Spring 1-15-2001

ENG 1002-012-041: Composition and Literature

Tammy Veach
Eastern Illinois University

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COURSE GUIDELINES, ENG 1002-G — COMPOSITION AND LITERATURE, SPRING 2001

Instructor: Tammy Veach
Office: Coleman 339-C
Office Phone: 581-6295  E-mail: cfftv@eiu.edu
Texts: Kennedy and Giola, An Introduction to Poetry
Charters, The Story and Its Writer
Klaus, Gilbert, and Field, Stages of Drama
Office Hours: 11:00 - 12:00 MWF; 2:30 - 3:00 MW; and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES: This class is designed to make you better readers, writers, and thinkers, but I hope it will also encourage you to enjoy and appreciate literature. Along the way, we will explore works from each of the three principle literary genres (poetry, fiction, and drama) written by men and women from culturally-diverse backgrounds. Because this is also a composition course, we’ll write quite a bit (at least 5,000 words, probably much more) about this literature. Expect to spend approximately two hours reading, analyzing, and writing about each day’s assignment before coming to class. Note: In order to enroll in this class, you must have completed ENG 1001-G or its equivalent with a grade of C or higher.

ATTENDANCE/MAKE-UP AND LATE WORK: If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what we did that day; illnesses or emergencies do not exempt you from class obligations. Our syllabus is merely tentative, so check with me to see if changes were made in your absence. Your regular attendance is important - attendance is taken at the start of every class, and unexcused absences will substantially hurt your semester grade, especially in the following ways:
- In-class work (exams, quizzes, writing responses, etc.) can be made up only if your absence is excused.
- Any work turned in late (for any reason except an excused absence) is graded down one letter grade for each day it’s late.
- 20% of your final grade (200 points) is based upon participation and in-class work - contributions to class discussions, in-class writing, an oral report, etc. If you’re not here, you can’t participate in these activities, and your daily grade suffers!

Other important attendance/make-up work/late work info:
- Excused absences are granted only for serious and verifiable reasons (e.g., illnesses documented with a doctor’s note, inclement weather for commuters, documented death in the family, etc.), NOT for personal matters such as rides home, meetings with advisors, participation in intramural sports, departmental club meetings, fraternity or sorority activities, job interviews, oversleeping, etc., nor for illnesses or emergencies that I’m unable to verify.
- Work to be missed due to participation in an Official University function (such as intercollegiate sports, debate team meets, etc.) must be completed BEFORE YOUR ABSENCE.
- No assignments will be accepted more than one week after the due date; a grade of “zero” will be recorded.

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, too, and realize that I can be of greater assistance to you if I am made aware of your disability early in the semester.

GRADING: English department standards will be used to determine grades on all written work — guidelines that evaluate not only the quality of your ideas but also your writing style, method of organization, ability to avoid grammatical mistakes, etc. You will be graded on a variety of activities - essays, exams, reading responses, participation in class discussion, etc., but the quality of your writing will largely determine your grade in this class. In calculating your semester grade, I use a 90-80-70 scale and anticipate assigning activities totaling 1,000 points for the semester, thus 900 for an A, 800 for a B, and 700 for a C. If you make any changes to this total (for example, adding extra writing assignments or giving reading quizzes), you will be forewarned, but such changes will affect the point totals listed above. However, I’ll still grade on a 90-80-70 scale. English 1002 is graded on an A, B, C, and NC (no credit) basis, so you must earn 700 points (or 70%) to pass this class.

TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR POINT TOTALS:
- Formal essays, 450 points: Essay #1, poetry, minimum of 750 words long, 100 points, mandatory conferences; Essay #2, fiction, min. of 1,000 words, 150 points; and Essay #3, drama, min. of 1,250 words, 200 points. Students are required to submit all work on their essays, from beginning to end - notes, brainstorming, rough drafts (print out a copy - each time before you make changes to the current draft, do spell- or grammar-check, etc.), and final draft.
- Exams, 300 pts. (all primarily essay in nature; be prepared to write) -- 3 tests, 100 pts. each, on poetry, fiction, and drama
- Background research on an author-- written report using MLA documentation & brief oral report, 50 points
- Independent study, 50 points -- more on this later, but briefly, this requires you to read and write responses to 5 pieces of literature from our textbooks (at least 1 from each genre), works which won’t be covered in class -- check syllabus.
- Daily grade — participation, discussion, in-class writing — 150 points: If we are to have a class based upon discussion rather than tedious lectures, your participation is crucial. You must show up and you must speak out in our discussions — BOTH factors will be used heavily in determining your daily grade. You are expected, in other words, to do more than just sit there — come to class ready to add comments, ask questions, and offer ideas during our daily discussions of the literature. Another significant portion of your daily grade is in-class writing. On several occasions, all unannounced, you'll be asked to write about some aspect of the current reading assignment for ~ 10 – 15 minutes. Each response will be graded either + (excellent), check + (good), check (okay, average), check – (something's lacking), -- (major problems), or missing (no credit). Other factors used to determine your daily grade include having a positive attitude, arriving prepared and on time, paying attention in class, treating your classmates and teacher with respect, and so forth.

- Possible quizzes — If I find class discussion to be weak, I'll assume you're not reading the material fully, so I'll give unannounced reading quizzes, something I hope I will not have to do. If this does happen, the semester point total will be affected, though the overall grading scale will remain the same.

CONFERENCES: We'll have mandatory conferences for the first essay, during which we will discuss your rough draft of this assignment and any other questions you may have (classes will be cancelled on conference days), but I also encourage you to come by any time that you have a question or problem — that's what I'm here for! Don't hesitate — typically, I can be of greatest help to you the sooner I know of any difficulties you're having in class — waiting till a couple of days before an assignment is due or until the last few weeks of the semester to seek help isn't allowing yourself time to work and improve. If my office hours don't fit your schedule, we can arrange a conference at a mutually-convenient time.

A QUICK NOTE ON RESEARCH: In order to pass this class, you must write a short essay in which you incorporate material from outside sources. We will only briefly review research methods and MLA parenthetical documentation, so see me immediately if 1) you've never written a research paper, 2) you've never used MLA documentation, or 3) you've had problems (esp. with documentation or plagiarism) on previous research assignments — you'll need to allow time for extra instruction.

VOICE MAIL/ E-MAIL: While I don't give out my unlisted home phone number, I do encourage you to call me at my office #, even at times other than my posted office hours. If I'm not in, leave me a voice-mail message INCLUDING YOUR PHONE NUMBER, and I'll get back to you shortly — typically, I pick up my messages daily. If my officemate answers, simply tell her that you need to leave me a voice-mail; otherwise, she'll dutifully take your message, but I won't receive it until I return to the office, sometimes a day or two after your call. Feel free to contact me via e-mail as well, but realize that I usually pick up and answer my mail on MWF, the days I'm on campus.

A NOTE FOR COMPUTER SECTIONS: Much of the writing for this class will be performed using the Gateway computers in the lab. For this reason, during the first week of the semester, you will need to buy a formatted 3 1/2" IBM-compatible high-density (HD) disk, upon which you will copy and store information and write essays, and 1 - 2 of these disks to back up your work. Label your disks with your name, phone #, and course/section#, and be sure to bring them to class every day. Because there are numerous other classes needing access to the lab, we will alternate our time between the lab and a regular classroom (paired either as 340/306 or 302/303). Please consult your syllabus for each day's room assignment before coming to class.

The technology we have available to us will enhance our class dramatically — making it easier for us to write and revise our work, to share our writing with others, to locate information using the Internet, etc., but the technology is only a tool: our emphasis will be upon developing your writing skills and upon analyzing the assigned literature. I'll warn you, too, that the system is not perfect; from time to time "glitches" will arise, and we will need to be patient and flexible when dealing with these unavoidable problems. Because of potential computer-related problems, I urge you to save your work frequently (every 5 – 10 minutes), to create — on a separate disk — at least one back-up file for every document you write, to store all of your work in Rich Text Format (so other computers will be able to read your work), and to store a copy of your essays and other writing in the "Work" folder for our section (I'll explain how to do this later).

A note on computer etiquette: The computers are to be used only for your work in this class and only when I've instructed you to use them. You will be asked to leave if you use the computer at unauthorized times, for purposes unrelated to our class (e-mail, surfing the 'Net, doing work for another class, etc.) or for offensive purposes (e.g. visiting racist, sexist, or pornographic sites). And because of the English Department's limited budget, please do not print long — or multiple — documents in the lab. (Such documents should be saved onto disk and printed out at the library, another campus lab, or using your own printer.)
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON PLAGIARISM:

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'the appropriation of 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.

