Spring 1-15-2001

ENG 2205-002: Introduction to Literary Studies

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ENGL 2205-04, Introduction to Literary Studies
CH 311 MWF 10:00-10:50
Dr. Gregg A. Hecimovich
Office Phone: (217) 581-5614
Office Hours: MW 1:00-3:00 PM
Coleman Hall 314A

ENGLISH 2205 is a study of fundamental issues underlying literary criticism and interpretation focusing on literary works, diverse critical practices, and historical backgrounds of critical strategies. Our guiding questions: Why study literature? How does literature make a difference in the imaginative, social, and political life of the cultures it writes large? We will explore literary theory from Aristotle to the "contemporary" critical schools of Marxism, Feminism, New Historicism, and Cultural Criticism. Along the way we will read Aristotle's Poetics, Sophocles Oedipus Rex, Shakespeare's Othello, Blake's "Songs," Charles Dickens's Great Expectations, and John Irving's The World According to Garp.

Requirements:

- Course Description
- Required Texts
- Goals
- Course Organization
- Writing Assignments
- Double Sided Illustrated Reading

REQUIRED TEXTS:

The following texts are available at the campus bookstore. Electronic texts can be found for some of our works-still you are required to bring the appropriate "hard" texts to our class meetings.

Othello. Shakespeare.

http://www.eiu.edu/~multilit/english2205-sp01/2205syllabus.html
GOALS

I want students to read and appreciate works of literature that will serve them as they think and move through their own lives. The focus will be on "literary study" and its transition to the living word and the living world. To that end, I require the execution of the following skills:

1. the ability to convey thoughts and ideas taken from the works read—that is, the improvement of your interpretive capabilities.
2. the ability to recognize and evaluate different methods of communication
3. the ability to identify the inter-play of writers within a larger discourse by understanding some historical context and relevance

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course introduces three literary genres: drama, poetry, and fiction. The course will proceed chronologically moving from tragic to comic registers. We will open with drama and its ancient roots and move on from there.

Drama Section:
Aristotle's Poetics
Sophocles Oedipus Rex
Shakespeare's Othello

Poetry Section:
Milton's Paradise Lost (selections)
Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience

Fiction Section:
Charles Dickens's Great Expectations
John Irving's The World According to Garp

For Complete Electronic Texts and Resources click here:
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS and Examinations

PAPERS:
The course requires two essays and one autobiographical sketch. The two essays should be about five pages long.

Writing assignments are designed to allow you to pull together the diverse readings in a thoughtful and critical way. Subject matter is open. "Instigator Questions" will be provided to suggest possible approaches. I am anxious that you choose to write on topics relevant to your interests.

Papers are due at the beginning of class on the day for the assignments you schedule.

EXAMS:

There will be a midterm and a final exam for this course.

DOUBLE-SIDED ILLUSTRATED READINGS/READING QUIZZES:

You will be required to submit a close reading (or brief analysis) for each class meeting when new reading is assigned. The close reading will be a critical analysis of some aspect of that day's assignment. The DSIR's will be a half page typed or hand-written summary and critical analysis of that day's reading assignment.

Illustrations, mathematical equations, doodles are welcomed. These close readings should cite a passage from the reading, and then analyze and interpret the passage. You should consider these open, free, and informal. This is the place to muse freely.

DSIR's serve a double purpose. They prepare you for discussion, and they serve as openings to possible essay subjects.

REVISONS

By the end of the semester I will invite you to re-write one of your two essays. Guidelines for Revision:

Simply correcting the grammatical and spelling errors of the original paper does not constitute a rewrite. A proper revision requires a general re-thinking and re-working of the original points and introduces new ones. Editorial comments are perhaps the most valuable and personalized advice on how to improve your writing, and your revisions should take them into account.
OUT-OF-CLASS CONFERENCES

To ensure your progress in the course, you are required to meet with me at least once during the semester. This tutorial appears on the schedule and is mandatory. Additional meetings are optional but strongly suggested. BACK TO TOP

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION

English 2205 is not a lecture course. Your presence and participation are required. Absences will affect your grade. Four unexcused absences will lower your final grade by one full letter. Five or more unexcused absences will result in automatic failure. BACK TO TOP

HONOR CODE

See the Student Handbook for information on the school's honor code. See the Harbrace College Handbook and on-line documentation materials for information on proper documentation. Further information about citing electronic and textual sources is available from the Writer's Toolbox page on this web. Plagiarism should not be a problem, but if it is, it is a serious one and can only result in failure. BACK TO TOP

GRADING

The following percentages show the weight given each paper, exam, your participation, and DSIR's/List-Serve:

- Papers/Revision %40
- Class participation %10
- Midterm / Final Exam / DSIR's %50

Two essays, one re-write, and a midterm and final exam (or optional the "Extended Reading Project") constitute the bulk of your final grade—a grade which will reflect how successfully you achieve the goals listed above. When writing papers, follow the MLA guidelines described in your Harbrace College Handbook. You may also find guidelines on-line at the Toolbox Page. Papers are due at the beginning of class, and any paper handed in after that time will be considered late. Given that the class will operate on a workshop schedule, it is essential that all papers come in as scheduled; late papers without a prearranged extension (given only under dire circumstances) will suffer a grade penalty. Work which fails to reach the stipulated lower limit for number of pages will also be penalized. (The standard for one type-written page is 250 words, and most word processors have word counting functions.) If you do not own a computer contact the Academic Computer Support at 581-5171 and set up an appointment to tour the facility and review their policies. Keep all returned papers for future reference and bring them when you meet with me during the scheduled conferences. BACK TO TOP
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.

