

Fall 8-15-2007

# ENG 2009G-001

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 Office Hours:  
 MWF 10-10:50 and  
 by appointment

**Fall 2007: English 2009—001**  
**(MWF 9-9:50; CH 3170)**

This course gives us the opportunity to read a variety of novels and short stories in order to explore three fundamental and interwoven aspects of our identity—race, age, and gender. We will examine the personal experience of these biological and cultural categories, as well as the social consequences of people's reactions to their own and other people's experiences within the different categories. In addition, we will analyze the creative choices made by fiction writers as they explore and express their feelings and ideas on these complex realities and themes.

Texts:

- Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*
- Olsen, *Tell Me a Riddle*
- Woodson, *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*
- Alexie, *Smoke Signals* (film)
- O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
- Gaines, *A Lesson Before Dying*
- Spiegelman, *Maus I and II*
- Wells, *The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*
- Walker, *The Color Purple*

Course requirements and grading:

1. Grades:

- Three essay examinations--#s 1 & 2=15% each; final exam (partly comprehensive)=25%
- Class participation (discussions and groups) and discovery writing (in and out of class)--20%
- Out-of-Class Project--25%

2. Plagiarism: Here is the English Department policy--"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 assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office." Included under plagiarism is the irresponsible handling of documentation—i.e., when the writer intends to misrepresent the use of another author's material.

3. Attendance: Class participation is essential to becoming a better, more able, and responsible reader, writer, and collaborator—this includes being fully prepared (actively reading assignments--annotating, taking notes, preparing questions—and completing writing assignments) and taking a responsible part in class discussions and writing groups (being alert, involved, respectful, and courteous). Please be on time, turn off your cell phones, bring the text/s of the day to class, and do not start to pack up until class concludes. In general, if you have a problem, please e-mail or call me-- or come to my office to see me as soon as possible. **More than three unexcused absences will lower your class participation grade to an F.** As outlined in the student catalogue, I will consider an absence excused only for "reasons of illness, emergency, or university activity." Please provide appropriate documentation for any absence.

4. 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.

5. Office Hours: Please feel free to drop in during my scheduled hours--or to request an appointment. If you have questions, be sure to ask them--in class or after. Chances are that if you have a question, someone else has the same question!

### **Electronic Writing Portfolio**

English 2009C is a writing-intensive course. If you plan to use the formal essay for your Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP), please talk with me by midterm. Seniors graduating this term should be aware of an early deadline for final semester submissions. We will need to make special arrangements for your essay due dates. Additional information and forms are available at [www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php](http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php).

### **Research and writing resources:**

- [http://www.eiu.edu/~english/student/documents/Field\\_Guide\\_to\\_Writing\\_2006.pdf](http://www.eiu.edu/~english/student/documents/Field_Guide_to_Writing_2006.pdf)
- <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>
- <http://www.bartleby.com/>

**Fall 2007**

**English 2009—001: Getting Started  
(DUE TO ME BY 5 P.M. on AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>)**

Using the email account you check most regularly, please send me an email message ([lscoleman@eiu.edu](mailto:lscoleman@eiu.edu)) with the following information:

- Your name, course and section number, major, minor (if any), home and school addresses and phone numbers (including cell if that is what you use most often).
- Your goals for English 2009 and what part you see/imagine reading and writing playing in your future personal, professional, and civic goals (Please give this some time and careful consideration—and be as specific as possible)
- An acknowledgement of having read and agreed to the policies in the course syllabus.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them in the email, in class, or after class.**

**Plan to check this account on a regular basis.**

Fall 2007

English 2009C-001

Week 1 (August 20-24)

- M: Introductions; assign introductory email
- W: Images due
- F: Begin Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*; email due by 5 p.m. today

Week 2 (August 27-31)

- M: Continue with Cisneros; Short Write due
- W: Continue with Cisneros
- F: "I Stand Here Ironing" (in *Tell Me a Riddle*)

Week 3 (Sept. 3-7)

- M: No Class
- W: Begin Woodson's *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*
- F: Continue with Woodson

Week 4 (Sept. 10-14)

- M: Continue with Woodson
- W: Exam #1
- F: Film: *Smoke Signals*

Week 5 (Sept. 17-21)

- M: *Smoke Signals*
- W: *Smoke Signals*
- F: Begin O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*

Week 6 (Sept. 24-28)

- M-F: Continue with O'Brien