ENG 2011-051: Literature, the Self, and the World: Fiction

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English 2011G ~ Literature, the Self, and the World: Fiction ~ Summer 2006

Prof. Randy Beebe
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Office Hours: M, T, W 8:30-10:00 and by appointment

Texts—
E. Bronte, Wuthering Heights
T. O’Brien, The Things They Carried
B. Stoker, Dracula
Selected short stories (handout)

Course Description—
According to the EIU Catalog, English 2011 is a study of significant works of literature from diverse cultures and of the ways in which they depict meaning, identity, and action in the world. Since our study will be fiction, we will read short and long fictional works, looking to understand better the cultural and aesthetic value of these works. Through our discussions—as well as through your papers—we will investigate how fiction operates textually as well as how fictional works reveal, create, and/or critique meaning. Some of our guiding questions will include: If fiction is by definition a fabrication, a make-believe world, then are questions about truth in anyway relevant to understanding fiction? If so, how? And how will we know truth? Does the “meaning” of a fictional work reside in the text itself or in the reader? What role(s) does fiction—or storytelling—play in cultures? In the formation of identity?

Requirements—
Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following items:

Response papers / Quizzes 20%
Weekly Papers: 4 total 45%
3 @ 10%
1 @ 20%
Final Exam 15%
Participation 20%

Attendance—
Since this is a discussion-oriented course, your attendance and participation are key components in the overall success of this class. Therefore, you need to attend each class. I will allow two absences (or personal days); however, you will lose 5% of your final grade for every unexcused absence after that. For more than six absences, you will receive an automatic F for the course.

Papers—
For each paper, I will hand out an assignment sheet (with writing prompt, options, and due date). Customarily, each paper will be due on the Friday of each week and I will return them the following Monday. Since this course is compressed into a 4-week schedule, it is
important that you keep up with your writing. I only grant paper extensions to those students who have spoken with me prior to the due date. Otherwise, you will receive a 10% grade reduction for each calendar day your paper is late.

While the in-class writing and response papers are relatively informal writing activities, I expect more care to be taken in your weekly papers. Each assignment sheet will spell out any important elements for you to consider. However, as a general policy, I follow the English Department’s policy for evaluating papers. We will use MLA guidelines for documentation. If you’re not sure how to use the MLA guidelines, you can consult with me, with tutors in the Writing Center (Coleman Hall 3110), or Diana Hacker’s online guide, which you can find at:

http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/

**Electronic Writing Portfolio**

English 2011G is a writing-intensive course, which means that you may use papers from this course for your EWP requirements. I’ll be happy to assist you with this requirement. I ask only that you complete this activity before the course ending date. Contact the Center for Academic Support and Achievement if you have any questions about the EWP (581-6056) or visit their website at http://www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and need special assistance, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) for consultation.