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

F McCormick
Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 2009C Syllabus/FALL 2006 McCormick
Literature and Human Values: Labor, Class, Power

Instructor: Dr. McCormick
Office: Coleman 3050
Phone: 581-6121
E-Mail: fgmcormick@eiu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9-10, 11-12, 3-4 (and by appointment; I am also frequently in my office on T & R)

Required Texts:
Alger, Ragged Dick
Angelou, I Know Why . . .
Defoe, Moll Flanders
Sinclair, The Jungle
Twain, Connecticut Yankee . . .

Supplementary Purchases: (1) Spiral notebook (for your JOURNAL; use for this class only); (2) Theme folder (for your Term Paper).

THREE PRELIMINARY REMARKS:
1. I welcome your questions about any of our assignments for this course. Ask and I'll be happy to clarify.
2. I will do my best to make this a class you will enjoy attending. In return I ask that you attend regularly and perform your reading and writing assignments by the assigned dates.
3. Bring your textbook and journal to every class -- and don't be late.

HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED

You will be expected to attend class regularly, to perform reading and writing assignments diligently, and to contribute to our class discussions of the assigned works. Your grade for the course will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

20% Journal (at least 200 words before every class) + 2 500-word journal-based essays. (I will evaluate your journal and a 500-word journal-based essay at MID-SEMESTER and again at the end of the semester. For details, see pp. 1-4 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout.)

20% Pop quizzes and participation. Arrive punctually. I will frequently begin a class meeting by giving a five-minute quiz over the day's reading assignment. The participation component of this 20% segment of your grade will entail participating in class and group discussions of our assigned texts and reading from your journal when called upon.

20% Term paper (1500-2000 words; 6 to 8 typed pages). For details, see pp. 5-6 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout.

20% Mid-Term Exam.

20% Final Exam.
HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED (continued from preceding page)

I will assign the following values to the grades you receive on the five projects described above:

\[
\begin{align*}
A+ &= 4.2 & B+ &= 3.2 & C+ &= 2.2 & D+ &= 1.2 & F &= 0.0 \\
A &= 4.0 & B &= 3.0 & C &= 2.0 & D &= 1.0 & \text{Missing} &= -1.0 \\
A- &= 3.8 & B- &= 2.8 & C- &= 1.8 & D- &= 0.8 \\
\end{align*}
\]

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 4.2 \text{ to } 3.8 & B &= 3.7 \text{ to } 2.8 & C &= 2.7 \text{ to } 1.8 \\
D &= 1.7 \text{ to } 0.8 \\
\end{align*}
\]

But note the following incentive to attend class faithfully:

If at the end of the semester your average falls 1 to 2 decimal points below the cutoff for the next higher grade category, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had no more than 3 unexcused absences. For example, if your average were 2.6 or 2.7 (i.e., 1 or 2 points below the cutoff for a B), you would receive a final grade of B if you had had no more than 3 unexcused absences. If you had 4 or more unexcused absences, your average of 2.6 or 2.7 would earn a final grade of C.

OPTIONAL REVISION:

Any of you who wish to do so may elect to revise your TERM PAPER in hopes of raising the grade for the paper by a maximum of one letter. One exception: a paper whose grade I have penalized for plagiarism (see below) may not be revised and resubmitted. Revisions must be substantial. The revised paper will need to include some new paragraphs with new content. Merely correcting the errors I mark in the original graded version of the paper will not result in an improved grade. The optional revision will be due no later than the final class meeting of the semester.

PLAGIARISM

Note the English Department's statement concerning 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 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 assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the
Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

**LATE AND MISSED WORK**

Writing assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the dates indicated by an asterisk (*) on your syllabus. Late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade for each class day they are late. **TWO EXAMPLES:**

1. If your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **TUESDAY**, your grade would be penalized by a half letter: e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a C-;  
2. If your paper were due on **MONDAY** and you submitted it on **WEDNESDAY**, the grade would be lowered by two half letters; e.g., the grade of a "C" paper would be lowered to a D+.

Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up.

