

Fall 8-15-2008

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

Richard Sylvia  
*Eastern Illinois University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_fall2008](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2008)



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

---

## Recommended Citation

Sylvia, Richard, "ENG 2009G-001: Literature and Human Values (Labor, Class, Power)" (2008). *Fall 2008*. 71.  
[http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english\\_syllabi\\_fall2008/71](http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2008/71)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2008 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2008 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact [tabruns@eiu.edu](mailto:tabruns@eiu.edu).

**English 2009G - 001: Literature and Human Values (Labor, Class, Power)**

TR 8:00 – 9:15 am; CH 3691

Fall 2008

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775

Office Hours: TR 9:30 – 10:30 am; 2:00 – 3:00 pm; and by appt.

Phone: 581-6292 (office); 345-5962 (home)

email: rasylvia@eiu.edu

**Course Description, Design, and Goals:** Labor, class, and power are related in complex, dynamic ways and underlie the modern, industrial world. In this course we will read several writers whose stories shed light on these concepts. The readings assigned should be both instructive and entertaining.

All discussions and writing assignments are designed for the non-specialist.

Since English 2009G is a writing intensive course, we will write in response to the assigned readings as well as discuss them in class. Both should help us improve our analytical skills – one of the important goals of the 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.

**Texts:**

Dickens, *Hard Times*

Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*

Mosley, *Devil in a Blue Dress*

Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*

Wharton, *The House of Mirth*

Yeziarska, *Bread Givers*

**Requirements and Grading:**

- 1) completion of two essays (minimum 750 words each) – 30%
- 2) weekly in-class written responses to assigned readings – 30%
- 3) mid-term and final exam – 30%
- 4) participation in class discussions – 10%

(You must complete successfully **all** the work listed above to pass the course.)

**Course Policies:** I do not accept late papers without a valid excuse. If you have a problem completing an assignment, speak to me before it is due. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

You cannot make up missed in-class writing assignments.

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, but not required. In-class writing

assignments are not announced, and cannot be made up.

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.

I enforce the English Department Statement 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 own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – 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."

### **Tentative Schedule**

Aug. 26: introduction to course; in-class writing

Aug. 28: Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed* 1-49

Sept. 2: *Nickel and Dimed* 51-119

Sept. 4: *Nickel and Dimed* 121-191

Sept. 9: *Nickel and Dimed* 193-221

Sept. 11: Dickens, *Hard Times* Book the First, chapters 1-7

Sept. 16: *Hard Times* Book the First, chapters 8-16

Sept. 18: *Hard Times* Book the Second, chapters 1- 6

Sept. 23: *Hard Times* Book the Second, chapters 7-12

Sept. 25: *Hard Times* Book the Third, chapters 1-9

Sept. 30: Wharton, *The House of Mirth* Book I, chapters 1-VII **paper #1 due**

Oct. 2: *Mirth* Book I, chapters VIII-XV

Oct. 7: *Mirth* Book II, chapters I- VI

Oct. 9: *Mirth* Book II, chapters VII-XIV

Oct. 14: review

Oct. 16: **mid-term exam**

Oct. 21: Yexierska, *Bread Winners* Book I, chapters I-V

Oct. 23: *Bread* Book I, chapters VI-IX

Oct. 28: *Bread* Book II, chapters X-XVI

Oct. 30: film (title to be announced)

Nov. 4: film

Nov. 6: Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* chapters 1- 10

Nov. 11: *Grapes* 11-18

Nov. 13: *Grapes* 19-22

Nov. 18: *Grapes* 23-30; **paper #2 due**

Nov. 20: *Grapes*

Nov. 25, 27: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2: Mosley, *Devil in a Blue Dress*

Dec. 4: *Devil*

Dec. 9: *Devil*

Dec. 11: *Devil*

**Final Exam:** Monday, December 15, 8:00 – 10:00 am.