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# ENG 2099G-099: Literature and Human Values: Love, Hate, Obsession (Honors)

Randy Beebe  
*Eastern Illinois University*

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20996-099

**English 2099G.099 ~ Literature and Human Values:  
Love, Hate, Obsession (Honors)**  
**T,Thur 3:30-4:45** **Fall 2010**

Prof. Randy Beebe  
Coleman Hall 3841  
581-5013 / [rlbeebe@eiu.edu](mailto:rlbeebe@eiu.edu)

11-12  
Office Hours: T, Thurs - ~~10:00-11:00~~ 2-3:00  
W 9-10:30 & by appointment

**Texts~**

- Angela Carter, *The Bloody Chamber*. 1987.
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*. 1818.
- J. G. Ballard, *Crash*. 1973.
- Graham Swift, *Waterland*. 1992.
- Frank Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*, vols. 1 and 2.
- Ken Kesey, *Sometimes a Great Notion*. 1964.
- Other readings distributed as handouts or as e-text

**Course Description~**

According to the EIU Catalog, English 2099G (Literature and Human Values, Honors) 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 "Love, Hate, Obsession"—we will investigate how these concepts are related in complex, dynamic ways, and how these concepts provide the basis for some of the most challenging and provocative stories and human events. In short, we'll be investigating the extreme, and we'll do so in short stories, novels, non-fiction, and film.

More than anything, this course seeks to improve your analytical/critical writing and speaking skills. We will be reading a great deal, and I want you to consider this course as an opportunity to enjoy some terrific storytelling (fiction and non-fiction) as we discuss how love, hate, and obsession influence the development of the modern human drama.

But I also expect you to be prepared to discuss the material in depth and with some sophistication. To this end, I'm putting a high priority on your participation and your ability to facilitate and engage in informed conversation, which you will see reflected in the course requirements and our day-to-day activities.

**Requirements~**

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

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Participation (includes leading class discussion & preparation) | 25% |
| • Response Papers (informal writing & facilitation summaries)     | 25% |
| • Final Paper   | 25% |
| • Final Exam  | 25% |

**Class Facilitation & Preparation~**

This entire course is premised on each class member's in-depth preparation for and engagement in class discussion. Beginning the second week of class (approximately Sept 2)—and continuing every class meeting thereafter—two students will be responsible for doing being class facilitators, which means they need to be extra prepared to ask questions, lead extended inquiry on a particular passage or issue, or perhaps provide supplementary material (from outside research) that relates to the reading. At the next class meeting, each facilitator will turn in a brief summary (1-2 pages) of how you prepared for the class, the results of the conversation, and what you

learned or how you prepare differently based on the critical exchange. When I hand out the reading schedule, I will include a schedule of when each student will facilitate.

There are no real rules to this. Be assured that I see this as an informal conversation, but I do expect careful thought to go into your preparation. You're welcome to bring in any supplementary material (written or other forms) that help promote conversation and your thinking. Keep in mind, however, that these are not presentations. Rather, the goal is to promote conversation and inquiry. Thus you may not have a lot of answers but you should have articulate questions. Also, since there will be two facilitators for each class, you may want to work together as you prepare.

#### **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 unexcused absences (or personal days); however, you will lose 5% of your final grade for every unexcused absence after that. For more than six unexcused 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).

If you have an unexcused absence on a day when you are scheduled to facilitate, you will not be allowed to make up your obligation. Obviously, if you have an excused absence, we can make some arrangements; however, I (and your classmates) would appreciate ample warning.

#### **Response Papers~**

You will regularly write brief response papers to specific writing prompts that I will hand out. Usually, these will be due the next class period and will ask you to write an opinion or commentary on an issue or text we have been discussing. These are relatively informal writing opportunities, but I ask that you adhere to conventions of standard written English.

#### **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) your cell phone. Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, absolutely no text messaging during class is allowed.**

#### **Electronic Writing Portfolio~**

English 20(9G 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.