

Spring 1-15-2010

ENG 1002G-058: Composition and Literature

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Composition and Literature English 1002

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12, 2-3:30, and by appointment

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This course is intended to help you develop your expressive abilities in the setting of a college classroom, extending the work you began in the first semester of composition. We will be reading an assortment of short fiction, drama, and poetry as a platform to work on how we put our thoughts and experiences into writing and into discussions with a group of people. Much of the writing in this class will be read out loud, in part because everybody has interesting things to say, and also because there is no better way to improve the quality of one's own work.

Rules and regulations:

1. Attendance counts. Miss more than three classes and you're in trouble.
2. Participation counts. Those who talk in class get better grades than those who don't.
3. Deadlines count. Much of the writing you'll be doing will be shared with the class as a whole, and you must be ready to go.
4. Improvement counts. Everybody starts from his or her own place when it comes to a skill like writing. What matters is that your work should develop, so that each of you is writing better at the end of the semester than at the start.

First writing assignment

Due 1/19

Maximum two single spaced pages with copies made for everyone.

Prompt: Some would say the world is made out of stories. We all certainly know a lot of stories—some good, some bad, some that make you laugh, some that scare you, some that you never forget. Some of these stories are just about daily things, some of them are about the heaviest truths of the world. We can find stories in all sorts of places—in books, movies, tv, video games, songs, among friends, at home for the holidays, in church, in the club, just about anywhere. For this paper, talk about some stories that you know, where you heard them, what you remember, why they matter to you. To focus this, you might want to concentrate on the next week, between now and when this paper is due—what stories did you read, hear or see? Who were the characters? What happened? What was it like to take in that story and what seems important about it?