**INFORMATION FOR 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.

**ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO (EWP)**

If you entered EIU under the 2001-2002 catalogue (or a subsequent catalogue), you may satisfy a portion of your **ELECTRONIC WRITING PORTFOLIO** requirement by submitting one of the themes you write for this course to your EWP. For detailed information concerning the procedure for submitting a theme to your EWP, consult the information provided on the Assessment website at the following address: [www.eiu.edu/~assess](http://www.eiu.edu/~assess)
SYLLABUS

NOTE: Asterisks in the left-hand margins of the following pages indicate important due dates—for papers, exams, and journals.

AUG 21 Introduction to the course: explanation of course requirements & grading procedure. Discuss SAMPLE ENG 2009C Journal Entries handout.

Mark Twain, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (A 19th-century American is conked on the head and wakes up in medieval England), chapters I-X, pp. 7-49.

Additional Tasks:
- Carefully review pp. 1-3 of this syllabus.
- Read your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout, paying particular attention to "WHAT TO WRITE IN YOUR JOURNAL."
- Remember to buy a spiral notebook and be sure to prepare a JOURNAL ENTRY (minimum of 200 words) before class.
- Be prepared for a pop quiz over pp. 7-49 of Connecticut Yankee.

23 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XI-XVIII, pp. 50-70 & 77-98. (And remember to bring your journal and your new journal entry to class—every time.)


30 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XXV-XXXI, pp. 141-150 & 160-188.

SEPT 1 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XXII-XXXVIII, pp. 189-231.

4 Labor Day. No classes.

6 Connecticut Yankee, ch. XXXIX-to end, pp. 231-274.

8 Daniel Defoe, Moll Flanders (An 18th-century English woman seeks to escape the poverty into which she is born), pp. 3-38.

11 Moll Flanders, pp. 39-85.

13 Moll Flanders, pp. 86-136.


18 Moll Flanders, pp. 185-229.

Remind me today to distribute a MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE.
SEPT 20  Moll Flanders, pp. 230-268. In class we will do some preliminary brainstorming to generate potential ideas for a term paper. Remind me today to distribute a **MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDE**

22  In-class writing project. Bring to class the texts of both Moll Flanders and Connecticut Yankee. Be prepared to compare a single aspect of these two novels.

* 25  Mid-Term Exam, Part I: Take-Home Essays -- due at the beginning of today's class. In class you will discuss your essays informally in small groups.

• 27  Mid-Term Exam, Part II: Objective Portion. (Note: Your journal and your first 500-word journal-based paper will be due at our next class meeting.)

* 29  Submit JOURNAL & 500-WORD JOURNAL-BASED PAPER for evaluation at beginning of class. (See page 4 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout for an explanation of the procedure for preparing your 500-word journal based-paper. I will not penalize you for exceeding the suggested 500-word limit. The procedure I will use in evaluating your Journal and 500-word journal-based paper is explained on p. 1, item C, of your Writing Assignments handout. **I will do my best to return your Mid-Term Exams at today's session.**

OCT  2  No class today. You need a rest and I need time to read your journals.

4  Film to be shown in class: Ruby in Paradise (young woman seeks work and happiness in Florida; this film was an award winner at Robert Redford's 1993 Sundance Film festival). In class I will call for three volunteers to serve as panelists in a MARCH 3 discussion of Ruby in Paradise.

6  Finish viewing Ruby in Paradise.

9  Panel discussion, followed by class discussion, of Ruby in Paradise.

11  Horatio Alger, Ragged Dick (American boy, later 19th century), chapters 1-9

13  Fall Break. No class.

16  Ragged Dick, chapters 10-18. Carefully study my explanation of your Term Paper requirements on pp. 5-6 of your Writing Assignments handout. For a portion of your journal entry, do some brainstorming for your term paper. Bring several potential topics to class.


20  Maya Angelou, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, chapters 1-11 (wonderful autobiography by one of our most celebrated contemporary African-American writers).
OCT 23  Caged Bird, chapters 12-21. (Today remind me to remind you that we need to
begin doing some serious thinking about topics for your 6-8 page TERM PAPER.
It will be due on APRIL 4.

