ENG 2009G-004: Literature and Human Values

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ENGLISH 2009G-004: LITERATURE AND HUMAN VALUES

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Office Hours: MW-10-11:00, 1-2:00; F-1-2:00

Objectives of Course:

- To provide an opportunity to read and discuss central works related to labor, class, and power;
- To encourage reflection about how labor, class, and power can enrich and impoverish our material and psychological life;
- To learn to recognize the shared conventions and purposes of autobiography and fiction related to labor, class, and power;
- To promote independent, critical thinking in discussion and writing;
- To promote the use of reasoning and evidence to support ideas and interpretations;
- To foster competent, well-organized writing.

Requirements of the Course:

- Two Essays of Comparative Interpretation (at least 4 pages each): 50%
- Six to Eight Pop Quizzes (25%)
- Out-of-Class Final (Two essays of about 600 words each): 25%
Criteria for Evaluating Essays and Examination:

When I evaluate your essays, I will consider content (depth, reasoning, evidence), coherence (organization, transitions, word choice), grammar, and mechanics. Of these criteria, content is most important, but an essay can fail if it is severely deficient in any one of the criteria. After all, who wants to puzzle through an incoherent message or confront the distractions of an essay riddled with grammatical/mechanical errors. However, when I evaluate examinations, I will place less emphasis on grammar and mechanics.

Calculation of the Grade:

I use a simple percentage scale, along with a letter grade, for each essay, quiz, and examination. For example, an 88% is a B+, an 85% is a B, and an 84% is a B-. The weighted categories (see "Requirements of the Course") and percentage scores allow you to calculate your own grade for the course.

Attendance and Grading:

If you miss a quiz or fail to hand in an essay in class the day an essay is due, you cannot make up the work. However, if you have an excused absence, I will drop a missed quiz from your average, and in the case of an essay, I will allow one extra class day. For an excused absence you must have a verifiable confirmation from Health Service, a medical doctor, an appropriate university employee, or a prospective employer.

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.

NOTES
1. Week of August 25
   -Introduction to Course
   -Douglass, *Narrative* 29-43
   -*Narrative* (43-63)

2. Week of September 1
   -Labor Day: No Classes
   -*Narrative* (63-71)
   -*Narrative* (71-94)

3. Week of September 8
   -*Narrative* (94-109)
   -Melville, "Bartleby" (3-23)
   -"Bartleby" (23-46)

4. Week of September 15
   -"The Piazza" (49-65)
   -"The Bell-Tower" (141-58)
   -"Benito Cereno" (161-202)

5. Week of September 22
   -"Benito Cereno" (202-258)
   -"The Paradise of Bachelors and the Tartarus of Maids" (261-86)
   -*Billy Budd, Sailor* (287-317)

6. Week of September 29
   -*Billy Budd* (317-40)
   -*Billy Budd* (340-85)
   -Discussion

7. Week of October 6
   -Cather, *My Antonia* ("Introduction" and pages 3-50)
   -*My Antonia* (50-94)
   -*My Antonia* (94-140)

8. Week of October 13
   -*My Antonia* (143-204)
9. Week of October 20
   - *My Antonia* (257-318); **First Essay Due**
   - *My Antonia* (319-372)
   - *Sister Carrie* (Chapters I-III)

10. Week of October 27
    - *Sister Carrie* (IV-XIX)
    - *Sister Carrie* (XX-XXIX)
    - *Sister Carrie* (XXX-XXXVII)

11. Week of November 3
    - *Sister Carrie* (XXXVIII-XL VII)
    - Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby* (Chapter I)
    - *The Great Gatsby* (Chapters II-III)

12. Week of November 10
    - *The Great Gatsby* (Chapters IV-VII)
    - *The Great Gatsby* (Chapters VIII-IX)
    - Discussion

13. Week of November 17
    - Huxley, *Brave New World* (Chapters 1-3)
    - *Brave New World* (Chapters 4-5)
    - *Brave New World* (Chapters 6-7)

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

14. Week of December 1
    - *Brave New World* (8-11)
    - *Brave New World* (12-13)
    - *Brave New World* (14-15)

15. Week of December 8
    - *Brave New World* (Chapter XVI)
    - **Second Essay Due**
    - Student Evaluation of Instruction;, Handout of Take-Home Examination