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ENG 2009G-003: Literature and Human Values

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Syllabus for Love, Hate, and Obsession, English 2009G, Section 003
Fall 2003, Coleman Hall 3691, MWF 8-8:50 am

Required Texts

Lawall, et al. *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*, vol. 1, 7th ed
Richardson, *Pamela; or Virtue Rewarded*
Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
Stoker, *Dracula*

Required Viewings

Aliens
Buffy, the Vampire Slayer
Maid in Manhattan

Course Description and Objectives

In this course, we will examine the (often ambivalent) construction of gender, sexuality, and race in narratives of love, hate, and obsession. We will look at poems, novels, short stories, films, and television shows, particularly those concerned either with love and romance, or with hatred and monstrosity. What is considered "romantic" changes over time, as does what is considered "monstrous," and we will think critically about these changes in love and hate, and how past cultural and historical contexts relate to our own.

The objectives of the course are:

- to help you develop strategies for reading, writing, and thinking about high and low art forms, and their relation to human values
- to sharpen your discussion skills
- to give you the opportunity to explore significant problems and issues through critical thinking, writing, and argumentation

Writing Intensive Course

You may want to submit your best paper from this class to the Electronic Writing Portfolio. Visit this web address for more information:

http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/electronic_writing_portfolio1.htm

Assignments

Analysis: critical response to several medieval lyrics; through close reading, you will attempt to define "courtly love" as a form and practice

Presentation: group analysis of a popular song or short poem; creative, entertaining presentation of findings

In-Class Essay: open-book examination; you will write an in-class essay on one of several provided topics related to the course readings

Take-Home Essay: take-home examination; you will write an essay on one of several provided topics related to the course readings

Illustration: you will bring in an illustration of one of the monsters / monstrous beings discussed in section IV of the course and write a brief critical response to the image

Argument Proposal / Annotated Bibliography: document in which you will propose an argument for the final project and annotate three sources

Argument: 5-6 page essay in which you will use primary and secondary sources, and analyze themes related to the course. Only one object of study (or primary source) is required, but you may use two, should you find it necessary. Appropriate objects of study include films, certain television shows ("Buffy, the Vampire Slayer," "The O.C.," "Sex and the City"; others subject to

approval), songs, visual works of art (paintings, sculptures, etc.), or literary works. You may choose an object of study from the course readings, but you are not required to do so.

Participation: regular contributions to class discussion; discussion questions (a minimum of five times this semester, you will e-mail me 1-2 discussion questions by 10 pm the night before class); peer review (if you miss the peer review, you may lose 2% of your participation grade); quizzes; journal writing (if necessary)

Policies

Attendance: If you are absent from class, ask a classmate what happened and ask me for any missed handouts. If you accumulate six unexcused absences, you will forfeit your participation grade for the semester. Absences will be excused only in the case of a documented illness or emergency, or of documented participation in an official University activity. You must provide me with a photocopy of your documentation. Please do not come to class late. Three instances of tardiness may count as an absence.

Quizzes and Journal Writing: Quizzes will be given periodically during the semester, chiefly to see if you are reading. Should the class prove unprepared for discussions, quizzes will be given daily, and regular journal writing may be assigned. Quizzes will usually be worth five points. Your total on the quizzes will figure holistically into your participation grade. A low quiz average is likely to lower your participation grade. Journal entries, if necessary, will also figure into the participation grade.

Late work: Only in the case of properly documented absences will late work be accepted without penalty. Otherwise, late work will be marked down a letter grade for every day it is late.

Grading Scale: 100 to 90 = A, 89 to 80 = B, 79 to 70 = C, 69 to 60 = D, 59 and below F

Grading Percentages:	Analysis	5%
	Presentation	10%
	In-Class Essay	15%
	Take-Home Essay	20%
	Illustration	5%
	Argument Proposal /	
	Annotated Bibliography	10%
	Argument	25%
	Participation	10%

Assessment: For each of the assignments listed immediately above (excluding Participation), you will receive an assignment sheet. Your grade for a given assignment will be determined by how well your work fulfills the criteria stated in the assignment sheet.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty – whether cheating on an examination or plagiarizing a paper – is a serious offense. Do not present another person's words, ideas, or reasoning as your own. Instances of academic dishonesty will meet with a failing grade on the assignment and a report to Judicial Affairs, and possibly a failing grade in the course.

