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ENG 2009-001: Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, and Power

Stephen Swords
Eastern Illinois University

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English 2009 Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, and Power Spring 2007

Stephen Swords

Coleman 3020

sswords@eiu.edu 367-6253 (home)

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12:30, 2-4, and by appt.

Books for the class:

Dorothy Allison, *Bastard out of Carolina*

Anthony Bourdain, *Kitchen Confidential*

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

James Cain, *Three by Cain*

Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*

Eric Schollosser, *Fast Food Nation*

Art Spiegelman, *Maus I and II*

Studs Terkel, *Working*

Rules for the class:

1. Keeping up with the reading, attendance and participation all count. There will be reading quizzes, I will keep track of when you're there or not, and people who talk will get decent grades versus people who do not talk.
2. There will be at least a take home final and perhaps a take home midterm.
3. Final grades will be based on your overall performance, taking into account the abovementioned things.

Idea of the class:

Through the books we read and some films we will watch, I'd like us to think about the issue of work in each of our lives and in the communities in which we live. How important is work, what sorts of jobs are fulfilling and which aren't, how do people end up doing what they do? What about money? What about rich versus poor, good workers versus lousy ones, bosses versus employees? We can ask these and other questions and see how what we know compares to the way artists have taken on the subject of work.