ENG 2009G-004: Literature and Human Values

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ENGLISH 2009G-004: LITERATURE AND HUMAN VALUES

FALL 2010

Instructor: John Allison
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Office Hours: M: 10:30-12:00, TR: 11:00-11:50, 1:00-1:50

Objectives of Course:

• To provide an opportunity to read and discuss central works related to labor, class, and power;

• To encourage reflection about how labor, class, and power can enrich and impoverish our material and psychological life;

• To learn to recognize the shared conventions and purposes of autobiography and fiction related to labor, class, and power;

• To promote independent, critical thinking in discussion and writing;

• To promote the use of reasoning and evidence to support ideas and interpretations;

• To foster competent, well-organized writing.

Requirements of the Course:

• Two Essays of Comparative Interpretation (at least 4 pages each): 50%

• Six to Eight Pop Quizzes (25%)

• Final Examination (Two essays of about 600 words each): 25%;
Criteria for Evaluating Essays and Examination:

When I evaluate your essays, I will consider content (depth, reasoning, evidence), coherence (organization, transitions, word choice), grammar, and mechanics. Of these criteria, content is most important, but an essay can fail if it is severely deficient in any one of the criteria. After all, who wants to puzzle through an incoherent message or confront the distractions of an essay riddled with grammatical/mechanical errors. However, when I evaluate examinations, I will place less emphasis on grammar and mechanics.

Calculation of the Grade:

I use a simple percentage scale, along with a letter grade, for each essay, quiz, and examination. For example, an 88% is a B+, an 85% is a B, and an 84% is a B-. The weighted categories (see "Requirements of the Course") and percentage scores allow you to calculate your own grade for the course.

Attendance and Grading:

If you miss a quiz or fail to hand in an essay in class the day an essay is due, you cannot make up the work. However, if you have an excused absence, I will drop a missed quiz from your average, and in the case of an essay, I will allow one extra class day. For an excused absence you must have a verifiable confirmation from Health Service, a medical doctor, an appropriate university employee, or a prospective employer.

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.
1. Week of August 23
   -Introduction to Course

2. Week of August 30
   -*Autobiography* (55-96)
   -*Autobiography* (96-148)

3. Week of September 6
   -*Autobiography* (148-60); Douglass, *Narrative* (29-56)
   -*Narrative* (56-94)

4. Week of September 13
   -*Narrative* (94-109); Thoreau, *Walden* (5-34)
   -*Walden* (34-70)

5. Week of September 20
   -*Walden* (107-43)
   -*Walden* (143-61, 189-226)

6. Week of September 27
   -Melville, "Bartleby" (3-46)
   -"Benito Cereno" (161-202); First Essay Due

7. Week of October 4
   -"Benito Cereno" (202-58)
   -"The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids" (261-86), *Billy Budd, Sailor* (287-317)

8. Week of October 11
   -*Billy Budd, Sailor* (317-85)
   -Review and Discussion; Preparation for Midterm

9. Week of October 18
   -Midterm Examination
10. Week of October 25
   -My Antonia (81-158)
   -My Antonia (159-98)

11. Week of November 1
   -Sinclair, The Jungle (1-91)
   -The Jungle (92-148)

12. Week of November 8
   -The Jungle (149-200); Dreiser, Sister Carrie (1-37)
   -Sister Carrie (37-112)

13. Week of November 15
   -Sister Carrie (113-195)
   -Sister Carrie (195-261)

Thanksgiving Break

14. Week of November 29
   -Sister Carrie (261-369)
   -Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby (1-60); Second Essay Due

15. Week of December 6
   -The Great Gatsby (61-146)
   -The Great Gatsby (147-82); Preparation for Final Examination