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ENG 1002G-005-036: Composition and Literature

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ENGLISH 1002-G COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

ENG 1002-G, SPRING 2011
Instructor: Tammy Veach
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Office Hours: 10 - 11 MWF, 1:30 - 2 MW only, & by appt.

Texts: Meyer, Poetry, An Introduction
       Charters, The Story and Its Writer
       Jacobus, The Bedford Introduction to Drama
       Fowler & Aaron, The Little, Brown Handbook

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES: This course is designed to make you better readers, writers, and critical thinkers, but I hope it also encourages you to enjoy literature. We will examine works of poetry, fiction, and drama written by men and women from culturally-diverse backgrounds, exploring them within historical, social, cultural, and aesthetic contexts. Because this is a composition course, we will write quite a bit about this literature (at least 5,000 words). Expect to spend 1 - 2 hours reading, analyzing, and writing about each day’s assignment before class.

SPECIAL INFORMATION ABOUT ENG 1002-G AND ABOUT THE EWP: To be enrolled in this class, you must have passed ENG 1001-G with a grade of C or higher, or must have received credit through transfer or through the CLEP proficiency examination. As a graduation requirement, you must submit 3 essays to be included in your Electronic Writing Portfolio; you may choose to submit an essay from this class to help fulfill that obligation. Please see syllabus for deadline, and please go to www.eiu.edu/~assess/ewpmain.php for complete information regarding the EWP.

ATTENDANCE, MAKE-UP WORK, AND LATE WORK:
• You must check your EIU email account regularly, especially before coming to class each day. All class handouts, assignments, or other materials we will be discussing in class each day will be sent to you via email attachment, which you will need to print out before coming to class; hard copies will not be available in class.
• If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and if changes were made to our tentative syllabus while you were gone. Your regular attendance is important -- due to the interactive nature of this course, much of what we do simply cannot be replicated, even if your absence is excused.
• Excused absences are granted only for serious and verifiable reasons (such as illness documented w/ a doctor’s note), NOT for matters of convenience (e.g. travel arrangements, appointments w/ your advisor, over-sleeping, etc.), nor for unverified illnesses or emergencies. You must initiate the verification process; merely calling or emailing to say you won’t be in class is NOT acceptable verification.
• Attendance is recorded daily; unexcused absences will substantially hurt your grade, esp. as follows:
  1. In-class work (quizzes, writing exercises, etc.) can be made up only if your absence is excused
  2. Late work is graded down one letter grade for each day it’s late, unless due to an excused absence
  3. Part of your final grade is based upon daily activities: a presentation, contributions to class discussion, and other activities that can be completed only if you’re here.
• Absences on assignment due dates, test dates, or conference dates will require strong verification before make-up privileges will be granted or before late penalties will be waived.
• If your absence is excused, late/ make-up work must be completed promptly. If you were absent on the day an assignment was due, you must turn it in the day you return to avoid penalty. In general you will have as much time for make-up work as you were absent (e.g. if you miss 1 class, make-up work is due 1 class after you return).
• If participating in an official EIU activity, work you’ll miss must be completed in advance. Remind me (not just a list of dates in a letter), allowing yourself time to complete assignments before you leave.
• In the event of a catastrophic situation that causes you to miss class for an extended period (such as a serious illness or a death or family emergency that causes you to return home), contact the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at 581-3221, who will notify me (and your other instructors) and assist in the verification process.
• No assignments will be accepted more than one week after the due date; a zero will be recorded.
CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Demonstrating courtesy to others is important in this class. Please listen while another person is speaking, save private conversations for before/after class, do your homework at home, put your cell phone on vibrate, refrain from all texting/emailing and cell phone use in class, stay awake and alert (no iPods, headphones, etc.), and respectfully handle points of view that differ from your own. Problems in this area will adversely affect your daily grade and may result in your dismissal from that day’s class. Class etiquette also includes arriving prepared and on time. Rare lateness of a minute or two is not an issue, but being frequently late or several minutes late is, and I will assign penalties including non-admittance to class and/or counting it as an unexcused absence for frequent or blatant violators.

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as early in the term as possible if you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations. Please let me know as well, as early in the semester as possible.

GRADING: English department standards will be used to determine grades on all written work, stringent guidelines evaluating not only the quality and development of your ideas and literary analysis, but also your style, organization, grammatical proficiency, etc. While you will be graded on a variety of activities, the quality of your writing will largely determine your grade in this class. To calculate grades I will use a 90-80-70% scale. I anticipate assigning a total of 1,000 points: 900-1,000 = A, 800-899 = B, 700-799 = C, but I reserve the right to make changes (e.g. adding or deleting essays, quizzes or other assignments) that may affect the semester point total, though I will still grade on a 90-80-70% scale. For various reasons (including the fact that you'll have the opportunity to earn extra credit through a service learning project/ accompanying essay, I do not round off grades; for example, 799 points or 79.9% still = a C. English 1002-G is graded on an A, B, C, and NC (no credit) basis, so you must earn 70% (tentatively 700 points) to pass this class.

TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR POINT TOTALS:

• Formal Essays, 400 points (and 50 pts. of ex. credit possible) -- You are required to submit all work on each essay from beginning to end -- brainstorming, rough drafts (save/print a copy of each draft before revisions), and final draft: Essay 1, poetry, minimum length of 750 words, mandatory conferences, worth 200 points
  Essay 2, drama, minimum length of 1,250 words, worth 200 points
  Extra credit, service learning experience, minimum length of 500 words, worth up to 50 points (see separate sheet)

• Research assignments, 50 points each, 100 points total -- You will complete brief research assignments on specific questions/topics prior to our discussions of Anne Sexton’s poetry and the play Death of a Salesman. MLA parenthetical documentation will be used.

• Fiction project/presentation, 150 points-- a group project, creative in nature, over any aspect of the fiction unit, with an accompanying paper and presentation on your project. Details later.

• Comprehensive Final Exam, 250 points, primarily essay in nature (be prepared to write), which will cover all course materials. Please be sure to save all handouts and class notes.

• Daily grade: participation, discussion, in-class writing, quizzes, reading notebook, 100 points: Given the interactive nature of this class, your attendance and participation are essential. Discussion is crucial in this class, and if you’re not here obviously you cannot contribute your thoughts. Participation also means more than just showing up and sitting silently or taking notes on other people’s ideas -- you are expected to read and think about the assignments before class AND to contribute actively to class discussions. Other factors in the daily grade include successfully completing all in-class writing and activities; keeping a notebook in which you record pertinent details about each reading assignment (which will be randomly, periodically checked during the semester); being punctual, prepared for, and attentive during class and conferences; keeping your cell phone on vibrate and not texting/answering calls in class; not using the computers without authorization; having a positive attitude; and treating your classmates and teacher with respect. Please note that I record specific details regarding each day’s participation and use these details to help determine your daily grade. Remember that while attendance is important, your grade is about much more than just having good attendance!
RETURN OF ESSAYS/TEACHER COMMENTS: You will receive detailed comments from me on all major writing assignments, exams, and projects -- not only to explain the grade you received but to help you improve as a writer. Be sure to read the comments and to discuss them with me if you have any questions. Because of the length of time I devote to reading and commenting upon your essays, expect them to be returned no sooner than 1 week after I receive them.

CONFERENCES, FEEDBACK ON ROUGH DRAFTS, ETC.: We will have mandatory conferences on Essay 1 to discuss your rough draft (class will be cancelled for face-to-face meetings with each of you), and I encourage you to come by my office any time you have questions. If my office hours don’t fit your schedule, we will strive to arrange a conference at a mutually-convenient time or you may email me your rough draft, under the following conditions: I expect you to be an active participant in this process. I WILL NOT read/comment on essays unless you include SPECIFIC questions (more specific than “Any suggestions?” or “How can I improve?”). Also, don’t expect me to be your editor; I will use conferences -- face-to-face or electronic -- to answer questions and to address global issues in your work rather than cleaning up your grammar, typos, etc. Please do not wait until the last minute to ask for my advice, whether in person or via email. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to respond if you’re contacting me just a few days before your essay is due; I will answer as many questions as possible on a first-come, first-served basis but may not be able to respond to all emails or conference requests due to time constraints. Consider the Writing Center as another option.

EMAIL, VOICE MAIL, LONG-DISTANCE NUMBERS: While I don’t give out my home or cell number, I do encourage you to contact me. If emailing, please include your name in the subject heading or sign your message so I’ll know who you are! I will respond to your message as soon as I receive it, so if I haven’t replied within 24 hours, re-send because I probably didn’t receive it (exception: weekends). You may also call me at my office number. If I’m not in, leave a voice-mail message INCLUDING YOUR PHONE NUMBER; I’ll get back to you ASAP, though I’ll caution you that I don’t always pick up voice mail when I’m off campus (email is preferred). Please note: I can only return your call if you leave a local number (581, 345 or 348 prefixes); my department is charged for messages placed to cell phones and long-distance numbers and we do not have the budget to make such calls, so please leave a local number for call-backs -- or email me instead.

IF CLASS IS CANCELLED: There will be a note on the classroom door with information. Be sure to read it carefully YOURSELF and to check for my name and TODAY’S date (notes aren’t always taken down promptly). Read the entire note to see if it includes special information, such as changes to assignments or due dates. As soon as possible but well before our next class, check your EIU email account for a message from me with complete details and instructions.

COMPUTER ETIQUETTE AND SPECIAL INFO FOR ETIC SECTIONS: To maximize English classes’ access to the computer lab, we’ll alternate weeks between the lab and a regular classroom (paired as either 3210/3140 or 3120/3130); consult your syllabus for each week’s room assignment. Technology will make it easier for us to write and revise our work, share our writing, locate information using the Internet, etc., but our emphasis will be placed upon writing and analyzing the assigned literature, assisted by technology when appropriate, rather than focusing on computer skills. Note that the computers/printers in the ETIC are to be used only for your work in this class, NOT for other purposes, (checking your facebook or email accounts, Internet surfing, assignments for other classes, etc.), nor for offensive purposes (visiting racist, sexist, or pornographic sites, etc.). Because of the English department’s limited budget, you may not use the printers except to print in-class writing; please use your own printer for formal essay assignments, Internet research, etc.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT’S POLICY 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 of the English Language) -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.
MORE ON PLAGIARISM, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, AND SEEKING APPROPRIATE HELP WITH YOUR WRITING:

Plagiarism means taking the words or ideas of another person and passing them off as your own. To avoid it, take special care when using outside sources (including Internet sites): if you incorporate such material into your work, you must follow MLA documentation guidelines to cite in parentheses each author and page # after any sentences that include this material (and include a Works Cited page with complete bibliographic information). If you use both ideas and wording from a source, it’s not enough just to cite author and page number; you must also use quotation marks around sentences, phrases, or even key terms taken verbatim from this source. Failure to cite AND also use quotation marks around “borrowed” language is plagiarism. If you have any questions about incorporating or citing material from sources, please see me -- before the assignment is due.

Even if you’re not using outside sources, you must still make sure that all of the work is your own and has been developed for this class. If you have problems with your writing, you need to develop the skills necessary to overcome those problems, and I’m here to help you do that, but it won’t happen magically or effortlessly or overnight. However, even though it takes hard work and is often a slow process, it’s a far better choice than cheating. In addition, please do not attempt to submit work that you’ve written for another class. If you have another assignment that you would like to modify for this class, you must get specific permission from me and must be willing to make significant changes to the work -- no recycled papers from high school or other college courses!!!

Acceptable help with your writing: consulting with me; working with your peer evaluation group, who are instructed to respond to your work following specific guidelines and restrictions explained in class; seeking tutoring from the ENG department graduate assistants in the Writing Center (Coleman Hall 3110), who will help you with your writing, but without doing the work for you (tutoring, not proofreading). Please don’t ask your family, friends, the English major on your floor, or anyone else, to “fix” your paper for you -- see below. If you are using a tutor other than at the Writing Center, please have him/her email me with a time we can meet to discuss these guidelines so they don’t end up causing you to inadvertently commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Unacceptable help with your writing: It is unacceptable to take any of these obvious shortcuts -- having someone mark your mistakes or edit or polish your work for you; having anyone else write, rewrite, or correct any portion of your essay; taking anyone else’s ideas and/or words and/or efforts and passing them off as your own; submitting an essay in which any portion has come from anyone else’s essay (including fraternity and sorority files) or from an Internet site, term paper company, Cliff’s Notes, Masterplots, or any other “cheater” source, or submitting without permission an essay you wrote for another class. Remember: I enforce my department’s plagiarism policy to the fullest and impose similar penalties for all incidents involving academic dishonesty.

I wish each of you the best of luck this semester -- and am happy to point out that only the few of you who refuse to do the necessary work for this class will be affected by most of these policies. For the rest of you -- together we will work hard, but I hope we’ll also have fun along the way. I hope not only to challenge you this semester, but also to encourage you, to inspire you, and to delight in your success. Welcome to my class, and I hope you’ll soon feel that it is OUR class. I’m looking forward to a great semester with you!
Instructor: Tammy Veach
Office phone 581-6295
Office: 3055 Coleman Hall
Email: tfveach@eiu.edu
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF, 1:30-2 MW only, & by appt.

Read/reread/begin analyzing all literature assignments BEFORE coming to class on the day the assignment is listed.  
P = poetry book; F = fiction book; D = drama book; H = handout

Week 1, CH 3210
M (1/10) Intro to course and policies; get acquainted
W (1/12) Poetry terms and tips (H); Reading closely: "Those Winter Sundays" (P 21)
F (1/14) More practice at close reading: "The Road Not Taken" (P 365); background on conflict resolution (H) for upcoming discussion of "Home Burial"

Week 2, CH 3140
M (1/17) No class -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance
W (1/19) Speaker: "Home Burial" (P 372)
F (1/21) Speaker: "Snapping Beans" (P 49), "To A Daughter Leaving Home" (P 291), and "Weather Stripping" (H); Essay #1 Assigned

Week 3, CH 3210
M (1/24) Imagery: "Traveling Through The Dark:" (P 172), "The Blue Bowl" (P 125), and "The Fish" (P 31)
W (1/26) Imagery: "Dulce Et Decorum Est" (P 121) and "February" (P 145); research assignment #1 given
F (1/28) Diction: "The Elder Sister" (H) and background on birth order (H)

Week 4, CH 3140
M (1/31) Diction: "Alzheimers" (P 280) and "Execution" (H).
W (2/3) Tone: "Still I Rise" and "Race Politics" (both H)
F (2/4) Theme: Excerpt from Song of Myself (P 182) and "A Blessing" and "The Gift" (both H)

Week 5, 3210 Monday; Conferences are in my office, CH 3055
W (2/9) No Class -- Mandatory conferences over Essay #1 in my office, CH 3055. Show up on the day/time you signed up for! Contact me immediately if you haven't signed up for a conference!
F (2/11) No Class -- Pres. Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Observance

Week 6, Conferences on Monday and Wednesday are in my office, CH 3055; Room 3140 on Friday
M (2/14) No Class -- Conferences
W (2/16) No Class -- Final day of conferences
F (2/18) Begin fiction. Read fiction terminology (H) prior to class and "The Story of an Hour" (F 283-84).

Week 7, CH 3210
M (2/21) "Hills Like White Elephants" (F 539-42). Read Project/Presentation (H). Project groups chosen today.
W (2/23) Poetry Essays are DUE!!! "A Rose For Emily" (F 409 - 415)
F (2/25) "The Shawl" (F 1072 - 75); View Powerpoint about the Holocaust (H) prior to class.

Week 8, CH 3140
M (2/28) No Class -- Collaboration Day For Group Projects
W (3/2) "The Things They Carried" (F 1001 - 14)
F (3/4) "The Red Convertible" (F 400-407)
Week 9, CH 3210
M (3/7) "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" (F 1042-53)
W (3/9) "Bad Neighbors" (F 646-61)
F (3/11) TBA

Week 10 – SPRING BREAK, NO CLASSES!!!!!

Week 11, CH 3140
M (3/21) "Escort" (F 1093-94)
W (3/23) "Brownies" (F 1077-91)
F (3/25) In-class work on group project

Week 12, CH 3210
M (3/28) In-class work on group project
W (3/30) Fiction Project/ Presentations Due!! If anyone in your group is absent, still be prepared to present; Research assignment over Death of a Salesman given (H).
F (4/1) Begin Death of a Salesman (D 109 - 1106)

Week 13, CH 3140
M (4/4) Finish Death of A Salesman; Research assignment on Death of a Salesman due, 50 points
W (4/6) DVD of Death of a Salesman; Essay # 3 Assigned
F (4/6) “ “

Week 14, CH 3210
M (4/11) Finish DVD; Final discussion of the play
W (4/13) Begin A Raisin in the Sun (D 1179 - 1216)
F (4/15) Finish A Raisin in the Sun

Week 15, CH 3140
M (4/18) DVD of A Raisin in the Sun
W (4/20) “ “
F (4/22) Finish DVD. Final discussion of the play.

Week 16, CH 3210
M (4/25) Begin How I Learned to Drive (D 1585 - 1607)
W (4/27) Finish " “; Drama Essay Due, 200 points
F (4/29) Last Class Session. Study guide distributed; In-class review session for final exam.

Week 17 -- Final Exam Week, CH 3140. Bring your own paper and your APPROVED literature notebook.
Section 005 (9:00 Class): Monday, May 2, 2:45 – 4:45 p.m., CH 3140
Section 015 (11:00 Class): Tuesday, May 3, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. CH 3130
Section 036 (2:00 Class): Thursday, May 5, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m., CH 3140

1. Requests to reschedule your final exam must be made in person (NOT by phone or email) no later than Friday, April 29. REQUESTS ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY GRANTED!!!!
2. If you're requesting a change because you have 3 finals on Wednesday, you must present me with an up-to-date copy of your official EIU class schedule AND syllabi for the 3 courses for verification.
3. If you miss class, final exams will ONLY be rescheduled for catastrophic reasons w/ IMPECCABLE verification. You must contact me no later than 11 a.m. Thursday to be considered for rescheduling.
4. Make up exams for those who have made the arrangements and have provided proper verification will be given on Friday, May 6 from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.