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ENG 2099G-099: Literature and human values

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ENGLISH 2099G--LITERATURE AND HUMAN VALUES

Dr. Buck, Professor

Office: Coleman Hall, Room 3040

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

Mailbox: English Dept Office, Coleman Hall, Room 3155

Office Hours: MWF 10:00-10:30 and 12:00-12:30 MWF and by appointment.

Textbooks: -Abcarian and Klotz, *Literature and the Human Experience*

--Wiegman and Glasberg, *Literature and Gender*

--E.M. Forster, *Room with a View*

--E.M. Forster, *Maurice*

--J.M. Coetzee, *Waiting for the Barbarians*

--A good dictionary for you to reference as needed.

Course Objective

This literature 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 one formal paper, daily folder writing 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 (scope 5 pages--you may always write more) will be an analysis and interpretation of selected works. The exams will test your understanding of the units; they will consist of an objective portion along with an essay portion. Paper and exam grades will be based on what you have to say (that is original and insightful); and how well you say it (clarity, development, and technical soundness).

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 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). 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 will have the final grade lowered for the course.

Always keep your folder responses 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 failing 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 more than four unexcused absences in this course will result in failure of the 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 answering machine and leave voice mail at 581-5012 before class begins on the day of your absence explaining the reason for your absence.

--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 or assignments will only be distributed once; it is your responsibility to photocopy assignments from another student if you are absent.

--Only students with an excused absence on the day of any exam or in-class writing assignment may take an alternative exam or quiz, of different format, within the week of the scheduled exam or in-class writing assignment.

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 sheet. If you fail to notify me at the end of class on the day you are late, you will be recorded as absent. Please do not ask me for a letter of recommendation if you are habitually tardy or absent from class or are unprepared with home assignments.

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

Papers I 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 = 40% (paper 20%; folder 20%)

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

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

Failure to complete any component of the course will result in failure of 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 during my office hours and by appointment.
2. Go to the Writing Center, where graduate students can help you with planning, drafting, revising your papers. Their phone number is 581-5929. No one (not even the Writing Center) may read, proofread, or edit your writing over the course of the semester; you may read sections of the paper out loud to someone for feedback but you must always keep control and responsibility over your own work.

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.

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 F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

Use or reproduction of any material or ideas off the internet without proper documentation is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated.

COURSE READINGS

UNIT I: ANALYZING AND INTERPRETING SHORT FICTION

Please read the assignment before coming to class on the date given here.

Lit = Literature and the Human Experience

Lit and Gen = Literature and Gender

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|-----------|--|
| Jan 7 | Introduction to the course. <u>Why do we Read?</u> <u>Why do we Read Literature?</u> |
| Jan 9 | Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" (handout); <u>Summary vs Analysis</u>
"Introduction: Reading Literature," Lit, pp. 3-10; 19-22; 37-42 |
| Jan 11 | <u>Types of Love--Parents</u>
Carver, "The Father," Lit and Gen, pp. 36-37
Alexie, "Jesus Christ's Half-Brother is Alive and Well on the Spokane Indian Reservation," Lit and Gen, pp. 285-294 |
| Jan 14 | <u>Siblings</u>
"McCullers, "Like That," Lit and Gen, pp. 71-77 |
| Jan 16 | <u>Husbands and Wives</u>
Cisneros, "Eyes of Zapata," Lit and Gen, pp. 138-154
Mason, "Shiloh" (handout)
Fromm, "Is Love an Art?", Lit, pp. 1259-1262 |
| Jan 18 | <u>Love and Desire</u>
Bernard Cooper, "A Clack of Tiny Sparks," pp. 523-530
Updike, "Summer," (handout) |
| Jan 21 | Holiday |
| Jan 23 | <u>Love/Hate and the Self</u>
Walker, "Beauty:When the Other Dancer is the Self," (handout)
Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilych," Lit, pp. 1304-1345 |
| Jan 25 | Tolstoy (cont'd) |
| Jan 28 | <u>Love of Humanity</u>
King, "An Experiment in Love: Nonviolent Resistance" (handout)
The Dalai Lama, "The Ethics of Compassion" (handout)
Baldwin, "Sonny's Blues," Lit, pp. 704-728 |
| Jan 30 | <u>Hatred and Conformity</u>
Jackson, "The Lottery," pp. 416-422 |
| Feb 13 | Paper I and folders due |
| Feb 18-22 | Individual Conferences |