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ENG 2009G-003: Literature and Human Values: Love, Hate Obsession

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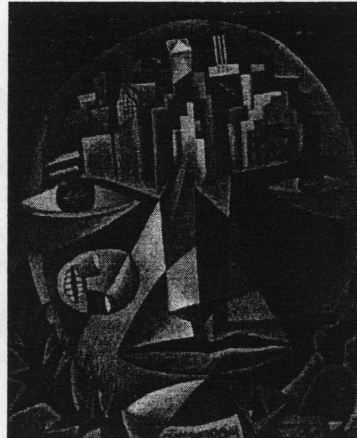
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English 2009
 "Literature and Human Values: Love, Hate Obsession"
 Fall 2008/Coleman Hall 3150
 Class Meeting: 3-4.15pm

Dr. Dagni Bredesen

Office Hours: Tues/Wed 1.45-2.45a or by appointment
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Temptation of Christ by James B. Janknegt

Course Overview: In this general education humanities course, we will be reading literature—drama, fiction, and poetry—that grapple with emotions that crucially impact what we do and who we are: love, hate, and obsession. One objective of this course is to develop further a critical appreciation of and a confidence in reading and discussing literature and the ways literature speaks of and to the human condition. Furthermore, in this course, you will have many opportunities for extending and enhancing skills in reading, writing, and speaking in general, in ways that will benefit you throughout your University career, and, indeed, your life.

This class is discussion-driven. This means that students need to be prepared for each meeting, which in turn means, that you have read and thought about the text assigned for the day and are able to initiate or contribute to discussion with relevant and meaningful questions or comments that indicate you have attempted to grapple with the assigned texts and questions that frame the course.

Texts:

William Shakespeare's *Othello*
 Gerard Donovan's *Julius Winsome*
 C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*
 Choderlos LaClos' *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
 Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*
 Helen Fielding's *Bridget Jones Diary*
 Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*
 Lynne Truss' *Eats Shoots and Leaves*

Please note: You will also need a College Level Dictionary to succeed in this course.

Course Assignments: To achieve the objectives described above students will need to keep up with the rigorous reading schedule and actively participate in the class discussion. The following assignments will foster the active engagement necessary to make this a productive and exciting learning experience.

I. Exams and Quizzes:

*There will be a mid-term (20%) and a final examination (20%). I reserve the right to give pop quizzes as warranted if I sense students are not keeping up with their readings.

II. Papers:

*One paper 3-4 pages (15%)

*One paper 5-6 pages (20%)

III. Participation and Attendance (25%)

Participation means showing up physically for class with your textbooks or handouts/homework due that day having turned off your cell phone and with your attention focused what we are doing in class. It means participating in the day's discussion by preparing comments or questions and responding to other people's comments or questions. It also means looking for ways to identify links between what one person is saying and your own or another's comments. In relation to questions, I expect that you will look up words you don't understand and try to find out the answer to your question on your own to the best of your ability and to be able to say if you haven't been able to come to a satisfactory answer why the question matters to our understanding of the text. Finally, there will be a number of assignments that will be part of your participation grade.

In terms of attendance, you will be allowed to miss THREE classes no questions asked, no excuses needed. After three absences, however, your grade will begin to drop significantly. A half a grade will be docked for each class missed after the three that you are allowed. Please don't squander your allowed absences but save them for when you really need them.

Please familiarize yourself with the University's policies regarding plagiarism.

Course Schedule:

Please note this schedule is provisional and subject to change. Also, students should read assigned text(s) prior to the class in which the text(s) will be discussed.

Week One:

M: Aug 25 Syllabus distributed; Attendance taken.
 Begin watching film: *Othello*
 Assignment: Pick up texts from TRS and read *Othello*
W/Aug 27 Finishing watching *Othello*
 Be prepared to discuss film and play in class Sept 3.
 Start reading *Julius Winsome*

Week Two:

M/Sept 1 **LABOR DAY/NO CLASS**
W/Sept 3 Go over syllabus with Dr. Bredesen
 Discuss *Othello* and begin discussion of *Julius Winsome*
 Assignment: Finish reading *Julius Winsome*

Week Three:

M Sept 8 *JW*
W Sept 10 *JW*

Week Four:

M: Sept 15 *JW* Introduce Paper I

W: Sept 17 Finish discussing novel and brainstorm Paper I
Paper 1 due on Monday.

Week Five:

M: Sept 22 Paper I due Revision strategies Introduction to *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*
Assignment Work on Revising first paper.
Begin reading *The Screwtape Letters*

W: Sept 24 Revision strategies continued
Discuss *SL*

Week Six:

M: Sept 29 *SL*

W: Oct 1 *SL*
Begin reading *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*

Week Seven:

M: Oct 6 *LLD*

W: Oct 8 *LLD* Paper I revisions due

Week Eight:

M: Oct 13 *LLD*

W: Oct 15 Finish discussion of *LLD*
Assignment: prep for Midterm/ Start reading *Pride and Prejudice*

Week Nine:

M: Oct 20 Exam I

W: Oct 22 *PP*

Week Ten:

M: Oct 27 *PP*

W: Oct 29 *PP*

Week Eleven:

M: Nov 3 *PP*

W: Nov 5 *PP* Introduce *Bridget Jones' Diary* and Paper II
Read: *Bridget Jones' Diary*

Week Twelve:

M: Nov 10 *BJD*

W: Nov 12 *BJD*

Week Thirteen:

M: Nov 17 *BJD*

W: Nov 19 Paper II due Introduce *Purple Hibiscus*

THANKSGIVING BREAK: Nov 24-29

Week Fourteen:

M: Dec 1 *PH*

W: Dec 3 Exam II

Week Fifteen:

M: Dec 8 *PH*

W: Dec 10 *PH*