sept 9 Point of view, pp. 58-60
 Simmons, "Learning to Fall," pp. 1285-1291
- Sept 12-14 Style (hand-out)
 O'Brien, "The Things They Carried," pp. 1109-1121
 Pirandello, "War," pp. 1122-1125
 "Argumentation: Writing the Critical Essay," pp. 155-163
- Sept 16 Paper I pre-writing
- Sept 19 Paper I draft due
- Sept 21 REVISED PAPER I AND FOLDERS DUE
 Introduction to Unit II
- Sept 23-28 Individual Conferences (obligatory)--No formal class (Individual Preparation for Unit II)

**This calendar should be used as a guideline. We may change some dates depending on the needs of the class.