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ENG 1002-013-023-042: Composition and Literature

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Course Description: EN 1002 provides practice in writing academic essays requiring the use of rhetorical strategies such as explanation, comparison/contrast and persuasion. The subject of your essays will be various literary works in the genres of poetry, short fiction and drama.

It will be necessary for you to learn and use various literary terms as an effective way to communicate ideas about these works.

The majority of class time will be spent discussing assigned readings as practice in the kind of analysis required in your essays.

Course Requirements: You must keep up with the readings and participate in discussion about them; answering questions and sharing your insights about the various works. Some questions for discussion are included in the text and some on the syllabus. Be sure you think carefully about these before coming to class.

You must complete regular writing assignments of 2-3 typed pages and turn them in on time. You will be asked to write about some topics before we discuss them in class. This is to ensure that you have attempted to analyze and understand the works on your own.

You must write three short (5-8 page) research papers using these shorter writing assignments as a starting point. Research requires finding out someone else’s view of the work and synthesizing her ideas with your own. It does not mean simply reporting what someone else has written.

Grade Determination: The various components of the course work will be given different weight in figuring your grade. The following percentages will be used:

- Daily assignments 30%
- Class discussion 15%
- Research papers (15% each) 45%
- Final exam 10%

Consideration will be given to both content and mechanics.

Daily assignments will be assessed by
- how well you answer the question or stick to the topic given
- the perceptiveness of your analysis/discussion
- clarity of expression
- effectiveness of organization and transitions
- correctness of word usage, grammar, sentence structure and spelling

Research papers will be judged by the same criteria as well as
- how well the ideas of others are integrated with your own
- the care with which sources are acknowledged
- correct use of MLA style in citing sources and preparing your manuscript

Policies Affecting Grading
Obviously, there is no opportunity to make-up class discussion. Consequently, your grade will diminish in this area if you do not attend class regularly. Please note the percentage this area will be weighted in determining your final grade. Another problem with being absent is that you
may miss handouts and the assignment of topics for essays. As a general rule, more than three absences is excessive for a class which meets twice a week.

You will be given deadlines for each assignment. Unless you have an absence due to illness, death in the family or a documented off-campus activity, daily assignments will not be accepted late. Late research papers will be marked down one full letter grade. They will not be accepted more than a week past the original due date. Expect no leniency on this policy.

If you do not give an assignment directly to me, take it to the English Department office and have one of the secretaries note the date and time on it. She will then direct you to put it in my mailbox. Assignments without this validation will automatically be considered late.

Policy on Plagiarism
Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines plagiarism as “the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work.” This misappropriation will not be tolerated in this course. If evidence of plagiarism is discovered in your work, you will receive an F for the assignment. In cases of blatant and intentional plagiarism, you will receive an NC for the course. Plagiarism cases will be reported to the appropriate administrative offices, and will become a part of your academic record at EIU.

Disabilities
If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583 as soon as possible.

Course Schedule
We will begin with a section on poetry. All page numbers refer to the text To Read a Poem by Donald Hall. Supplemental handouts will also be given. The pages assigned for a particular date will be discussed in class on that date. You must read them before that class.

Jan 14 Intro to course/discuss “What is poetry?”
16 pp. v-x and 1-21 Pay particular attention to Hall’s explication of “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.” Use this as a basis to write your own explication of one of the other poems in this text. Be sure to include some of the terminology from the chapter. Your manuscript must be typed, double spaced using one-inch margins on each page. Put your name and the date in the upper left hand corner. Center your title at the top of the page. Be able to discuss questions at the end of sample poems. I don’t expect you to know the answers to all of them (I don’t!), but you should be able to volunteer answers for at least some. They give you some clues about how to start thinking about the poems.

Jan 16 pp. 22-33 with consideration of questions, “Ex-Basketball Player” p. 343; be able to discuss the images Updike uses, look through the “A Gathering of Poems” section of the text and find a poem with imagery that appeals to you and be prepared to discuss why. 23 pp. 34-41, “Chicago” p. 316; write an essay discussing the use of personification in this poem. We will discuss an additional example of metaphor use in class.

Jan 28 pp. 42-62, “Acquainted with the Night” p. 152, “My Papa’s Waltz” p. 156; consider tone and how it is revealed in both of these, “The Legend” p. 252; consider allusions 30 pp. 63-75, “Dulce et Decorum Est” pp.300-301; from “Hugh Selwyn Mauberley” pp. 307-308; write an essay comparing these two poems.

Feb 4 “To His Coy Mistress” pp. 284-285, “Song” (handout); be able to summarize and paraphrase both poems; note particular images 6 “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” pp. 226-230; write an explication or analysis of any element of this complex poem