Office Hours: MW 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
(and by appointment)

A great way to contact me is by e-mail:

Cfgh@eiu.edu

http://www.eiu.edu/~multilit/english2205-sp01/2205syllabus.html
Schedule (Weeks 1-8)

Week 1 (Semester Setup)
Jan 08: Intro to class; Assignment 1: Questionnaire (5pts);
10: Syllabus / Miss Piggle-Wiggle / Reading Autobiographies
12: No Meeting; Extra Reading (see 17 January)

Drama Section
Week 2 (Aristotle)
15: M L K HOLIDAY - No Class
17: Aristotle Poetics (pp. 29-37; 51-141; sections 1-3; 6-26)
Reading Autobiographies Due
19: Aristotle Poetics;
   Introduction to Greek Tragedy;
   English 2205 Drama Schema Overview

Week 3 (Sophocles/Greek Drama)
22: Introduction to Ancient Theatre;
   Introduction to Greek Stagecraft;
   Sophocles Oedipus Rex
24: Sophocles: Oedipus Rex
26: Sophocles: Oedipus Rex;
   Group Illumination Preparation

Week 4 (Sophocles/Greek Drama)
29: Sophocles Oedipus Rex;
   Group Illumination Presentations
31: Sophocles: Oedipus Rex
Week 5 (Shakespeare)

05: No Class Meeting; Movie Showing (evening)
07: Shakespeare's Othello
09: Shakespeare's Othello

Week 6 (Shakespeare)

12: Othello and the Dating Game (Real Video 28.8, T-1)
14: Othello and the Dating Game Performance
16: Lincoln's Birthday - No Class

Week 7 (Review / Tutorials)

19: Paper # 1 Due (Drama Section 5-7 Pages)
   Drama Section Review
21: Poetry Section Setup
   Tutorial Signup
23: Tutorials

Poetry Section

Week 8 (Milton)

26: Tutorials
28: Milton's Paradise Lost (Book 1)
Mar 02: Milton's Paradise Lost (Editorial Summary Bks 2-3; Book 4)

weeks 9 -16
Spring 2001

English 2205: Intro to Literary Studies (Continued)

Schedule (Weeks 9-16)

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<th>Week 9 (Semester Setup)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milton's Paradise Lost</td>
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<td>(Editorial Summary Bks 5-7;</td>
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<td>Book 9) Milton's Paradise Lost;</td>
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<td>Milton's Paradise Lost</td>
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<td>(Book 10; Editorial Summary</td>
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<td>Bks 11-12)</td>
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<td>Milton's Paradise Lost;</td>
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<td>Lecture: &quot;Satan's Fall and</td>
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<td>the Grace of God's Love&quot;</td>
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Week 10 (SPRING BREAK)

12-16: SPRING BREAK!

Week 11 (Review / Midterm)

19: Review for Midterm
21 Midterm
23 Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*

Week 12 (Romantic Poetry)

26: Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*
28 Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*
30 Blake's *Songs of Innocence and Experience*

Fiction Section

Week 13 (Dickens and the Novel)

Apr 02: Poetry Instigator Questions

http://www.eiu.edu/~multilit/english2205-sp01/schedule2.htm
Week 14 (Dickens)

09:  *Great Expectations*
11:  *Great Expectations*
13:  *Great Expectations;*

Week 15 (Contemporary Literature)

16:  Paper # 2 Due (Poetry Section 5-7 Pages)
     *The World According to Garp*
18  *The World According to Garp*
20  *The World According to Garp*

Week 16 (Contemporary Literature)

23:  *The World According to Garp*
25  *The World According to Garp*
27  Review for Final Exam
May 02 Final Exam 12:30-2:30

weeks 1-8
Assignment #1

Write a two-page autobiography of "my life as a reader." The essay should recount your early experiences reading: favorite texts, reading occasions, what reading provided you. How did these early experiences evolve? How do your recent reading experiences differ or parallel earlier pleasures? What kind of reading has always appealed to you? What new types of reading?

You may use the rest of the period and the space below to sketch your essay. The piece should be typed, proof-read, and brought to class Wednesday 19 January. Please also acquaint yourself with the class website: http://www.eiu.edu/~multilit/. Included here is your reading assignment: "Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle."