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ENG 1002-008-016-034: Composition

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Composition 1002
Spring 2001
Office Hours:
10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

SYLLABUS

Required Texts: An Introduction to Literature, 11th ed., Longman
Webster’s New World Dictionary

COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES:

During the semester, you will be expected to write often in and out of class, to complete readings from all texts, to participate in class discussions and peer groups, and to complete all assignments on time.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late work will be penalized one letter grade. Work submitted one week after the due date will not be accepted.

Because of the nature of the course, attendance is necessary for your success. Work done in class cannot be made up; however, you will be held responsible for information missed because of absence. Please consult a classmate to find out what was done and what changes in schedule or homework were made.

After four absences, any additional absence will result in your final grade dropping a full letter grade. Since I generally take roll at the beginning of class, be on time. Late arrivals and early departures may be counted as absences.

Plagiarism, using the words or ideas of another in your writing without giving credit to the author, is a serious offense. As a reminder, the English Department’s policy is as follows:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student and 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.

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." Also, please discuss the matter with me because I am more than willing to work with you.

GRADING POLICIES:

As part of the University’s Core Curriculum, final course grades are determined according to an A, B, C, NC (no credit) system. You must be writing at a C level in order to pass. A grade of NC has no bearing on your GPA, but the course must be retaken.
Grades on individual essays will be based on the English Department's "Guidelines for Evaluating Writing Assignments at E.I.U." as well as specific criteria presented for each essay. Your final grade for the course will be an average of Essay, Test, Journal, and Presentation/Group work. Attendance and class participation are also considerations. At least one of the writings will require research.

Journal = one essay grade
Tests = one essay grade each
Presentation/Group work average = one essay grade
Essays = one essay grade each

THE WRITING CENTER:
The Writing Center (WC) is available to you as a free tutorial service; however, it is not a "magic" remedy for all writing problems, and you should not expect to take an essay there to be proofread and corrected before it is submitted for grading. You can expect the WC staff to help you find and eliminate specific problems such as sentence fragments or comma splices. If you realize that you have a particular problem or if you are having trouble getting started on an idea, the staff will be glad to help you. Take advantage of the service and do not be afraid to ask for help.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE / SHORT FICTION:
POETRY SYLLABUS

All students are to read Chapter One, especially pages 3-8. Students are to keep an on-going list of vocabulary/poetry terms (all boldface terms in the text).

THE FOLLOWING ARE POEMS FOR WHICH STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE:

“Poetry,” by Nikki Giovanni—handout

“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” by Robert Frost, p. 752


“In a Station of the Metro,” p. 677

“Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers,” by Adrienne Rich, p. 620

“We Real Cool,” by Gwendolyn Brooks, p. 534

“My Papa’s Waltz,” by Theodore Roethke, p. 603

“The Pitcher,” by Robert Francis, p. 606

“When I Heard the Learn’d Astronomer,” by Walt Whitman, p. 614

“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,” p. 656

“What’s That Smell in the Kitchen?” by Marge Piercy, p.547

“Do not go gentle into that good night,” p.605

“Blackberry Eating, by Galway Kinnell, p. 611

“Sonnet 29,” by William Shakespeare, p. 649
The plays that we will read and study this semester will include Oedipus Rex by Sophocles and Trifles by Susan Glaspell. Writing topics will include the following:

Trifles—Examine the male-female relationships as depicted in this play. Explain the title of this play. In your papers, you should incorporate as many dramatic terms as possible. The paper must be 3-5 pages in length, and it must be presented in the MLA format.

Oedipus Rex—1. Consider the character of Jocasta. Is she “flat” character—a journalized queen figure—or an individual with distinctive traits of personality—a “round” character? Support your opinion with quotes.

2. How fair is it to say that Oedipus is morally guilty? Does he claim moral innocence because he did not intend immoral deeds? Can he be guilty of hubris without hubris causing his fall?

3. What do Oedipus’ confrontations with Tiresias and Creon indicate about his character? About their characters?

4. Describe the function of the Chorus and how its view of the gods differs from Jocasta’s. Is the Chorus an enhancement or detraction? Support your position with quotes from the play/critics.

5. Compare the poem, “Jokester,” with the play. How does each version affect your feelings about Jocasta and other characters?