MORE ON PLAGIARISM/ ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/ SEEKING APPROPRIATE HELP WITH YOUR WRITING:

Plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty means taking words or ideas or efforts of another person and passing them off as your own. To avoid it 1) if you use outside sources, you must cite in parentheses the author and page # — after any sentences that include information from this source (and of course, you'll need to include a Works Cited page, with complete bibliographic information). 2) If you use ideas and wording from a source, it's not enough just to cite author and page #: you must also use quotation marks around all words, phrases, and/or sentences taken from this source. And 3) if you're producing the entire essay without the use of outside sources, you must still be sure that all the work is your own (read on).

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. Even though this takes a commitment to hard work and is often a slow process, it's far better than the huge risk you take by seeking shortcuts. Please note that the F penalty acquired through dishonesty has a disastrous effect on your grade point average, but an NC gained honestly has no harmful effects on your GPA — something to consider before you take that shortcut! And with your extra efforts, you may improve your skills enough to earn a C — or even higher! — on your own!

Acceptable help with your writing: consultation and tutoring sessions with me; heeding the advice of your peer evaluation group (who respond to your work following a set a guidelines and restrictions explained in class); seeking tutoring from the English dept. graduate assistants in the Writing Center or other professionally-trained tutors who follow the practices of the Writing Center staff: that is, providing remedial help with your writing, but without doing the work for you — no proofreading or editing, no pointing out or correcting mistakes for you, no writing or rewriting your sentences for you, etc.

Unacceptable help with your writing: the obvious short-cuts noted above — having someone proofread, edit, or polish your work (that is, pointing out and/or correcting your grammatical mistakes or stylistic problems for you or offering you better ideas or examples), taking someone else's ideas and/or words and passing them off as your own (if the ideas or words are from an outside source, cite properly to avoid plagiarism), submitting an essay in which all or any portion thereof has been written by someone else — work taken from an essay in a fraternity or sorority file, from your friend or roommate or anyone else who's willing to help you cheat, from postings of essays on Internet sites, from an essay purchased from a term paper company or individual, from commentary in Cliff's Notes, Masterplots, etc. In short, do your own work for this class!!!!!

A final note: 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 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's our class. I'm looking forward to a great semester!
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS, SPRING 2001: ENG 1002-G, VEACH

**All assignments are to be completed before class on the dates indicated; (P = Poetry book; F = Fiction/Short Stories book; D = Drama book; H = Handout)**

**JANUARY**

**Week 1 -- Meet in CH 340**

**M** 8  Intro to course and policies; writing sample

**W** 10  Poetry terminology; tips for approaching poetry; "Those Winter Sundays" (P 424)

**F** 12  Distinguishing good from bad: "Traveling Through the Dark" (P 336), "Thoughts on Capital Punishment" (P 335); Research topic: William Stafford

**Week 2 -- Meet in CH 306**

**M** 15  MLK BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE: NO CLASS

**W** 17  Speaker: "Home Burial" (H); Research topic: Robert Frost

**F** 19  Diction: "The Elder Sister" (H) and "Rites of Passage" (P 33); Research topic: Sharon Olds

**Week 3 -- Meet in CH 340**

**M** 22  Diction: "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" (P 7) & "Ex-Basketball Player" (P 497); Assignment for Essay # 1 to be discussed in class; Research topic: Choice of Adrienne Rich or John Updike.

**W** 24  Imagery: "Dulce Et Decorum Est" (P 41), "The Fish" (P 94), & "A Blessing" (P 508); Research topic: Choice of Wilfred Owen, Elizabeth Bishop, or James Wright.

**F** 26  Tone: "Still I Rise" and "My Grandmother's Love Letters" (both H); Research: Maya Angelou or Hart Crane

**Week 4 -- Meet in CH 306**

**M** 29  Form: "Do Not Go Gentle..." (P 222), "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (P 3), and "When, in disgrace with Fortune..." (P 479); Research: Dylan Thomas or William Butler Yeats (we'll see Shakespeare later).

**W** 31  Theme - Racism in America: "Harlem" (P 373) and "Race Politics" (H); Research: Langston Hughes or Luis Rodriguez.

**F** 2  An Author's Work--Anne Sexton: "Her Kind" (P 29); "Cinderella" (P 284); "To a Friend..."; "The Starry Night," "The Truth the Dead Know," "The Lost Ingredient," and "All My Pretty Ones" (All H); Research: Anne Sexton

**FEBRUARY**

**Week 5 -- Meet in CH 340**

**M** 5  Finish Sexton; Independent study -- poetry due

**W** 7  EXAM # 1 -- POEIRY -- bring your own paper and a pen or pencil

**F** 9  No Class--Conferences on Essay # 1 -- bring draft of Essay # 1 to my office (339-C) at assigned time

**Week 6 -- Meet at my office, 339-C (for conferences)**

**M** 12  No Class -- Conferences continue

**W** 14  *

**F** 16  NO CLASS -- LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

**Week 7 -- Meet in CH 340**

**M** 19  ESSAY # 1 DUE!!! Elements of fiction lecture.

**W** 21  Style/Point-of-View: "The Story of an Hour" (F 333-35); Research: Kate Chopin

**F** 23  Style/Point-of-View: "Hills Like White Elephants" (F 653-56); Research: Ernest Hemingway

**Week 8 -- Meet in CH 306**

**M** 26  Point-of-View: "A Rose for Emily" (F 469-75); Essay #2 Assigned; Research: William Faulkner

**W** 28  Setting: "The Red Convertible" (F 460-67); Research: Louise Erdrich

**F** 2  Tone: "The Things They Carried" (F 1065-78); Research: Tim O'Brien

**MARCH**

**Week 9 -- Meet in CH 340**
M 5 Symbol: "The Shawl" (F 1136-39); Research: Cynthia Ozick; Fiction Independent study due
W 7 Theme: "The Lesson" (F 108-13); Research: Toni Cade Bambara
F 9 ESSAY #2 DUE!!! Humor: "The Kugelmass Episode" (F 30-38); Research: Woody Allen

Week 10 – M 12, W 14, & F 16: NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK!!!!!

Week 11 – Meet in CH 306
M 19 EXAM # 2 ON FICTION—bring your own paper and pen or pencil
W 21 Drama: Hamlet (H) – Act I only; Research: William Shakespeare
F 23 Hamlet, Acts I and II

Week 12 – Meet in CH 340
M 26 Hamlet, Acts II and III; Research: Hamlet's "To be or not to be" soliloquy
W 28 Hamlet, Act III; 4:30 - 9:00 p.m. Video of Kenneth Branagh's film of Hamlet; location TBA
F 30 Hamlet, Act IV

APRIL
Week 13 – Meet in CH 306
M 2 Hamlet, Act V; Essay # 3 Assigned
W 4 Hamlet, Themes and Questions; Research – on one of the play's themes
F 6 Death of a Salesman (D 844-81) – Act I only; Research – Arthur Miller

Week 14 – Meet in CH 340
M 9 * * Act II
W 11 * * Final comments; Independent Study on Drama due
F 13 NO CLASS – View Hamlet video on reserve at library if you were unable to attend 3/28 showing

Week 15 – Meet in CH 306
M 16 ESSAY #3 DUE!!! Video of Death of A Salesman shown in class
W 18 more of the video
F 20 finish video

Week 16 – Meet in 340
M 23 Essay # 3 returned; review for final exam
W 25 Final Exam, Part I – bring your own pen and paper
F 27 Final Exam, Part II – bring your own pen and paper

Week 17 – Finals week
We will not meet after Friday, 4/27. I will turn in grades the morning of Monday, 4/30.
TENTATIVE SYLLABUS, SPRING 2001: ENG 1002-G, VEACH

** All assignments are to be completed before class on the dates indicated; (P = Poetry book; F = Fiction/ Short Stories book; D = Drama book; H = Handout)

JANUARY
Week 1 – Meet in CH 340
M 8 Intro to course and policies; writing sample
W 10 Poetry terminology; tips for approaching poetry; "Those Winter Sundays" (P 424); Distinguishing good from bad: "Traveling Through the Dark" (P 336), "Thoughts on Capital Punishment" (P 335)

