

Spring 1-15-2010

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

Randy Beebe
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2010



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Beebe, Randy, "ENG 2009G-001: Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, and Power" (2010). *Spring 2010*. 63.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2010/63

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2010 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2010 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

English 2009G.001 ~ Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, Power
T, Thur 8-9.15 Spring 2010

Prof. Randy Beebe
Coleman Hall 3841
581-2428 / rbeebe@ciu.edu

Office Hours: T, Thurs – 9.30-11.00; W 9-10.30
& by appointment

Texts~

- Charles Dickens, *Hard Times* (1854)
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)
- Edith Wharton, *The House of Mirth* (1905)
- Alan Moore & David Lloyd, *V for Vendetta* (1982-85; 1988-89)
- Laila Lalami, *Secret Son* (2009)
- Other readings distributed as handouts or as e-text

Course Description~

According to the EIU Catalog, English 2009G (Literature and Human Values) is a “study of some of the universal, recurring issues facing the individual, as they are dealt with in a selection of literary texts from diverse cultures.” In this section of the course—titled “Labor, Class, and Power”—we will investigate how these concepts are related in complex, dynamic ways, and how they underlie the modern, industrial world. How is labor related to class? Or how might a social class define labor? What is “power” within this scheme of human relations?

We will be reading and writing a great deal as we discuss these concepts and as we seek to improve our analytical skills—one of the important goals of this course. Consider this course an opportunity to enjoy some terrific storytelling, to share our responses to these stories in an informal setting, and to learn how labor, class, and power influence the development of the modern human drama.

Requirements~

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following items:

- Response Papers (informal writing) & Reading Quizzes 15%
- Two Formal Papers (approx. 4-6 pages) @ 15% 30%
- Mid-term Exam 15%
- Final Exam 20%
- Participation in class discussions 20%

Attendance~

Since this is a discussion-oriented course, your attendance and participation are key components in the overall success of this class. Therefore, you need to attend each class. I will allow two absences (or personal days); however, you will lose 5% of your final grade for every unexcused absence after that. For more than six absences, you will receive an automatic F for the course. You are responsible for documenting and verifying excused absences, which you must do with me in person (not via email).

Formal Papers~

For the two formal papers, I will hand out an assignment sheet with writing prompt, options, and due date. You will need to follow conventional standards for academic papers in regard to format and documentation. (More on this at a later date.) In addition, you have until 4.00 p.m. on the due date to turn the paper in to me (either in my office or mailbox), which should allow you time to complete last minute revisions or proofreading—in other words, you need to be in class on these days.

Informal Writing (Response Papers)~

You will be writing frequent informal responses—both in class and outside of class—which I use as a way to prompt discussion as well as a way to gauge your understanding of the reading. While these writings are relatively informal in nature, I still expect them to be completed with some care. I will evaluate these with a plus, check, or minus.

Plagiarism~

I enforce the English Department Statement on Plagiarism: “Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—the appropriation or imitation of the language, idea, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one’s own original work—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards.”

Computer/Classroom Etiquette~

You’re welcome to bring your notebook computer to class. However, I ask that you observe common rules of etiquette and decorum when you use it. In brief, you may use it to take notes or complete an in-class writing activity. You may not use it for anything not directly related to class work.

** Please turn off (or mute) cell phones or any other PDA. Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, absolutely no text messaging during class is allowed.

Electronic Writing Portfolio~

English 2009G is a writing-intensive course, which means that you may use papers from this course for your EWP requirements. I’ll be happy to assist you with this requirement. I ask only that you complete this activity at least two weeks **before** the course ending date.

Contact the Center for Academic Support and Achievement if you have any questions about the EWP (581-6056) or visit their website at <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php>

Students with Disabilities~

If you have a documented disability and need special assistance, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) for consultation.

Reading Schedule~

I’ll hand out a reading schedule, which will include approximate due dates for papers, at our next class meeting.