The Office of Disability Services: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Provisional Schedule

Note: Please complete each reading or assignment *before* class on the day it is listed.

Week One

M Aug 25 Introduction to course

I. Thinking Critically about Love and Obsession

W Aug 27 Hayden, "Those Winter Sundays" (provided by instructor); in-class analytical reading exercise and writing diagnostic

F Aug 29 Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"; Shakespeare, "Let me not to the marriage of true minds" (provided by instructor)

Week Two

M Sept 1 No class; Labor Day

W Sept 3 Dorothy Parker, "A Phone Call"; Ovid, "Echo and Narcissus" (provided)

II. Love, Chivalry, and Romance

F Sept 5 Medieval love poems in *Norton Anthology*: "In Battle" (1197); "Love Song" (1202-3); "A Lover's Prize" (1206-7); "The Art of Love" (1209-10); "Love and Nobility" (1215-16) Due: Analysis

Week Three

M Sept 8 Chaucer, "The Miller's Prologue and Tale" (*Norton* 1534-48)

W Sept 10 Due: bring a copy of a short, contemporary (post 1900) love song or poem; groups discuss the poems; choose one for presentation

F Sept 12 Petrarch and Laura, introduction (*Norton* 1664-67) and sonnets (1673-78); Shakespeare, "My Mistress' Eyes are Nothing Like the Sun" (provided); start *Pamela* now, if you have not already

Week Four

M Sept 15 Workshop: construct group presentation on a contemporary song/poem

W Sept 17 Due: Group presentations

F Sept 19 In-Class Essay; bring readings and notes

Week Five

M Sept 22 Romance narrative; *Pamela*

W Sept 24 *Pamela*

F Sept 26 *Pamela*

Week Six

M Sept 29 *Pamela*

W Oct 1 No class; evening screening of *Maid in Manhattan*, time and location TBA

F Oct 3 Hollywood romance; discussion of *Maid in Manhattan*

Take-home essay, assignment and topics

Week Seven

M Oct 6 Due: Take-home essay

Excerpt from *Random Family*; Rich, "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" (provided)

III. Thinking Critically about Hate and Obsession

W Oct 8 Blake, "A Poison Tree"; Brooks, "Lovers of the Poor" (provided)

F Oct 10 Harjo, "I Give You Back"; Plath, "Daddy" (provided)

Illustration, assignment

IV. Love, Hate, and Monstrosity

Week Eight

M Oct 13 Excerpt from *Beowulf* [The Hall Heorot Is Attacked by Grendel] (Norton 1063-64); Montaigne, introduction and "Of Cannibals" (Norton 1921-24, 1933-41)

W Oct 15 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act I-II

F Oct 17 No class; Fall Break

Week Nine

M Oct 20 Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act III-V

W Oct 22 Argument, assignment and brainstorming

F Oct 24 Library day; collect three sources for final project; start reading *Dracula* now, if you have not already

Week Ten

M Oct 27 Due: Argument Proposal/ Annotated Bibliography

W Oct 29 Conferences; keep reading *Dracula*

F Oct 31 Conferences; keep reading *Dracula*

Week Eleven

M Nov 3 Stoker, *Dracula*

W Nov 5 *Dracula*

F Nov 7 *Dracula*

Week Twelve

M Nov 10 *Dracula*

V. Working with Sources

W Nov 12 Fry on *Dracula* (provided)

F Nov 14 Griffin on *Dracula* (provided)

Week Thirteen

M Nov 17 No class; evening screening of *Aliens*

W Nov 19 *Aliens*; last day to submit Illustration

F Nov 21 Draft Due: Argument; peer review

Week Fourteen

Nov 24, 26, 28 Fall Recess; no classes

Week Fifteen

M Dec 1 Conferences

W Dec 3 Conferences

VI. Love, Hate, Obsession, and High School

F Dec 5 "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer"; revise final project

Week Sixteen

M Dec 8 "Buffy" continued; revise final project

W Dec 10 Discuss "Buffy"; revise final project

F Dec 12 Due: Argument