25  Caged Bird, chapters 22-29.

27  Caged Bird, chapters 30-36. In class we will do some brainstorming pertinent to
your forthcoming TERM PAPER. In what ways does Maya's situation resemble
or differ from the situations of Ragged Dick and Moll Flanders? What similar
social and moral issues are treated in Caged Bird, Ragged Dick, Connecticut
Yankee, and Moll Flanders. Make a list of similarities in the themes of these four
works.

30  Devote no fewer than three hours to developing potential material for your TERM
PAPER. For an explanation of your Term Paper requirements, review pp. 5-7 of
your Writing Assignments handout.
Write a journal entry of at least 400 words related to your idea(s) for the paper.
* Bring to class two copies of a 100-word description of your plans for the paper --
one copy to be turned in; another for you to discuss with your classmates.

NOV* 1  Write a rough draft of your TERM PAPER and bring it to class for peer review.
(In class today, each of you will read and write peer reviews of the rough drafts of
two of your classmates. Your classmates will include your signed reviews in their
theme folders when they submit the completed paper. The completed paper is due
on NOVEMBER 6.)

3  No class. Work on your Term Paper -- due at our next meeting.

** 6  Submit two (2) copies of your TERM PAPER (in LEFT pocket of theme folder; in
RIGHT pocket include rough drafts and preliminary scribbles, and [on top] the
signed peer reviews written by two of your classmates).
Today three of you (chosen by lottery) will offer ten-minute presentations of your
paper. Be prepared.

8  No class. You need a break, and I need time to read your term papers.

10  Four 10-minute presentations of term papers (be ready to present; you may be
selected in today's lottery).

NOTE: Next week we will read a portion of a "Chicago" novel -- The
Jungle. In class today I will distribute a small-group membership roster
and explain the procedure we will follow (beginning on Monday) in our
small-group discussions of The Jungle. I suggest that you get started on
your reading right away. (See description of next assignment.)
Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle* (A farm family emigrates from Lithuania to Chicago in search of work and happiness; early 20th century — before the advent of labor unions), pp. 21-71 (ch. 2-6; note that we do not read chapter 1).

**Small-group discussion:** Be there. You will be responsible for 7-10 minutes of your group's discussion of *The Jungle*. Your journal entries will supply you with ideas you can contribute to the discussion.

*The Jungle*, pp. 72-114 (ch. 7-11).

**Small-group discussion:** Be there. Contribute (7-10 minutes).


**Small-group discussion:** Be there. Contribute.

During the final 15 minutes of today's class you will write (and submit to me) an assessment of what you have learned from and contributed to your group's discussions of *The Jungle*. I will ask that you include commentary on the contributions of one or more members of your group which you have found particularly valuable.

Remind me today to distribute a photocopied poem entitled *Michael*.

**Thanksgiving Recess. No classes.**

*The Jungle*, pp. 149-185 (ch. 16-19). Remind me today to distribute a photocopied poem entitled *Michael*.


**Film to be shown in class: Rosie the Riveter** (documentary on American women's experiences working in war-production factories during World-War II). No homework this week unless you have elected to revise your Term Paper. The optional revision is due no later than our final regular class meeting of the semester.

Continue viewing *Rosie the Riveter*; class discussion.

**Last class day. We will review for the final exam.**

**REMINDER:** Today is the deadline for submitting a revision (entirely optional) of your Term Paper. The revision is to be submitted in your THEME FOLDER, along with the original graded version. Use a highlighter or pencil to call my attention to new material (sentences and paragraphs which were not present in the original version). **SUGGESTION:** Begin working on your 2nd 500-word journal-based paper — which you will need to bring to our final exam along with your journal. (See p. 4 of your WRITING ASSIGNMENTS handout for a reminder of the procedure for preparing the paper.)
Date of Final Exam: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10:15-12:15 p.m.**

**(Don't forget to bring your journal and your 2nd 500-word journal-based paper to the exam.)

(Good luck on all of your finals!)