Week 2 – Meet in CH 306
M 15 MLK BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE: NO CLASS
W 17 Speaker: "Home Burial" (H); Diction: "The Elder Sister" (H); Research: Robert Frost and Sharon Olds

Week 3 – Meet in CH 340
M 22 Diction: "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers" (P 7) & "Ex-Basketball Player" (P 497); Imagery: "Dulce Et Decorum Est" (P 41). Assignment for Essay # 1 to be discussed in class; Research topics: Wilfred Owen and choice of Adrienne Rich or John Updike
W 24 Imagery: "The Fish" (P 94), & "A Blessing" (P 508); Tone: "Still I Rise" and "My Grandmother's Love Letters" (both H); Research topics: Choice of Elizabeth Bishop or James Wright and Choice of Maya Angelou or Hart Crane

Week 4 – Meet in CH 306
M 29 Form: "Do Not Go Gentle..." (P 222), "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" (P 3), and "When, in disgrace with Fortune..." (P 479); Research: Dylan Thomas or William Butler Yeats (we'll so Shakespeare later)
W 31 Theme — Racism in America: "Harlem" (P 373) and "Race Politics" (H); Begin Anne Sexton poetry "All My Pretty Ones" (H); Research: Anne Sexton and Choice of Langston Hughes or Luis Rodriguez

FEBRUARY
Week 5 – Meet in CH 340
M 5 An Author's Work—Anne Sexton: "Her Kind" (P 29); "Cinderella" (P 284); "To a Friend...", "The Starry Night," "The Truth the Dead Know," and "The Lost Ingredient" (All H); Independent study / poetry due
W 7 EXAM # 1 — POETRY — bring your own paper and a pen or pencil

Week 6 – Meet at my office, 339-C (for conferences)
M 12 No Class — Conferences on Essay # 1 — bring draft of Essay # 1 to my office (339-C) at assigned time
W 14 *

Week 7 – Meet in CH 340
M 19 ESSAY # 1 DUE!!! Elements of fiction lecture. Style/ Point-of-View: "The Story of an Hour" (F 333-35); Research: Kate Chopin
W 21 Style/ Point-of-View: "Hills Like White Elephants" (F 653-56); Research: Ernest Hemingway

Week 8 – Meet in CH 306
M 26 Point-of-View: "A Rose for Emily" (F 469-75); Essay #2 Assigned; Research: William Faulkner
W 28 Setting: "The Red Convertible" (F 460-67); Research: Louise Erdrich

MARCH
Week 9 – Meet in CH 340
M 5 Symbol: "The Shawl" (F 1136-39); Research topics (2 presentations): Cynthia Ozick, the Holocaust; Fiction Independent study due
W 7 ESSAY #2 DUE!!! Tone: "The Things They Carried" (F 1065-78); Research: Tim O'Brien

Week 10 – M 12, W 14, & F 16: NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK!!!!!
Week 11 – Meet in CH 306
M 19  EXAM # 2 ON FICTION—bring your own paper and pen or pencil
W 21  Drama: Hamlet (H) – Act I only; Research: William Shakespeare

Week 12 – Meet in CH 340
M 26  Hamlet, Acts I and II; Research: Hamlet’s “To be or not to be” soliloquy
W 28  Hamlet, Act III; 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.  Video of Kenneth Branagh’s film of Hamlet; location TBA

APRIL
Week 13 – Meet in CH 306
M  2  Hamlet, Acts IV and V; Essay # 3 Assigned
W  4  Hamlet, Act V and final discussion – Themes and Questions; Research – on one of the play’s themes

Week 14 – Meet in CH 340
M  9  Death of a Salesman (D 844-81) – Act I only; Research (2 presentations) – Arthur Miller; one of the play’s themes
W 11  *  Act II and Final comments; Independent Study on Drama due

Week 15 – Meet in CH 306
M 16  ESSAY # 3 DUE!!!  Video of Death of A Salesman shown in class
W 18  Finish the video; Essay # 3 returned; review for final exam

Week 16 – Meet in 340
M 23  Final Exam, Part I – bring your own pen and paper
W 25  Final Exam, Part II – bring your own pen and paper

Week 17 – Finals week
We will not meet after Wednesday, April 25. I will turn in grades the morning of Monday, 4/30.