

Fall 8-15-2003

## ENG 2099G-099: Literature and Human Values

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**English 2099G - 099: Literature and Human Values (Race, Age, Gender), Honors**  
 TR 1400 - 1515; CH 3170  
 Fall 2003

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775

Office Hours: TR 8:30 – 9:30 am; MWF (to be announced); and by appt.

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**Course Description, Design, and Goals:** English 2009G centers on literary representations of race, age, and gender, three important – and often interrelated – concepts in developing an understanding of the modern world. Besides requiring a commitment to the careful reading of difficult and challenging works, this course is also writing intensive. You will be asked to write in response to the assigned readings in class on a regular basis and will produce two longer essays out of class. The goal is to improve, with practice, our reading and thinking skills and to approach an understanding of how the concepts of race, age, and gender function in the works of several writers.

**Texts:** Hughes, *The Big Sea*

\_\_\_\_\_, *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*

Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

Olsen, *Tell Me a Riddle*

Shakespeare, *Othello*; *King Lear*

Yeziarska, *Red Ribbon on a White Horse*; *Hungry Hearts*

**Requirements and Grading:**

- 1) completion of two essays (minimum 1000 words each), one of which requires use of secondary sources – 30%
- 2) two exams – 30%
- 3) weekly in-class written responses to assigned readings – 30%
- 4) participation in class discussions of the assigned readings – 10%

You must complete **all** of the work above to pass the course.

You can be excused from but not make up in-class writing assignments.

Attendance at all class meetings is expected, but not required. In-class writing assignments are not announced.

This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit an essay from the class for your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website: <http://www.eiu.edu/~assess>.

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.

English Department 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) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

### **Tentative Schedule**

Aug 26: introduction to course; in-class writing

Aug 28: Hughes, The Big Sea, I

Sept 2: The Big Sea, II

Sept 4: The Big Sea, III

Sept 9: The Big Sea; selections from The Souls of Black Folk (handout)

Sept 11: Hughes, selected poems

Sept 16: Hughes, selected poems

Sept 18: Hughes, selected poems; essay assignment #1 distributed

Sept 23: Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God, 1-6

Sept 25: Their Eyes Were Watching God, 7-13

Sept 30: Their Eyes Were Watching God, 14-20

Oct 2: from Dust Tracks On a Road (handout); **essay #1 due**

Oct 7: Red Ribbon On a White Horse, Part I

Oct 9: Red Ribbon, Part II

Oct 14: Red Ribbon, Part III

Oct 16: from Hungry Hearts (handout)

Oct 21: **mid-term exam**

Oct 23: The Autobiography of Malcolm X, 1-4

Oct 28: Autobiography, 5- 10

Oct 30: Autobiography, 11-14

Nov 4: Autobiography, 15-19

Nov 6: Autobiography; essay assignment #2 distributed

Nov 11: "O Yes"

Nov 13: "Tell Me a Riddle"

Nov 18: "Tell Me a Riddle"

Nov 20: "Tell Me a Riddle"; **essay #2 due**

Nov 25, 27:

Dec 2: King Lear

Dec 4: King Lear

Dec 9: King Lear

Dec 11: King Lear

**The date and time of the final exam will be announced later in the term.**