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ENG 3010C-003: Literary Masterworks

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English 3010C: Literary Masterworks
spring 1999

Instructor: Richard Sylvia
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Texts: Chaucer, Canterbury Tales
      Shakespeare, The Tempest
      Voltaire, Candide
      . Shelley, Frankenstein
      Dickens, Hard Times
      Hardy, Jude the Obscure
      Stoker, Dracula

Course Objectives: The reading for English 3010C is a selection from the best known,
most widely read, and most revered writers of the western literary tradition. The selection
begins in the fourteenth century (Chaucer) and ends in the last decade of the nineteenth
century (Hardy and Stoker), with stops along the way in the seventeenth (Shakespeare),
the eighteenth (Voltaire), and the early and mid- nineteenth centuries (Shelley and
Dickens). Each work is a challenging reading adventure in it's own right and also an
important avenue into discussion of broader cultural concerns. Our goal in the course is
to read each work carefully and analytically, so that we come to understand how each
reflects ideas associated with the era in which it was produced.

Requirements: careful preparation of assigned material
regular participation in class discussions
weekly quizzes – 30%
two brief papers – 30%
mid-term exam – 20%
final exam – 20%

Course Policies:

I will distribute paper topic assignments during the term.

If you cannot make a deadline, please let me know in advance. I do not accept late papers
without a valid excuse. Please see me if you are having difficulty keeping up with the
work. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.
Conferences are not required, but I urge you to visit me in my office to discuss your work.

You must turn in all of the written work to pass the course.

I do not give make-up quizzes, but I will excuse you from a quiz if you have a valid excuse.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (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 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
Jan. 12: introduction to course; introduction to Chaucer
Jan. 14: Chaucer, "The Knight's Tale," parts one and two
Jan. 19: "The Knight's Tale," parts three and four
Jan. 21: Chaucer, "The Miller's Prologue and Tale"
Jan. 26: Shakespeare, "The Tempest," acts one and two
Jan. 28: "The Tempest," acts three and four
Feb. 2: "The Tempest," act five
Feb. 4: Voltaire, "Candide," chapters 1-10
Feb. 9: "Candide," chapters 11-20
Feb. 11: "Candide," chapters 21-30
Feb. 16: Shelley, "Frankenstein," volume I (preface, letters, chapters 1-7)
Feb. 18: "Frankenstein," volume II (chapters 1-9)
Feb. 23: "Frankenstein," volume III (chapters 1-7, Walton letters continued)
Feb. 25: review; paper due
Mar. 2: mid-term exam
Mar. 4: Dickens, "Hard Times," Book the First
Mar. 9: "Hard Times," Book the Second
Mar. 11: "Hard Times," Book the Third
Mar. 16, 18: Whew! Spring Recess; no class meetings
Mar. 23: Hardy, "Jude the Obscure"
Mar. 25: "Jude"
Mar. 30: "Jude"
Apr. 1: "Jude"
Apr. 6: "Jude"
Apr. 8: "Jude"
Apr. 13: Stoker, "Dracula," chapters 1-4
Apr. 15: "Dracula," chapters 5-9
Apr. 20: "Dracula," chapters 10-13
Apr. 22: "Dracula," chapters 14-18
Apr. 27: "Dracula," chapters 19-23
Apr. 29: "Dracula," chapters 24-27; paper due

The date and time of the final exam will be announced during the semester.