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ENG 2009G-003: Literature and Labor, Class, Power

C C. Wharram
Eastern Illinois University

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English 2009-003: LITERATURE and LABOR, CLASS, POWER

Spring 2009 / MWF 13:00-13:50 / Coleman 3170

Instructor: C.C. Wharram
 Graduate Assistant: Devin Black
 Email: ccwharram@eiu.edu
 Office: 3010 Coleman, 217-581-6318
 Office Hours: M 11-11:45; W 15:00-16:30; F 11:00-13:00
 Mailbox: Coleman 3155

*Daniel Defoe*

This course will center on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century representations of labour, specifically in the writings of John Locke and Adam Smith, especially as they relate to the concept of "improvement" of the land and of the self. We will connect these philosophical works to a selection of poetry and prose from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including works by Daniel Defoe, Olaudah Equiano, William Wordsworth, J.W. von Goethe, John Clare, and Mary Shelley, amongst others.

The class will also introduce you to the "Gothic" through concepts of the "manual." Critics have noted that Gothic works often seem so derivative and formulaic that they appear to have been written in consultation with an imaginary "Handbook to Gothic Writing," and the contemporary horror movie suffers under similar critical dismissal. Although the Gothic has, since Sigmund Freud, been most often read through the lens of psychoanalysis, in this course we will approach some of the intriguing questions prompted by the Gothic not through the *mind*, but through the image of the *hand*. Hands of all sorts—human and animal, physical and supernatural, visible and invisible, literal and figurative—pop up (and, of course, disappear) with startling regularity in the Gothic. The primary synecdoche for manual labor—"All hands on deck!"—the hand demonstrates a textual dexterity in its ability to figure both the presence *and* absence of class power in the Gothic.

Texts

Defoe, Daniel. Robinson Crusoe.
 Walpole, Horace. The Castle of Otranto.
 Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von. Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship.
 Shelley, Mary. Frankenstein.
 Poe, E.A. Complete Stories and Poems.
 Stevenson, Louis. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.
 Stoker, Bram. Dracula.
 Tucker, Robert C., ed. The Marx-Engels Reader.

Lunsford, Andrea. Easy Writer.

*Olaudah Equiano***Requirements**

Participation	10%
Tests	40% (8% each for 5 Tests)
Midterm Take-Home Exam	20%

****ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THE COURSE****

Midterm Exam, February 23 (20%)

The midterm exam will consist of take-home section will require you to analyze two passages from our early-semester readings. I will distribute these passages in class on Feb. 23, and you must hand in your answers in essay form on Mar. 3.

Tests (40%, 8% each for five tests)

The tests will verify your engagement with and your ability to retain the class material through identification and short-answer questions. There will be no multiple-choice and no true-or-false questions: you will either know and/or remember our class discussions and course texts, or you will not. My tests tend to concentrate on factual data—who wrote the text? When was it published? What does such and such mean for such-and-such a writer?—and, as fair warning, many students are unaccustomed to the course's evaluation methods.



Mary Shelley

Class Participation (10%)

There will be a number of required, yet ungraded assignments throughout the quarter, constituting a portion your class-participation grade. I will expect you to come to class having read the material, and with questions or comments on the readings. While reading the course material, you should pinpoint specific moments of difficulty, and come to class with questions about them. If you attend class without reading the texts carefully and completely, you will almost certainly fail the series of tests and your class-participation grade will suffer immensely. In other words, coming to class without having read our course texts carefully will make it very difficult for you to pass the course.

TESTS AND EXAMS: You cannot make up a test or exam after the class period in which it is administered.

Note: the remainder of the course readings and requirements (30% of the grade, from Week 12 forward) will be announced later in the semester, to be administered by the course's Graduate Assistant, Devin Black.

Academic honesty: Students are responsible for knowing Eastern Illinois University regulations and policies regarding academic honesty. Plagiarism will likely result in your failing the course and in further action by the university. Here is the English Department's 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 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.

Paper Policies

Papers—and all other assignments—are due at the beginning of class. **Late papers will not be commented upon, and will be marked a half grade lower for every class period late.** Essays turned in a week past the deadline will be given a “zero,” but must nevertheless be submitted in order to pass the course.

Your paper should be stapled and include page numbers. Format: 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

Absence Policy:

When you are absent—especially when you are frequently absent—two things happen. First, your participation grade drops substantially. Second, you naturally fall behind in understanding course material and neither the class nor the Professor can catch you up on everything missed in a day's class. YOU need to decide when it is absolutely necessary to miss class. Be wise. It bears repeating: you cannot make up missed work and late assignments will be penalized. Whether these are excused or unexcused absences does not matter for this course. Being late for class will be counted as an absence.

If you are late for or miss six (8) class meetings, constituting 20% of the course class time, you cannot pass this course. If you think you will be late for or miss eight classes, you should strongly reconsider registering for this class. Once you have missed eight classes, you are welcome to continue visiting the class, but you will receive a failure on your transcript.

Emailing Policy:

I want to get to know you and your work this semester. Thus I ask that you call me or stop by my office during office hours (or scheduled times) so that we can talk. **DO NOT EMAIL ME TO ASK FOR AN "UPDATE" ON MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, OR TO EXPLAIN AN ABSENCE.** Working groups will be assigned so that you can contact group members for notes and missed work.

Wharram / English 2009-003: *Schedule of Classes*—subject to revision

For each class period, you need to have carefully read and be prepared to discuss the assigned selections in their entirety

WEEK ONE

M 1/12/09 Introductions

W 1/14 Locke: *Two Treatises of Government* (excerpt)

F 1/16

WEEK TWO

M 1/19 MLK—no class—READ Equiano and Defoe!

W 1/21 Olaudah Equiano, from *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*

F 1/23

WEEK THREE

M 1/26 Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

W 1/28

F 1/30

WEEK FOUR

M 2/2 Adam Smith, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (excerpts)

W 2/4

F 2/6

WEEK FIVE

M 2/9 Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*

W 2/11

F 2/13

WEEK SIX

M 2/16 William Wordsworth, *The Ruined Cottage* (handout)

W 2/18

F 2/20

WEEK SEVEN

M 2/23 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*; **MID-TERM EXAM distributed**

W 2/25

F 2/27

WEEK EIGHT

M 3/2 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (con't)

W 3/4 **MID-TERM EXAM due**

F 3/6

WEEK NINE

M 3/9 Individual conferences scheduled in lieu of regular class—Keep reading!
3010 Coleman

WEEK TEN SPRING RECESS—NO CLASS—ENJOY!

WEEK ELEVEN

M 3/23 Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister*

W 3/25

F 3/27